

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education and matters  
3           connected therewith; creating the "Florida K-20  
4           Education Code"; creating ch. 1000, F.S.,  
5           entitled "K-20 General Provisions," consisting  
6           of part I relating to general provisions, part  
7           II relating to systemwide definitions, and part  
8           III relating to educational compacts; creating  
9           ch. 1001, F.S., entitled "K-20 Governance,"  
10          consisting of part I relating to state-level  
11          governance, part II relating to school district  
12          governance, part III relating to community  
13          colleges, and part IV relating to state  
14          universities; creating ch. 1002, F.S., entitled  
15          "Student and Parental Rights and Educational  
16          Choices," consisting of part I relating to  
17          general provisions, part II relating to student  
18          and parental rights, part III relating to  
19          educational choice, and part IV relating to  
20          home education, private schools, and other  
21          education options; creating ch. 1003, F.S.,  
22          entitled "Public K-12 Education," consisting of  
23          part I relating to general provisions, part II  
24          relating to school attendance, part III  
25          relating to control of students, part IV  
26          relating to public K-12 educational  
27          instruction, part V relating to specialized  
28          instruction for certain public K-12 students,  
29          and part VI relating to pilot public K-12  
30          education programs; creating ch. 1004, F.S.,  
31          entitled "Public Postsecondary Education,"

1 consisting of part I relating to general  
2 provisions, part II relating to state  
3 universities, part III relating to community  
4 colleges, and part IV relating to workforce  
5 development education; creating ch. 1005, F.S.,  
6 entitled "Nonpublic Postsecondary Education,"  
7 consisting of part I relating to general  
8 provisions, part II relating to the Commission  
9 for Independent Education, and part III  
10 relating to licensure of nonpublic  
11 postsecondary educational institutions;  
12 creating ch. 1006, F.S., entitled "Support for  
13 Learning and Student Services," consisting of  
14 part I relating to public K-12 education  
15 support for learning and student services and  
16 part II relating to postsecondary educational  
17 institutions; creating ch. 1007, F.S., entitled  
18 "Access and Articulation," consisting of part I  
19 relating to general provisions, part II  
20 relating to articulation, and part III relating  
21 to access to postsecondary education; creating  
22 ch. 1008, F.S., entitled "Assessment and  
23 Accountability," consisting of part I relating  
24 to assessment, part II relating to  
25 accountability, and part III relating to the  
26 Council for Education Policy Research and  
27 Improvement; creating ch. 1009, F.S., entitled  
28 "Educational Scholarships, Fees, and Financial  
29 Assistance," consisting of part I relating to  
30 general provisions, part II relating to  
31 postsecondary student fees, part III relating

1 to financial assistance, part IV relating to  
2 prepaid college board programs, and part V  
3 relating to the Florida higher education loan  
4 authority; creating ch. 1010, F.S., entitled  
5 "Financial Matters," consisting of part I  
6 relating to general accounting requirements,  
7 part II relating to financial reporting, part  
8 III relating to audit requirements and  
9 procedures, part IV relating to bonding, and  
10 part V relating to trust funds; creating ch.  
11 1011, F.S., entitled "Planning and Budgeting,"  
12 consisting of part I relating to preparation,  
13 adoption, and implementation of budgets, part  
14 II relating to funding for school districts,  
15 part III relating to funding for workforce  
16 education, part IV relating to funding for  
17 community colleges, and part V relating to  
18 funding for state universities; creating ch.  
19 1012, F.S., entitled "Personnel," consisting of  
20 part I relating to general provisions, part II  
21 relating to K-20 personnel issues, part III  
22 relating to public schools personnel, part IV  
23 relating to public postsecondary educational  
24 institutions personnel, part V relating to  
25 professional development, and part VI relating  
26 to the interstate compact on qualifications of  
27 educational personnel; creating ch. 1013, F.S.,  
28 entitled "Educational Facilities," consisting  
29 of part I relating to functions of the  
30 Department of Education, part II relating to  
31 use and management of educational facilities,

1 part III relating to planning and construction  
2 of educational facilities, and part IV relating  
3 to funding for educational facilities;  
4 reenacting and amending s. 20.15, F.S.,  
5 relating to the Department of Education, to  
6 conform; amending ss. 11.061, 11.40, 11.45,  
7 23.1225, 24.121, 39.0015, 39.407, 61.13015,  
8 105.061, 110.1228, 110.123, 110.151, 110.181,  
9 110.205, 112.1915, 112.313, 120.52, 120.55,  
10 120.81, 121.051, 121.091, 145.131, 145.19,  
11 153.77, 159.27, 163.3177, 163.3191, 195.096,  
12 196.012, 196.031, 196.1983, 200.001, 200.065,  
13 200.069, 201.24, 210.20, 212.04, 212.0602,  
14 212.08, 213.053, 215.20, 215.82, 216.181,  
15 216.301, 218.39, 220.183, 222.22, 250.115,  
16 255.0515, 255.0516, 265.2861, 265.603, 267.173,  
17 267.1732, 282.005, 282.103, 282.105, 282.106,  
18 282.3031, 282.3063, 282.310, 284.34, 285.18,  
19 287.042, 287.055, 287.064, 288.039, 288.8175,  
20 295.01, 295.015, 295.016, 295.017, 295.018,  
21 295.019, 295.0195, 316.003, 316.027, 316.515,  
22 316.6145, 316.615, 316.70, 316.72, 318.12,  
23 318.14, 320.08058, 320.20, 320.38, 322.031,  
24 322.091, 322.095, 322.21, 333.03, 364.508,  
25 380.0651, 381.003, 381.005, 381.0056, 381.0302,  
26 391.055, 393.0657, 394.4572, 394.495, 394.498,  
27 395.602, 395.605, 397.405, 397.451, 397.951,  
28 402.22, 402.302, 402.3057, 409.145, 409.1757,  
29 409.2598, 409.9071, 409.908, 409.9122, 411.01,  
30 411.203, 411.223, 414.1251, 440.16, 445.04,  
31 445.0121, 445.024, 447.203, 447.301, 447.403,

1 450.081, 450.121, 458.3145, 458.324, 459.0125,  
2 468.1115, 468.607, 468.723, 471.0035, 476.114,  
3 476.144, 476.178, 477.0132, 477.019, 477.0201,  
4 477.023, 480.033, 481.229, 488.01, 553.415,  
5 559.902, 589.09, 627.733, 627.742, 627.912,  
6 633.445, 633.50, 732.402, 784.081, 817.566,  
7 817.567, 877.18, 921.187, 943.10, 943.22,  
8 944.801, 948.03, 984.03, 984.05, 984.151,  
9 984.19, 985.03, 985.04, 985.316, and 985.412,  
10 F.S.; conforming provisions and cross  
11 references; revising provisions relating to  
12 audits of the accounts and records of district  
13 school boards; providing purpose of this act;  
14 authorizing activities relating to the  
15 reorganization of the Department of Education  
16 and implementation of changes to the state  
17 system of education; repealing s. 187.201(1),  
18 F.S., relating to the education goals and  
19 policies of the State Comprehensive Plan;  
20 repealing s. 2 of ch. 2000-181, Laws of  
21 Florida, relating to the repeal of s. 236.081,  
22 F.S., effective June 30, 2004; repealing part I  
23 of ch. 243, F.S., relating to the educational  
24 institutions law, and ch. 228, 229, 230, 231,  
25 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 239, 240, 241,  
26 242, 244, and 246, F.S., relating to public  
27 education general provisions, functions of  
28 state educational agencies, the district school  
29 system, personnel of the school system,  
30 compulsory school attendance and child welfare,  
31 courses of study and instructional aids,

1 transportation of school children, educational  
2 facilities, finance and taxation of schools,  
3 financial accounts and expenditures for public  
4 schools, vocational, adult, and community  
5 education, postsecondary education, distance  
6 learning, specialized state educational  
7 institutions, educational compacts, and  
8 nonpublic postsecondary institutions; providing  
9 duties of the Division of Statutory Revision;  
10 providing for review of ch. 1000-1013, F.S.,  
11 during the 2003 Regular Session; requiring each  
12 district school board to develop a plan for a  
13 K-12 foreign language curriculum; amending s.  
14 110.1099, F.S.; deleting a requirement that  
15 credit hours generated by state employee fee  
16 waivers be fundable credit hours; providing for  
17 severability; providing effective dates.

18  
19 WHEREAS, Representative Jerry G. Melvin has served in  
20 the Florida House of Representatives for 18 years, from  
21 1968-1978 and 1995-2002, and is the current Dean of this great  
22 institution, and

23 WHEREAS, Representative Jerry G. Melvin served for many  
24 years on the Education Appropriations Committee, chaired the  
25 Education Innovation Committee from 1997 through 2000, and has  
26 chaired the Council for Lifelong Learning from 2000 through  
27 2002, and

28 WHEREAS, in his many years of education chairmanship,  
29 Representative Jerry G. Melvin has fought tirelessly to  
30 achieve the public policy goals of the House leadership, and  
31

1           WHEREAS, in his final year of service to this House,  
2 Representative Jerry G. Melvin has accomplished his crowning  
3 achievement by bringing before this body, as required in last  
4 year's education governance legislation, a new, clear, concise  
5 revision of the entire education code that reflects the new  
6 governance structure, and

7           WHEREAS, this new education code is the largest, most  
8 comprehensive piece of legislation ever brought before this  
9 Legislature and epitomizes the dedication and hard work of  
10 Representative Jerry G. Melvin, NOW, THEREFORE,

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
14           Section 1. Chapter 1000, Florida Statutes, shall be  
15 entitled "K-20 General Provisions" and shall consist of ss.  
16 1000.01-1000.21.

17           Section 2. Part I of chapter 1000, Florida Statutes,  
18 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of  
19 ss. 1000.01-1000.06.

20           Section 3. Section 1000.01, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22           1000.01 The Florida K-20 Education System; technical  
23 provisions.--

24           (1) NAME.--Chapters 1000 through 1013 shall be known  
25 and cited as the "Florida K-20 Education Code."

26           (2) LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION.--The provisions of the  
27 Florida K-20 Education Code shall be liberally construed to  
28 the end that its objectives may be effected. It is the  
29 legislative intent that if any section, subsection, sentence,  
30 clause, or provision of the Florida K-20 Education Code is  
31 held invalid, the remainder of the code shall not be affected.

- 1           (3) PURPOSE.--The purpose of the Florida K-20  
2 Education Code is to provide by law for a state system of  
3 schools, courses, classes, and educational institutions and  
4 services adequate to allow, for all Florida's students, the  
5 opportunity to obtain a high quality education. The Florida  
6 K-20 education system is established to accomplish this  
7 purpose; however, nothing in this code shall be construed to  
8 require the provision of free public education beyond grade  
9 12.
- 10           (4) UNIFORM SYSTEM OF PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS  
11 INCLUDED.--As required by s. 1, Art. IX of the State  
12 Constitution, the Florida K-20 education system shall include  
13 the uniform system of free public K-12 schools. These public  
14 K-12 schools shall provide 13 consecutive years of  
15 instruction, beginning with kindergarten, and shall also  
16 provide such instruction for students with disabilities,  
17 gifted students, limited English proficient students, and  
18 students in Department of Juvenile Justice programs as may be  
19 required by law. The funds for support and maintenance of the  
20 uniform system of free public K-12 schools shall be derived  
21 from state, district, federal, and other lawful sources or  
22 combinations of sources, including any fees charged  
23 nonresidents as provided by law.
- 24           (5) EDUCATION GOVERNANCE TRANSFERS.--  
25           (a) Effective July 1, 2001:  
26           1. The Board of Regents is abolished.  
27           2. All of the powers, duties, functions, records,  
28 personnel, and property; unexpended balances of  
29 appropriations, allocations, and other funds; administrative  
30 authority; administrative rules; pending issues; and existing  
31 contracts of the Board of Regents are transferred by a type

1 two transfer, pursuant to s. 20.06(2), to the Florida Board of  
2 Education.

3 3. The State Board of Community Colleges is abolished.

4 4. All of the powers, duties, functions, records,  
5 personnel, and property; unexpended balances of  
6 appropriations, allocations, and other funds; administrative  
7 authority; administrative rules; pending issues; and existing  
8 contracts of the State Board of Community Colleges are  
9 transferred by a type two transfer, pursuant to s. 20.06(2),  
10 from the Department of Education to the Florida Board of  
11 Education.

12 5. The Postsecondary Education Planning Commission is  
13 abolished.

14 6. The Council for Education Policy Research and  
15 Improvement is created as an independent office under the  
16 Office of Legislative Services.

17 7. All personnel, unexpended balances of  
18 appropriations, and allocations of the Postsecondary Education  
19 Planning Commission are transferred to the Council for  
20 Education Policy Research and Improvement.

21 8. The Articulation Coordinating Committee and the  
22 Education Standards Commission are transferred by a type two  
23 transfer, pursuant to s. 20.06(2), from the Department of  
24 Education to the Florida Board of Education.

25 (b) All rules of the State Board of Education, the  
26 Commissioner of Education, and the Department of Education,  
27 and all rules of the district school boards, the community  
28 college boards of trustees, and the state university boards of  
29 trustees, in effect on January 2, 2003, remain in effect until  
30 specifically amended or repealed in the manner provided by  
31 law.

1           (c) Effective January 7, 2003:

2           1. The administrative rules of the Department of  
3 Education and the Commissioner of Education shall become the  
4 rules of the State Board of Education.

5           2. The administrative rules of the State Board of  
6 Education shall become the rules of the appointed State Board  
7 of Education.

8           (d) All administrative rules of the State Board of  
9 Education, the Commissioner of Education, and the Department  
10 of Education are transferred by a type two transfer, as  
11 defined in s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to the appointed  
12 State Board of Education.

13           (e) This act creating the Florida K-20 Education Code  
14 shall not affect the validity of any judicial or  
15 administrative action involving the Department of Education,  
16 pending on January 7, 2003. This act shall not affect the  
17 validity of any judicial or administrative action involving  
18 the Commissioner of Education or the State Board of Education,  
19 pending on January 7, 2003, and the appointed State Board of  
20 Education shall be substituted as a party of interest in any  
21 such action.

22           Section 4. Section 1000.02, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24           1000.02 Policy and guiding principles for the Florida  
25 K-20 education system.--

26           (1) It is the policy of the Legislature:

27           (a) To achieve within existing resources a seamless  
28 academic educational system that fosters an integrated  
29 continuum of kindergarten through graduate school education  
30 for Florida's students.

31

- 1           (b) To promote enhanced academic success and funding  
2 efficiency of educational delivery systems by aligning  
3 responsibility with accountability.
- 4           (c) To provide consistent education policy across all  
5 educational delivery systems, focusing on students.
- 6           (d) To provide substantially improved articulation  
7 across all educational delivery systems.
- 8           (e) To provide for the decentralization of authority  
9 to the schools, community colleges, universities, and other  
10 education institutions that deliver educational services to  
11 the public.
- 12           (f) To ensure that independent education institutions  
13 and home education programs maintain their independence,  
14 autonomy, and nongovernmental status.
- 15           (2) The guiding principles for Florida's K-20  
16 education system are:
- 17           (a) A coordinated, seamless system for kindergarten  
18 through graduate school education.
- 19           (b) A system that is student-centered in every facet.
- 20           (c) A system that maximizes education access and  
21 allows the opportunity for a high quality education for all  
22 Floridians.
- 23           (d) A system that safeguards equity and supports  
24 academic excellence.
- 25           (e) A system that provides for local operational  
26 flexibility while promoting accountability for student  
27 achievement and improvement.
- 28           Section 5. Section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:
- 30           1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida  
31 K-20 education system.--

1           (1) Florida's K-20 education system shall be a  
2 decentralized system without excess layers of bureaucracy. The  
3 State Board of Education may appoint on an ad hoc basis a  
4 committee or committees to assist it on any and all issues  
5 within the K-20 education system. Florida's K-20 education  
6 system shall maintain a systemwide technology plan based on a  
7 common set of data definitions.

8           (2)(a) The Legislature shall establish education  
9 policy, enact education laws, and appropriate and allocate  
10 education resources.

11           (b) The State Board of Education shall oversee the  
12 enforcement of all laws and rules, and the timely provision of  
13 direction, resources, assistance, intervention when needed,  
14 and strong incentives and disincentives to force  
15 accountability for results.

16           (c) The Commissioner of Education shall serve as chief  
17 executive officer of the K-20 education system. The  
18 commissioner shall be responsible for enforcing compliance  
19 with the mission and goals of the K-20 education system. The  
20 commissioner's office shall operate all statewide functions  
21 necessary to support the State Board of Education and the K-20  
22 education system.

23           (3) Public education is a cooperative function of the  
24 state and local educational authorities. The state retains  
25 responsibility for establishing a system of public education  
26 through laws, standards, and rules to assure efficient  
27 operation of a K-20 system of public education and adequate  
28 educational opportunities for all individuals. Local  
29 educational authorities have a duty to fully and faithfully  
30 comply with state laws, standards, and rules and to  
31

1 efficiently use the resources available to them to assist the  
2 state in allowing adequate educational opportunities.

3 (4) The mission of Florida's K-20 education system is  
4 to allow its students to increase their proficiency by  
5 allowing them the opportunity to expand their knowledge and  
6 skills through adequate learning opportunities, in accordance  
7 with the mission statement and accountability requirements of  
8 s. 1008.31.

9 (5) The priorities of Florida's K-20 education system  
10 include:

11 (a) Learning and completion at all levels, including  
12 increased high school graduation rate and readiness for  
13 postsecondary education without remediation.--All students  
14 demonstrate increased learning and completion at all levels,  
15 graduate from high school, and are prepared to enter  
16 postsecondary education without remediation.

17 (b) Student performance.--Students demonstrate that  
18 they meet the expected academic standards consistently at all  
19 levels of their education.

20 (c) Alignment of standards and resources.--Academic  
21 standards for every level of the K-20 education system are  
22 aligned, and education financial resources are aligned with  
23 student performance expectations at each level of the K-20  
24 education system.

25 (d) Educational leadership.--The quality of  
26 educational leadership at all levels of K-20 education is  
27 improved.

28 (e) Workforce education.--Workforce education is  
29 appropriately aligned with the skills required by the new  
30 global economy.

31

1           (f) Parental, student, family, educational  
2 institution, and community involvement.--Parents, students,  
3 families, educational institutions, and communities are  
4 collaborative partners in education, and each plays an  
5 important role in the success of individual students.  
6 Therefore, the State of Florida cannot be the guarantor of  
7 each individual student's success. The goals of Florida's K-20  
8 education system are not guarantees that each individual  
9 student will succeed or that each individual school will  
10 perform at the level indicated in the goals.

11           Section 6. Section 1000.04, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13           1000.04 Components for the delivery of public  
14 education within the Florida K-20 education system.--Florida's  
15 K-20 education system provides for the delivery of public  
16 education through publicly supported and controlled K-12  
17 schools, community colleges, state universities and other  
18 postsecondary educational institutions, other educational  
19 institutions, and other educational services as provided or  
20 authorized by the Constitution and laws of the state.

21           (1) PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS.--The public K-12 schools  
22 include charter schools and consist of kindergarten classes;  
23 elementary, middle, and high school grades and special  
24 classes; workforce development education; area technical  
25 centers; adult, part-time, career and technical, and evening  
26 schools, courses, or classes, as authorized by law to be  
27 operated under the control of district school boards; and lab  
28 schools operated under the control of state universities.

29           (2) PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL  
30 INSTITUTIONS.--Public postsecondary educational institutions  
31 include workforce development education; community colleges;

1 colleges; state universities; and all other state-supported  
 2 postsecondary educational institutions that are authorized and  
 3 established by law.

4 (3) FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.--The  
 5 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is a component of  
 6 the delivery of public education within Florida's K-20  
 7 education system.

8 (4) THE FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL.--The Florida Virtual  
 9 School is a component of the delivery of public education  
 10 within Florida's K-20 education system.

11 Section 7. Section 1000.05, Florida Statutes, is  
 12 created to read:

13 1000.05 Discrimination against students and employees  
 14 in the Florida K-20 public education system prohibited;  
 15 equality of access required.--

16 (1) This section may be cited as the "Florida  
 17 Educational Equity Act."

18 (2)(a) Discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity,  
 19 national origin, gender, disability, or marital status against  
 20 a student or an employee in the state system of public K-20  
 21 education is prohibited. No person in this state shall, on the  
 22 basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability,  
 23 or marital status, be excluded from participation in, be  
 24 denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination  
 25 under any public K-20 education program or activity, or in any  
 26 employment conditions or practices, conducted by a public  
 27 educational institution that receives or benefits from federal  
 28 or state financial assistance.

29 (b) The criteria for admission to a program or course  
 30 shall not have the effect of restricting access by persons of  
 31

1 a particular race, ethnicity, national origin, gender,  
2 disability, or marital status.

3 (c) All public K-20 education classes shall be  
4 available to all students without regard to race, ethnicity,  
5 national origin, gender, disability, or marital status;  
6 however, this is not intended to eliminate the provision of  
7 programs designed to meet the needs of students with limited  
8 proficiency in English, gifted students, or students with  
9 disabilities or programs tailored to students with specialized  
10 talents or skills.

11 (d) Students may be separated by gender for any  
12 portion of a class that deals with human reproduction or  
13 during participation in bodily contact sports. For the  
14 purpose of this section, bodily contact sports include  
15 wrestling, boxing, rugby, ice hockey, football, basketball,  
16 and other sports in which the purpose or major activity  
17 involves bodily contact.

18 (e) Guidance services, counseling services, and  
19 financial assistance services in the state public K-20  
20 education system shall be available to students equally.  
21 Guidance and counseling services, materials, and promotional  
22 events shall stress access to academic, career and technical  
23 opportunities for students without regard to race, ethnicity,  
24 national origin, gender, disability, or marital status.

25 (3)(a) No person shall, on the basis of gender, be  
26 excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or  
27 be treated differently from another person or otherwise be  
28 discriminated against in any interscholastic, intercollegiate,  
29 club, or intramural athletics offered by a public K-20  
30 educational institution; and no public K-20 educational  
31 institution shall provide athletics separately on such basis.

1           ~~(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph (a),~~  
2 a public K-20 educational institution may operate or sponsor  
3 separate teams for members of each gender if the selection for  
4 such teams is based upon competitive skill or the activity  
5 involved is a bodily contact sport. However, when a public  
6 K-20 educational institution operates or sponsors a team in a  
7 particular sport for members of one gender but does not  
8 operate or sponsor such a team for members of the other  
9 gender, and athletic opportunities for that gender have  
10 previously been limited, members of the excluded gender must  
11 be allowed to try out for the team offered.

12           ~~(c) This subsection does not prohibit the grouping of~~  
13 students in physical education classes and activities by  
14 ability as assessed by objective standards of individual  
15 performance developed and applied without regard to gender.  
16 However, when use of a single standard of measuring skill or  
17 progress in a physical education class has an adverse effect  
18 on members of one gender, the educational institution shall  
19 use appropriate standards which do not have such effect.

20           ~~(d) A public K-20 educational institution which~~  
21 operates or sponsors interscholastic, intercollegiate, club,  
22 or intramural athletics shall provide equal athletic  
23 opportunity for members of both genders. In determining  
24 whether equal opportunities are available, the Commissioner of  
25 Education shall consider, among other factors:

26           1. Whether the selection of sports and levels of  
27 competition effectively accommodate the interests and  
28 abilities of members of both genders.

29           2. The provision of equipment and supplies.

30           3. Scheduling of games and practice times.

31           4. Travel and per diem allowances.

- 1           5. Opportunities to receive coaching and academic  
2 tutoring.
- 3           6. Assignment and compensation of coaches and tutors.
- 4           7. Provision of locker room, practice, and competitive  
5 facilities.
- 6           8. Provision of medical and training facilities and  
7 services.
- 8           9. Provision of housing and dining facilities and  
9 services.
- 10          10. Publicity.
- 11
- 12 Unequal aggregate expenditures for members of each gender or  
13 unequal expenditures for male and female teams if a public  
14 K-20 educational institution operates or sponsors separate  
15 teams do not constitute nonimplementation of this subsection,  
16 but the Commissioner of Education shall consider the failure  
17 to provide necessary funds for teams for one gender in  
18 assessing equality of opportunity for members of each gender.
- 19          (e) A public K-20 educational institution may provide  
20 separate toilet, locker room, and shower facilities on the  
21 basis of gender, but such facilities shall be comparable to  
22 such facilities provided for students of the other gender.
- 23          (4) Educational institutions within the state public  
24 K-20 education system shall develop and implement methods and  
25 strategies to increase the participation of students of a  
26 particular race, ethnicity, national origin, gender,  
27 disability, or marital status in programs and courses in which  
28 students of that particular race, ethnicity, national origin,  
29 gender, disability, or marital status have been traditionally  
30 underrepresented, including, but not limited to, mathematics,  
31

1 science, computer technology, electronics, communications  
2 technology, engineering, and career and technical education.

3 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
4 implement this section.

5 (6) The functions of the Office of Equal Educational  
6 Opportunity of the Department of Education shall include, but  
7 are not limited to:

8 (a) Requiring all district school boards, community  
9 college boards of trustees, and state university boards of  
10 trustees to develop and submit plans for the implementation of  
11 this section to the Department of Education.

12 (b) Conducting periodic reviews of public K-20  
13 educational agencies to determine compliance with this section  
14 and, after a finding that an educational agency is not in  
15 compliance with this section, notifying the agency of the  
16 steps that it must take to attain compliance and performing  
17 followup monitoring.

18 (c) Providing technical assistance, including  
19 assisting public K-20 educational agencies in identifying  
20 unlawful discrimination and instructing them in remedies for  
21 correction and prevention of such discrimination and  
22 performing followup monitoring.

23 (d) Conducting studies of the effectiveness of methods  
24 and strategies designed to increase the participation of  
25 students in programs and courses in which students of a  
26 particular race, ethnicity, national origin, gender,  
27 disability, or marital status have been traditionally  
28 underrepresented and monitoring the success of students in  
29 such programs or courses, including performing followup  
30 monitoring.

31

1           ~~(e) Requiring all district school boards, community~~  
2 ~~college boards of trustees, and state university boards of~~  
3 ~~trustees to submit data and information necessary to determine~~  
4 ~~compliance with this section. The Commissioner of Education~~  
5 ~~shall prescribe the format and the date for submission of such~~  
6 ~~data and any other educational equity data. If any board does~~  
7 ~~not submit the required compliance data or other required~~  
8 ~~educational equity data by the prescribed date, the~~  
9 ~~commissioner shall notify the board of this fact and, if the~~  
10 ~~board does not take appropriate action to immediately submit~~  
11 ~~the required report, the State Board of Education shall impose~~  
12 ~~monetary sanctions.~~

13           ~~(f) Based upon rules of the State Board of Education,~~  
14 ~~developing and implementing enforcement mechanisms with~~  
15 ~~appropriate penalties to ensure that public K-12 schools,~~  
16 ~~community colleges, and state universities comply with Title~~  
17 ~~IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and subsection (3) of~~  
18 ~~this section. However, the State Board of Education may not~~  
19 ~~force an educational agency to conduct, nor penalize an~~  
20 ~~educational agency for not conducting, a program of athletic~~  
21 ~~activity or athletic scholarship for female athletes unless it~~  
22 ~~is an athletic activity approved for women by a recognized~~  
23 ~~association whose purpose is to promote athletics and a~~  
24 ~~conference or league exists to promote interscholastic or~~  
25 ~~intercollegiate competition for women in that athletic~~  
26 ~~activity.~~

27           ~~(g) Reporting to the Commissioner of Education any~~  
28 ~~district school board, community college board of trustees, or~~  
29 ~~state university board of trustees found to be out of~~  
30 ~~compliance with rules of the State Board of Education adopted~~  
31

1 as required by paragraph (f) or paragraph (3)(d). To penalize  
2 the board, the State Board of Education shall:

3 1. Declare the educational agency ineligible for  
4 competitive state grants.

5 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.192,  
6 direct the Comptroller to withhold general revenue funds  
7 sufficient to obtain compliance from the educational agency.

8  
9 The educational agency shall remain ineligible and the funds  
10 shall not be paid until the agency comes into compliance or  
11 the State Board of Education approves a plan for compliance.

12 (7) A person aggrieved by a violation of this section  
13 or a violation of a rule adopted under this section has a  
14 right of action for such equitable relief as the court may  
15 determine. The court may also award reasonable attorney's  
16 fees and court costs to a prevailing party.

17 Section 8. Section 1000.06, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1000.06 Display of flags.--Every public K-20  
20 educational institution that is provided or authorized by the  
21 Constitution and laws of Florida shall display daily the flag  
22 of the United States and the official flag of Florida when the  
23 weather permits upon one building or on a suitable flagstaff  
24 upon the grounds of each public postsecondary educational  
25 institution and upon every district school board building or  
26 grounds except when the institution or school is closed for  
27 vacation, provided that, if two or more buildings are located  
28 on the same or on adjacent sites, one flag may be displayed  
29 for the entire group of buildings.

30  
31

1           Section 9. Part II of chapter 1000, Florida Statutes,  
2 shall be entitled "Systemwide Definitions" and shall consist  
3 of s. 1000.21.

4           Section 10. Section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1000.21 Systemwide definitions.--As used in the  
7 Florida K-20 Education Code:

8           (1) "Articulation" is the systematic coordination that  
9 provides the means by which students proceed toward their  
10 educational objectives in as rapid and student-friendly manner  
11 as their circumstances permit, from grade level to grade  
12 level, from elementary to middle to high school, to and  
13 through postsecondary education, and when transferring from  
14 one educational institution or program to another.

15           (2) "Commissioner" is the Commissioner of Education.

16           (3) "Community college," except as otherwise  
17 specifically provided, includes the following institutions and  
18 any branch campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the  
19 institution:

- 20           (a) Brevard Community College.  
21           (b) Broward Community College.  
22           (c) Central Florida Community College.  
23           (d) Chipola Junior College.  
24           (e) Daytona Beach Community College.  
25           (f) Edison Community College.  
26           (g) Florida Community College at Jacksonville.  
27           (h) Florida Keys Community College.  
28           (i) Gulf Coast Community College.  
29           (j) Hillsborough Community College.  
30           (k) Indian River Community College.  
31           (l) Lake City Community College.

- 1           (m) Lake-Sumter Community College.  
 2           (n) Manatee Community College.  
 3           (o) Miami-Dade Community College.  
 4           (p) North Florida Community College.  
 5           (q) Okaloosa-Walton Community College.  
 6           (r) Palm Beach Community College.  
 7           (s) Pasco-Hernando Community College.  
 8           (t) Pensacola Junior College.  
 9           (u) Polk Community College.  
 10          (v) St. Johns River Community College.  
 11          (w) St. Petersburg College.  
 12          (x) Santa Fe Community College.  
 13          (y) Seminole Community College.  
 14          (z) South Florida Community College.  
 15          (aa) Tallahassee Community College.  
 16          (bb) Valencia Community College.  
 17          (4) "Department" is the Department of Education.  
 18          (5) "Parent" is either or both parents of a student,  
 19 any guardian of a student, any person in a parental  
 20 relationship to a student, or any person exercising  
 21 supervisory authority over a student in place of the parent.  
 22          (6) "State university," except as otherwise  
 23 specifically provided, includes the following institutions and  
 24 any branch campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the  
 25 institution:  
 26           (a) The University of Florida.  
 27           (b) The Florida State University.  
 28           (c) The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
 29 University.  
 30           (d) The University of South Florida.  
 31           (e) The Florida Atlantic University.

- 1           (f) The University of West Florida.  
 2           (g) The University of Central Florida.  
 3           (h) The University of North Florida.  
 4           (i) The Florida International University.  
 5           (j) The Florida Gulf Coast University.  
 6           (k) New College of Florida.  
 7           (7) "Sunshine State Standards" are standards that  
 8 identify what public school students should know and be able  
 9 to do. These standards delineate the academic achievement of  
 10 students for which the state will hold its public schools  
 11 accountable in grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12, in the subjects  
 12 of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the  
 13 arts, health and physical education, foreign languages,  
 14 reading, writing, history, government, geography, economics,  
 15 and computer literacy.

16           Section 11. Part III of chapter 1000, Florida  
 17 Statutes, shall be entitled "Educational Compacts" and shall  
 18 consist of ss. 1000.31-1000.34.

19           Section 12. Section 1000.31, Florida Statutes, is  
 20 created to read:

21           1000.31 Regional education; state policy.--It is  
 22 hereby declared to be the policy of the state to promote the  
 23 development and maintenance of regional education services and  
 24 facilities in the Southern States in the professional,  
 25 technological, scientific, literary and other fields so as to  
 26 provide greater educational advantages for the citizens of the  
 27 state and the citizens in the several states in said region;  
 28 and it is found and determined by the Legislature of the state  
 29 that greater educational advantages and facilities for the  
 30 citizens of the state in certain phases of the professional,  
 31 technological, scientific, literary and other fields in

1 education can best be accomplished by the development and  
 2 maintenance of regional educational services and facilities,  
 3 under the plan embodied in "The Regional Pact" hereinafter  
 4 adopted; and this law shall be liberally construed to  
 5 accomplish such purposes.

6 Section 13. Section 1000.32, Florida Statutes, is  
 7 created to read:

8 1000.32 Regional compact.--The compact entered into by  
 9 the state and other Southern States by and through their  
 10 respective governors on February 8, 1948, as amended, relative  
 11 to the development and maintenance of regional education  
 12 services and schools in the Southern States in the  
 13 professional, technological, scientific, literary and other  
 14 fields so as to promote greater educational facilities for the  
 15 citizens of the several states who reside in said region, a  
 16 copy of said compact, as amended, being as follows:

17  
 18 THE REGIONAL COMPACT

19 (as amended)  
 20

21 WHEREAS, The States who are parties hereto have during  
 22 the past several years conducted careful investigation looking  
 23 toward the establishment and maintenance of jointly owned and  
 24 operated regional educational institutions in the Southern  
 25 States in the professional, technological, scientific,  
 26 literary, and other fields, so as to provide greater  
 27 educational advantages and facilities for the citizens of the  
 28 several states who reside within such region; and

29 WHEREAS, Meharry Medical College of Nashville,  
 30 Tennessee, has proposed that its lands, buildings, equipment,  
 31 and the net income from its endowment be turned over to the

1 Southern States, or to an agency acting in their behalf, to be  
2 operated as a regional institution for medical, dental and  
3 nursing education upon terms and conditions to be hereafter  
4 agreed upon between the Southern States and Meharry Medical  
5 College, which proposal, because of the present financial  
6 condition of the institution, has been approved by the said  
7 states who are parties hereto; and

8 WHEREAS, the said states desire to enter into a compact  
9 with each other providing for the planning and establishment  
10 of regional educational facilities;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual  
12 agreements, covenants and obligations assumed by the  
13 respective states who are parties hereto (hereinafter referred  
14 to as "states"), the said several states do hereby form a  
15 geographical district or region consisting of the areas lying  
16 within the boundaries of the contracting states which, for the  
17 purposes of this compact, shall constitute an area for  
18 regional education supported by public funds derived from  
19 taxation by the constituent states and derived from other  
20 sources for the establishment, acquisition, operation and  
21 maintenance of regional educational schools and institutions  
22 for the benefit of citizens of the respective states residing  
23 within the region so established as may be determined from  
24 time to time in accordance with the terms and provisions of  
25 this compact.

26 The states do further hereby establish and create a  
27 joint agency which shall be known as the Board of Control for  
28 Southern Regional Education (hereinafter referred to as the  
29 "board"), the members of which board shall consist of the  
30 governor of each state, ex officio, and four additional  
31 citizens of each state to be appointed by the governor

1 thereof, at least one of whom shall be selected from the field  
2 of education, and at least one of whom shall be a member of  
3 the legislature of that state. The governor shall continue as  
4 a member of the board during his or her tenure of office as  
5 governor of the state, but the members of the board appointed  
6 by the governor shall hold office for a period of four years  
7 except that in the original appointments one board member so  
8 appointed by the governor shall be designated at the time of  
9 his or her appointment to serve an initial term of two years,  
10 one board member to serve an initial term of three years, and  
11 the remaining board member to serve the full term of four  
12 years, but thereafter the successor of each appointed board  
13 member shall serve the full term of four years. Vacancies on  
14 the board caused by death, resignation, refusal or inability  
15 to serve, shall be filled by appointment by the governor for  
16 the unexpired portion of the term. The officers of the board  
17 shall be a chair, a vice chair, a secretary, a treasurer, and  
18 such additional officers as may be created by the board from  
19 time to time. The board shall meet annually and officers  
20 shall be elected to hold office until the next annual meeting.  
21 The board shall have the right to formulate and establish  
22 bylaws not inconsistent with the provisions of this compact to  
23 govern its own actions in the performance of the duties  
24 delegated to it including the right to create and appoint an  
25 executive committee and a finance committee with such powers  
26 and authority as the board may delegate to them from time to  
27 time. The board may, within its discretion, elect as its  
28 chair a person who is not a member of the board, provided such  
29 person resides within a signatory state, and upon such  
30 election such person shall become a member of the board with  
31 all the rights and privileges of such membership. This

1 paragraph as amended in 1957 shall be effective when eight or  
2 more of the states party to the compact have given legislative  
3 approval to the amendment.

4 It shall be the duty of the board to submit plans and  
5 recommendations to the states from time to time for their  
6 approval and adoption by appropriate legislative action for  
7 the development, establishment, acquisition, operation and  
8 maintenance of educational schools and institutions within the  
9 geographical limits of the regional area of the states, of  
10 such character and type and for such educational purposes,  
11 professional, technological, scientific, literary, or  
12 otherwise, as they may deem and determine to be proper,  
13 necessary or advisable. Title to all such educational  
14 institutions when so established by appropriate legislative  
15 actions of the states and to all properties and facilities  
16 used in connection therewith shall be vested in said board as  
17 the agency of and for the use and benefit of the said states  
18 and the citizens thereof, and all such educational  
19 institutions shall be operated, maintained and financed in the  
20 manner herein set out, subject to any provisions or  
21 limitations which may be contained in the legislative acts of  
22 the states authorizing the creation, establishment and  
23 operation of such educational institutions.

24 In addition to the power and authority heretofore  
25 granted, the board shall have the power to enter into such  
26 agreements or arrangements with any of the states and with  
27 educational institutions or agencies, as may be required in  
28 the judgment of the board, to provide adequate services and  
29 facilities for the graduate, professional, and technical  
30 education for the benefit of the citizens of the respective  
31 states residing within the region, and such additional and

1 general power and authority as may be vested in the board from  
2 time to time by legislative enactment of the said states.

3 Any two or more states who are parties of this compact  
4 shall have the right to enter into supplemental agreements  
5 providing for the establishment, financing and operation of  
6 regional educational institutions for the benefit of citizens  
7 residing within an area which constitutes a portion of the  
8 general region herein created, such institutions to be  
9 financed exclusively by such states and to be controlled  
10 exclusively by the members of the board representing such  
11 states provided such agreement is submitted to and approved by  
12 the board prior to the establishment of such institutions.

13 Each state agrees that, when authorized by the  
14 legislature, it will from time to time make available and pay  
15 over to said board such funds as may be required for the  
16 establishment, acquisition, operation and maintenance of such  
17 regional educational institutions as may be authorized by the  
18 states under the terms of this compact, the contribution of  
19 each state at all times to be in the proportion that its  
20 population bears to the total combined population of the  
21 states who are parties hereto as shown from time to time by  
22 the most recent official published report of the bureau of the  
23 census of the United States of America; or upon such other  
24 basis as may be agreed upon.

25 This compact shall not take effect or be binding upon  
26 any state unless and until it shall be approved by proper  
27 legislative action of as many as six or more of the states  
28 whose governors have subscribed hereto within a period of  
29 eighteen months from the date hereof. When and if six or more  
30 states shall have given legislative approval to this compact  
31 within said eighteen months period, it shall be and become

1 binding upon such six or more states sixty days after the date  
2 of legislative approval by the sixth state and the governors  
3 of such six or more states shall forthwith name the members of  
4 the board from their states as hereinabove set out, and the  
5 board shall then meet on call of the governor of any state  
6 approving this compact, at which time the board shall elect  
7 officers, adopt bylaws, appoint committees and otherwise fully  
8 organize. Other states whose names are subscribed hereto  
9 shall thereafter become parties hereto upon approval of this  
10 compact by legislative action within two years from the date  
11 hereof, upon such conditions as may be agreed upon at the  
12 time. Provided, however, that with respect to any state whose  
13 constitution may require amendment in order to permit  
14 legislative approval of the compact, such state or states  
15 shall become parties hereto upon approval of this compact by  
16 legislative action within seven years from the date hereof,  
17 upon such conditions as may be agreed upon at the time.

18 After becoming effective this compact shall thereafter  
19 continue without limitation of time; provided, however, that  
20 it may be terminated at any time by unanimous action of the  
21 states and provided further that any state may withdraw from  
22 this compact if such withdrawal is approved by its  
23 legislature, such withdrawal to become effective two years  
24 after written notice thereof to the board accompanied by a  
25 certified copy of the requisite legislative action, but such  
26 withdrawal shall not relieve the withdrawing state from its  
27 obligations hereunder accruing up to the effective date of  
28 such withdrawal. Any state so withdrawing shall ipso facto  
29 cease to have any claim to or ownership of any of the property  
30 held or vested in the board or to any of the funds of the  
31 board held under the terms of this compact.

1        If any state shall at any time become in default in the  
 2 performance of any of its obligations assumed herein or with  
 3 respect to any obligation imposed upon said state as  
 4 authorized by and in compliance with the terms and provisions  
 5 of this compact, all rights, privileges and benefits of such  
 6 defaulting state, its members on the board and its citizens  
 7 shall ipso facto be and become suspended from and after the  
 8 date of such default. Unless such default shall be remedied  
 9 and made good within a period of one year immediately  
 10 following the date of such default this compact may be  
 11 terminated with respect to such defaulting state by an  
 12 affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of the board  
 13 (exclusive of the members representing the state in default),  
 14 from and after which time such state shall cease to be a party  
 15 to this compact and shall have no further claim to or  
 16 ownership of any of the property held by or vested in the  
 17 board or to any of the funds of the board held under the terms  
 18 of this compact, but such termination shall in no manner  
 19 release such defaulting state from any accrued obligation or  
 20 otherwise affect this compact or the rights, duties,  
 21 privileges or obligations of the remaining states thereunder.

22        IN WITNESS WHEREOF this compact has been approved and  
 23 signed by governors of the several states, subject to the  
 24 approval of their respective legislatures in the manner  
 25 hereinabove set out, as of the 8th day of February, 1948.

26        STATE OF FLORIDA BY Millard F. Caldwell, Governor.  
 27 STATE OF MARYLAND BY Wm. Preston Lane, Jr., Governor. STATE  
 28 OF GEORGIA BY M. E. Thompson, Governor. STATE OF LOUISIANA  
 29 BY J. H. Davis, Governor. STATE OF ALABAMA BY James E.  
 30 Folsom, Governor. STATE OF MISSISSIPPI BY F. L. Wright,  
 31 Governor. STATE OF TENNESSEE BY Jim McCord, Governor. STATE

1 OF ARKANSAS BY Ben Laney, Governor. COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
 2 BY Wm. M. Tuck, Governor. STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA BY R. Gregg  
 3 Cherry, Governor. STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA BY J. Strom  
 4 Thurmond, Governor. STATE OF TEXAS BY Beauford H. Jester,  
 5 Governor. STATE OF OKLAHOMA BY Roy J. Turner, Governor. STATE  
 6 OF WEST VIRGINIA BY Clarence W. Meadows, Governor.

7  
 8 be and the same is hereby approved and the State of Florida is  
 9 hereby declared to be a party to said compact and the  
 10 agreements, covenants and obligations contained therein are  
 11 hereby declared to be binding upon the State of Florida.

12 Section 14. Section 1000.33, Florida Statutes, is  
 13 created to read:

14 1000.33 Copies to other states approving.--After the  
 15 effective date of this law the Secretary of State of Florida  
 16 shall furnish to each of the states approving the said compact  
 17 an engrossed copy of this bill.

18 Section 15. Section 1000.34, Florida Statutes, is  
 19 created to read:

20 1000.34 Member jurisdictions.--The compact for  
 21 education is entered into with all jurisdictions legally  
 22 joining therein and enacted into law in the following form:

23  
 24 COMPACT FOR EDUCATION

25  
 26 ARTICLE I

27  
 28 PURPOSE AND POLICY.--

29 A. It is the purpose of this compact to:

30 1. Establish and maintain close cooperation and  
 31 understanding among executive, legislative, professional

1 educational and lay leadership on a nationwide basis at the  
2 state and local levels.

3 2. Provide a forum for the discussion, development,  
4 crystallization and recommendation of public policy  
5 alternatives in the field of education.

6 3. Provide a clearinghouse of information on matters  
7 relating to educational problems and how they are being met in  
8 different places throughout the nation, so that the executive  
9 and legislative branches of state government and of local  
10 communities may have ready access to the experience and record  
11 of the entire country, and so that both lay and professional  
12 groups in the field of education may have additional avenues  
13 for the sharing of experience and the interchange of ideas in  
14 the formation of public policy in education.

15 4. Facilitate the improvement of state and local  
16 educational systems so that all of them will be able to meet  
17 adequate and desirable goals in a society which requires  
18 continuous qualitative and quantitative advance in educational  
19 opportunities, methods and facilities.

20 B. It is the policy of this compact to encourage and  
21 promote local and state initiative in the development,  
22 maintenance, improvement and administration of educational  
23 systems and institutions in a manner which will accord with  
24 the needs and advantages of diversity among localities and  
25 states.

26 C. The party states recognize that each of them has an  
27 interest in the quality and quantity of education furnished in  
28 each of the other states, as well as in the excellence of its  
29 own educational systems and institutions, because of the  
30 highly mobile character of individuals within the nation, and  
31 because the products and services contributing to the health,

1 welfare and economic advancement of each state are supplied in  
2 significant part by persons educated in other states.

3  
4 ARTICLE II

5  
6 STATE DEFINED.--

7 As used in this compact, "state" means a state,  
8 territory, or possession of the United States, the District of  
9 Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

10  
11 ARTICLE III

12  
13 THE COMMISSION.--

14 A. The Education Commission of the States, hereinafter  
15 called "the commission," is hereby established. The  
16 commission shall consist of seven members representing each  
17 party state. One of such members representing Florida shall  
18 be the governor; two shall be members of the state senate  
19 appointed by the president; two shall be members of the house  
20 of representatives appointed by the speaker; and two shall be  
21 appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor. The  
22 guiding principle for the composition of the membership on the  
23 commission shall be that the members, by virtue of their  
24 training, experience, knowledge or affiliations be in a  
25 position collectively to reflect broadly the interests of the  
26 state government, higher education, the state education  
27 system, local education, lay and professional, public and  
28 nonpublic educational leadership. Of those appointees, one  
29 shall be the head of a state agency or institution, designated  
30 by the governor, having responsibility for one or more  
31 programs of public education. In addition to the members of

1 the commission representing the party states, there may be not  
2 to exceed ten nonvoting commissioners selected by the steering  
3 committee for terms of one year. Such commissioners shall  
4 represent leading national organizations of professional  
5 educators or persons concerned with educational  
6 administration.

7 B. The members of the commission shall be entitled to  
8 one vote each on the commission. No action of the commission  
9 shall be binding unless taken at a meeting at which a majority  
10 of the total number of votes on the commission are cast in  
11 favor thereof. Action of the commission shall be only at a  
12 meeting at which a majority of the commissioners are present.  
13 The commission shall meet at least once a year. In its  
14 bylaws, and subject to such directions and limitations as may  
15 be contained therein, the commission may delegate the exercise  
16 of any of its powers to the steering committee or the  
17 executive director, except for the power to approve budgets or  
18 requests for appropriations, the power to make policy  
19 recommendations pursuant to Article IV and adoption of the  
20 annual report pursuant to Article III, J.

21 C. The commission shall have a seal.

22 D. The commission shall elect annually, from among its  
23 members, a chair, who shall be a governor, a vice chair and a  
24 treasurer. The commission shall provide for the appointment  
25 of an executive director. Such executive director shall serve  
26 at the pleasure of the commission, and, together with the  
27 treasurer and such other personnel as the commission may deem  
28 appropriate, shall be bonded in such amount as the commission  
29 shall determine. The executive director shall be secretary.

30 E. Irrespective of the civil service, personnel or  
31 other merit system laws of any of the party states, the

1 executive director, subject to the approval of the steering  
2 committee, shall appoint, remove or discharge such personnel  
3 as may be necessary for the performance of the functions of  
4 the commission, and shall fix the duties and compensation of  
5 such personnel. The commission in its bylaws shall provide  
6 for the personnel policies and programs of the commission.

7 F. The commission may borrow, accept or contract for  
8 the services of personnel from any party jurisdiction, the  
9 United States, or any subdivision or agency of the  
10 aforementioned governments, or from any agency of two or more  
11 of the party jurisdictions or their subdivisions.

12 G. The commission may accept for any of its purposes  
13 and functions under this compact any and all donations and  
14 grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services,  
15 conditional or otherwise, from any state, the United States,  
16 or any other governmental agency, or from any person, firm,  
17 association, foundation, or corporation, and may receive,  
18 utilize and dispose of the same. Any donation or grant  
19 accepted by the commission pursuant to this paragraph or  
20 services borrowed pursuant to paragraph F of this Article  
21 shall be reported in the annual report of the commission.  
22 Such report shall include the nature, amount and conditions,  
23 if any, of the donation, grant, or services borrowed, and the  
24 identity of the donor or lender.

25 H. The commission may establish and maintain such  
26 facilities as may be necessary for the transacting of its  
27 business. The commission may acquire, hold, and convey real  
28 and personal property and any interest therein.

29 I. The commission shall adopt bylaws for the conduct  
30 of its business and shall have the power to amend and rescind  
31 these bylaws. The commission shall publish its bylaws in

1 convenient form and shall file a copy thereof and a copy of  
2 any amendment thereto, with the appropriate agency or officer  
3 in each of the party states.

4 J. The commission annually shall make to the governor  
5 and legislature of each party state a report covering the  
6 activities of the commission for the preceding year. The  
7 commission may make such additional reports as it may deem  
8 desirable.

9  
10 ARTICLE IV

11  
12 POWERS.--

13 In addition to authority conferred on the commission by  
14 other provisions of the compact, the commission shall have  
15 authority to:

16 1. Collect, correlate, analyze and interpret  
17 information and data concerning educational needs and  
18 resources.

19 2. Encourage and foster research in all aspects of  
20 education, but with special reference to the desirable scope  
21 of instruction, organization, administration, and  
22 instructional methods and standards employed or suitable for  
23 employment in public educational systems.

24 3. Develop proposals for adequate financing of  
25 education as a whole and at each of its many levels.

26 4. Conduct or participate in research of the types  
27 referred to in this article in any instance where the  
28 commission finds that such research is necessary for the  
29 advancement of the purposes and policies of this compact,  
30 utilizing fully the resources of national associations,  
31

1 regional compact organizations for higher education, and other  
2 agencies and institutions, both public and private.

3 5. Formulate suggested policies and plans for the  
4 improvement of public education as a whole, or for any segment  
5 thereof, and make recommendations with respect thereto  
6 available to the appropriate governmental units, agencies and  
7 public officials.

8 6. Do such other things as may be necessary or  
9 incidental to the administration of any of its authority or  
10 functions pursuant to this compact.

11  
12 ARTICLE V

13  
14 COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.--

15 A. If the laws of the United States specifically so  
16 provide, or if administrative provision is made therefor  
17 within the federal government, the United States may be  
18 represented on the commission by not to exceed ten  
19 representatives. Any such representative or representatives  
20 of the United States shall be appointed and serve in such  
21 manner as may be provided by or pursuant to federal law, and  
22 may be drawn from any one or more branches of the federal  
23 government, but no such representative shall have a vote on  
24 the commission.

25 B. The commission may provide information and make  
26 recommendations to any executive or legislative agency or  
27 officer of the federal government concerning the common  
28 educational policies of the states, and may advise with any  
29 such agencies or officers concerning any matter of mutual  
30 interest.

31



1 and private persons to advise it with respect to any one or  
2 more of its functions. Any advisory or technical committee  
3 may, on request of the states concerned, be established to  
4 consider any matter of special concern to two or more of the  
5 party states.

6 C. The commission may establish such additional  
7 committees as its bylaws may provide.

8

9

ARTICLE VII

10

11 FINANCE.--

12 A. The commission shall advise the governor or  
13 designated officer or officers of each party state of its  
14 budget and estimated expenditures for such period as may be  
15 required by the laws of that party state. Each of the  
16 commission's budgets of estimated expenditures shall contain  
17 specific recommendations of the amount or amounts to be  
18 appropriated by each of the party states.

19 B. The total amount of appropriation requests under  
20 any budget shall be apportioned among the party states. In  
21 making such apportionment, the commission shall devise and  
22 employ a formula which takes equitable account of the  
23 populations and per capita income levels of the party states.

24 C. The commission shall not pledge the credit of any  
25 party states. The commission may meet any of its obligations  
26 in whole or in part with funds available to it pursuant to  
27 Article III, G of this compact, provided that the commission  
28 takes specific action setting aside such funds prior to  
29 incurring an obligation to be met in whole or in part in such  
30 manner. Except where the commission makes use of funds  
31 available to it pursuant to Article III, G thereof, the

1 commission shall not incur any obligation prior to the  
2 allotment of funds by the party states adequate to meet the  
3 same.

4 D. The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all  
5 receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of  
6 the commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting  
7 procedures established by its bylaws. However, all receipts  
8 and disbursements of funds handled by the commission shall be  
9 audited yearly by a qualified public accountant, and the  
10 report of the audit shall be included in and become part of  
11 the annual reports of the commission.

12 E. The accounts of the commission shall be open at any  
13 reasonable time for inspection by duly constituted officers of  
14 the party states and by any persons authorized by the  
15 commission.

16 F. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to  
17 prevent commission compliance with laws relating to audit or  
18 inspection of accounts by or on behalf of any government  
19 contributing to the support of the commission.

20  
21 ARTICLE VIII

22  
23 ELIGIBLE PARTIES; ENTRY INTO AND WITHDRAWAL.--

24 A. This compact shall have as eligible parties all  
25 states, territories, and possessions of the United States, the  
26 District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. In  
27 respect of any such jurisdiction not having a governor, the  
28 term "governor," as used in this compact, shall mean the  
29 closest equivalent official of such jurisdiction.

30 B. Any state or other eligible jurisdiction may enter  
31 into this compact and it shall become binding thereon when it

1 has adopted the same; provided that in order to enter into  
2 initial effect, adoption by at least ten eligible party  
3 jurisdictions shall be required.

4 C. Adoption of the compact may be either by enactment  
5 thereof or by adherence thereto by the governor; provided that  
6 in the absence of enactment, adherence by the governor shall  
7 be sufficient to make his or her state a party only until  
8 December 31, 1967. During any period when a state is  
9 participating in this compact through gubernatorial action,  
10 the governor shall appoint those persons who, in addition to  
11 himself or herself, shall serve as the members of the  
12 commission from his or her state, and shall provide to the  
13 commission an equitable share of the financial support of the  
14 commission from any source available to him or her.

15 D. Except for a withdrawal effective on December 31,  
16 1967, in accordance with paragraph C of this article, any  
17 party state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a  
18 statute repealing the same, but no such withdrawal shall take  
19 effect until one year after the governor of the withdrawing  
20 state has given notice in writing of the withdrawal to the  
21 governors of all other party states. No withdrawal shall  
22 affect any liability already incurred by or chargeable to a  
23 party state prior to the time of such withdrawal.

24  
25 ARTICLE IX

26  
27 CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY.--

28 This compact shall be liberally construed so as to  
29 effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this  
30 compact shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause,  
31 sentence or provision of this compact is declared to be

1 contrary to the constitution of any state or of the United  
2 States, or the application thereof to any government, agency,  
3 person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the  
4 remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any  
5 government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be  
6 affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to  
7 the constitution of any state participating therein, the  
8 compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the state  
9 affected as to all severable matters.

10 Section 16. Chapter 1001, Florida Statutes, shall be  
11 entitled "K-20 Governance" and shall consist of ss.  
12 1001.01-1001.75.

13 Section 17. Part I of chapter 1001, Florida Statutes,  
14 shall be entitled "State-Level Governance" and shall consist  
15 of ss. 1001.01-1001.28.

16 Section 18. Part I.a. of chapter 1001, Florida  
17 Statutes, shall be entitled "State Board of Education" and  
18 shall consist of ss. 1001.01-1001.03.

19 Section 19. Section 1001.01, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21 1001.01 State Board of Education generally.--

22 (1) The State Board of Education is established as a  
23 body corporate. The state board shall be a citizen board  
24 consisting of seven members who are residents of the state  
25 appointed by the Governor to staggered 4-year terms, subject  
26 to confirmation by the Senate. Members of the state board  
27 shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to  
28 reimbursement of travel and per diem expenses in accordance  
29 with s. 112.061. Members may be reappointed by the Governor  
30 for additional terms not to exceed 8 years of consecutive  
31 service.

1           (2) The State Board of Education shall select a chair  
2 and a vice chair from its appointed members. The chair shall  
3 serve a 2-year term and may be reselected for one additional  
4 consecutive term.

5           (3) Four members of the State Board of Education shall  
6 constitute a quorum. No business may be transacted at any  
7 meeting unless a quorum is present.

8           Section 20. Section 1001.02, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10           1001.02 General powers of State Board of Education.--

11           (1) The State Board of Education is the chief  
12 implementing and coordinating body of public education in  
13 Florida, and it shall focus on high-level policy decisions. It  
14 has authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and  
15 120.54 to implement the provisions of law conferring duties  
16 upon it for the improvement of the state system of K-20 public  
17 education. Except as otherwise provided herein, it may, as it  
18 finds appropriate, delegate its general powers to the  
19 Commissioner of Education or the directors of the divisions of  
20 the department.

21           (2) The State Board of Education has the following  
22 duties:

23           (a) To adopt comprehensive educational objectives for  
24 public education.

25           (b) To adopt comprehensive long-range plans and  
26 short-range programs for the development of the state system  
27 of public education.

28           (c) To exercise general supervision over the divisions  
29 of the Department of Education as necessary to ensure  
30 coordination of educational plans and programs and resolve  
31 controversies and to minimize problems of articulation and

1 student transfers, to ensure that students moving from one  
2 level of education to the next have acquired competencies  
3 necessary for satisfactory performance at that level, and to  
4 ensure maximum utilization of facilities.

5 (d) To adopt for state universities and community  
6 colleges, and from time to time modify, minimum and uniform  
7 standards of college-level communication and computation  
8 skills generally associated with successful performance and  
9 progression through the baccalaureate level and to identify  
10 college-preparatory high school coursework and  
11 postsecondary-level coursework that prepares students with the  
12 academic skills necessary to succeed in postsecondary  
13 education.

14 (e) To adopt and submit to the Governor and  
15 Legislature, on or before September 1 of each year, a  
16 coordinated K-20 education budget that estimates the  
17 expenditure requirements for the State Board of Education,  
18 including the Department of Education, the Commissioner of  
19 Education, and all of the boards, institutions, agencies, and  
20 services under the general supervision of the State Board of  
21 Education for the ensuing fiscal year. Any program recommended  
22 by the State Board of Education which will require increases  
23 in state funding for more than 1 year must be presented in a  
24 multiyear budget plan.

25 (f) To hold meetings, transact business, keep records,  
26 adopt a seal, and perform such other duties as may be  
27 necessary for the enforcement of all laws and rules relating  
28 to the state system of public education.

29 (g) To approve plans for cooperating with the Federal  
30 Government.

31

- 1           (h) To approve plans for cooperating with other public  
2 agencies in the development of rules and in the enforcement of  
3 laws for which the state board and such agencies are jointly  
4 responsible.
- 5           (i) To review plans for cooperating with appropriate  
6 nonpublic agencies for the improvement of conditions relating  
7 to the welfare of schools.
- 8           (j) To create such subordinate advisory bodies as are  
9 required by law or as it finds necessary for the improvement  
10 of education.
- 11           (k) To constitute any education bodies or other  
12 structures as required by federal law.
- 13           (l) To assist in the economic development of the state  
14 by developing a state-level planning process to identify  
15 future training needs for industry, especially high-technology  
16 industry.
- 17           (m) To assist in the planning and economic development  
18 of the state by establishing a clearinghouse for information  
19 on educational programs of value to economic development.
- 20           (n) To adopt cohesive rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1)  
21 and 120.54, within statutory authority, for education  
22 systemwide issues.
- 23           (o) To authorize the allocation of resources in  
24 accordance with law and rule.
- 25           (p) To contract with independent institutions  
26 accredited by an agency whose standards are comparable to the  
27 minimum standards required to operate a postsecondary  
28 educational institution at that level in the state. The  
29 purpose of the contract is to provide those educational  
30 programs and facilities which will meet needs unfulfilled by  
31 the state system of public postsecondary education.

1           (q) To recommend that a district school board take  
2 action consistent with the state board's decision relating to  
3 an appeal of a charter school application.

4           (r) To enforce systemwide education goals and  
5 policies.

6           (s) To establish a detailed procedure for the  
7 implementation and operation of a systemwide K-20 technology  
8 plan that is based on a common set of data definitions.

9           (t) To establish accountability standards for existing  
10 legislative performance goals, standards, and measures, and  
11 order the development of mechanisms to implement new  
12 legislative goals, standards, and measures.

13           (u) To adopt criteria and implementation plans for  
14 future growth issues, such as new colleges and universities  
15 and campus mergers, and to provide for cooperative agreements  
16 between and within public and private education sectors.

17           (v) To develop, and periodically review for  
18 adjustment, a coordinated 5-year plan for postsecondary  
19 enrollment and annually submit the plan to the Legislature.

20           (w) To approve a new program at the professional level  
21 or doctoral level, if:

22           1. The university has taken into account the need and  
23 demand for the program, the university's mission, and similar  
24 program offerings by public and nonpublic counterparts.

25           2. The addition of the program will not alter the  
26 university's emphasis on undergraduate education.

27           (x) To review, and approve or disapprove, degree  
28 programs identified as unique pursuant to s. 1007.25.

29           (y) To recommend to the Legislature a plan for  
30 implementing block tuition programs and providing other  
31 incentives to encourage students to graduate within 4 years.

1           (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
2 establish the criteria for assigning, reviewing, and removing  
3 limited-access status to an educational program. The State  
4 Board of Education shall monitor the extent of limited-access  
5 programs within the state universities and report to the  
6 Legislature admissions and enrollment data for limited-access  
7 programs. Such report shall be submitted annually by December  
8 1 and shall assist in determining the potential need for  
9 academic program contracts with independent institutions  
10 pursuant to paragraph (2)(p). The report must specify, for  
11 each limited-access program within each institution, the  
12 following categories, by race and gender:

13           (a) The number of applicants.  
14           (b) The number of applicants granted admission.  
15           (c) The number of applicants who are granted admission  
16 and enroll.  
17           (d) The number of applicants denied admission.  
18           (e) The number of applicants neither granted admission  
19 nor denied admission.  
20

21 Each category must be reported for each term. Each category  
22 must be reported by type of student, including the following  
23 subcategories: native students, community college associate in  
24 arts degree transfer students, and other students. Each  
25 category and subcategory must further be reported according to  
26 the number of students who meet or exceed the minimum  
27 eligibility requirements for admission to the program and the  
28 number of students who do not meet or exceed the minimum  
29 eligibility requirements for admission to the program.

30           (4) The State Board of Education shall review, and  
31 approve or disapprove, baccalaureate-degree programs that

1 exceed 120 semester hours, after considering accreditation  
2 requirements, employment and earnings of graduates,  
3 comparative program lengths nationally, and comparisons with  
4 similar programs offered by independent institutions. By  
5 December 31 of each year, the State Board of Education must  
6 report to the Legislature any degrees in the state  
7 universities that require more than 120 hours, along with  
8 appropriate evidence of need. At least every 5 years, the  
9 State Board of Education must determine whether the programs  
10 still require more than the standard length of 120 hours.

11 (5)(a) The State Board of Education shall adopt a  
12 systemwide strategic plan that specifies goals and objectives  
13 for the state universities and community colleges. In  
14 developing this plan, the State Board of Education shall  
15 consider the role of individual public and independent  
16 institutions within the state. The plan shall provide for the  
17 roles of the universities and community colleges to be  
18 coordinated to best meet state needs and reflect  
19 cost-effective use of state resources. The strategic plan must  
20 clarify mission statements and identify degree programs to be  
21 offered at each university and community college in accordance  
22 with the objectives provided in this subsection. The  
23 systemwide strategic plan must cover a period of 5 years, with  
24 modification of the program lists after 2 years. Development  
25 of each 5-year plan must be coordinated with and initiated  
26 after completion of the master plan. The systemwide and  
27 university and community college strategic plans must  
28 specifically include programs and procedures for responding to  
29 the educational needs of teachers and students in the public  
30 schools of this state. The state board shall submit a report  
31

1 to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
2 Representatives upon modification of the system plan.

3 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop  
4 long-range plans and annual reports for financial aid in this  
5 state. The long-range plans shall establish goals and  
6 objectives for a comprehensive program of financial aid for  
7 Florida students and shall be updated every 5 years. The  
8 annual report shall include an assessment of progress made in  
9 achieving goals and objectives established in the long-range  
10 plans and recommendations for repealing or modifying existing  
11 financial aid programs or establishing new programs. A  
12 long-range plan shall be submitted by January 1, 2004, and  
13 every 5 years thereafter. An annual report shall be submitted  
14 on January 1, 2004, and in each successive year that a  
15 long-range plan is not submitted, to the President of the  
16 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

17 (6) The State Board of Education shall coordinate the  
18 programs with the Council for Education Policy Research and  
19 Improvement, including doctoral programs. The programs shall  
20 be reviewed every 5 years or whenever the state board  
21 determines that the effectiveness or efficiency of a program  
22 is jeopardized. The State Board of Education shall define the  
23 indicators of quality and the criteria for program review for  
24 every program. Such indicators include need, student demand,  
25 industry-driven competencies for advanced technology and  
26 related programs, and resources available to support  
27 continuation. The results of the program reviews must be tied  
28 to the university and community college budget requests.

29 (7) The State Board of Education shall:  
30  
31

- 1        (a) Provide for each community college to offer  
2 educational training and service programs designed to meet the  
3 needs of both students and the communities served.
- 4        (b) Specify, by rule, procedures to be used by the  
5 boards of trustees in the annual evaluations of presidents and  
6 review the evaluations of presidents by the boards of  
7 trustees.
- 8        (c) Establish an effective information system that  
9 will provide composite data concerning the community colleges  
10 and state universities and ensure that special analyses and  
11 studies concerning the institutions are conducted, as  
12 necessary, for provision of accurate and cost-effective  
13 information concerning the institutions.
- 14        (d) Establish criteria for making recommendations for  
15 modifying district boundary lines for community colleges.
- 16        (e) Establish criteria for making recommendations  
17 concerning all proposals for the establishment of additional  
18 centers or campuses for community colleges and state  
19 universities.
- 20        (f) Examine the annual administrative review of each  
21 community college and state university.
- 22        (g) Specify, by rule, the degree program courses that  
23 may be taken by students concurrently enrolled in  
24 college-preparatory instruction.
- 25        (h) Adopt and submit to the Legislature a 3-year list  
26 of priorities for fixed-capital-outlay projects.
- 27        (8) The State Board of Education is responsible for  
28 reviewing and administering the state program of support for  
29 the community colleges and, subject to existing law, shall  
30 establish the tuition and out-of-state fees for  
31 college-preparatory instruction and for credit instruction

1 that may be counted toward an associate in arts degree, an  
2 associate in applied science degree, or an associate in  
3 science degree.

4 (9) The State Board of Education shall prescribe  
5 minimum standards, definitions, and guidelines for community  
6 colleges and state universities that will ensure the quality  
7 of education, coordination among the community colleges and  
8 state universities, and efficient progress toward  
9 accomplishing the community college and state university  
10 mission. At a minimum, these rules must address:

11 (a) Personnel.

12 (b) Contracting.

13 (c) Program offerings and classification, including  
14 college-level communication and computation skills associated  
15 with successful performance in college and with tests and  
16 other assessment procedures that measure student achievement  
17 of those skills. The performance measures must provide that  
18 students moving from one level of education to the next  
19 acquire the necessary competencies for that level.

20 (d) Provisions for curriculum development, graduation  
21 requirements, college calendars, and program service areas.  
22 These provisions must include rules that:

23 1. Provide for the award of an associate in arts  
24 degree to a student who successfully completes 60 semester  
25 credit hours at the community college.

26 2. Require all of the credits accepted for the  
27 associate in arts degree to be in the statewide course  
28 numbering system as credits towards a baccalaureate degree  
29 offered by a state university.

30 3. Require no more than 36 semester credit hours in  
31 general education courses in the subject areas of

1 communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and  
 2 natural sciences.  
 3  
 4 The rules should encourage community colleges to enter into  
 5 agreements with state universities that allow community  
 6 college students to complete upper-division-level courses at a  
 7 community college. An agreement may provide for concurrent  
 8 enrollment at the community college and the state university  
 9 and may authorize the community college to offer an  
 10 upper-division-level course or distance learning.  
 11 (e) Student admissions, conduct and discipline,  
 12 nonclassroom activities, and fees.  
 13 (f) Budgeting.  
 14 (g) Business and financial matters.  
 15 (h) Student services.  
 16 (i) Reports, surveys, and information systems,  
 17 including forms and dates of submission.  
 18 Section 21. Section 1001.03, Florida Statutes, is  
 19 created to read:  
 20 1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.--  
 21 (1) PUBLIC K-12 STUDENT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.--The  
 22 State Board of Education shall approve the student performance  
 23 standards known as the Sunshine State Standards in key  
 24 academic subject areas and grade levels.  
 25 (2) DIRECT-SUPPORT ORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
 26 EDUCATION.--The State Board of Education shall govern issues  
 27 relating to use of property, facilities, and personal services  
 28 between the Department of Education and its direct-support  
 29 organization and shall certify that the organization operates  
 30 at all times in a manner consistent with the goals and best  
 31 interest of the department, pursuant to s. 1001.24.

1           (3) PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES.--The State Board of  
2 Education shall classify school services, designate the  
3 certification subject areas, establish competencies, including  
4 the use of technology to enhance student learning, and  
5 certification requirements for all school-based personnel, and  
6 prescribe rules in accordance with which the professional,  
7 temporary, and part-time certificates shall be issued by the  
8 Department of Education to applicants who meet the standards  
9 prescribed by such rules for their class of service, as  
10 described in chapter 1012.

11           (4) PROFESSIONAL TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS.--The State  
12 Board of Education shall ensure that not-for-profit,  
13 professional teacher associations that offer membership to all  
14 teachers, noninstructional personnel, and administrators, and  
15 that offer teacher training and staff development at no fee to  
16 the district, shall be given equal access to voluntary teacher  
17 meetings, be provided access to teacher mailboxes for  
18 distribution of professional literature, and be authorized to  
19 collect voluntary membership fees through payroll deduction.

20           (5) IDENTIFICATION OF CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE  
21 AREAS.--The State Board of Education shall identify critical  
22 teacher shortage areas pursuant to s. 1012.07.

23           (6) CAPITAL OUTLAY BOND AND MOTOR VEHICLE TAX  
24 ANTICIPATION CERTIFICATE RESOLUTIONS.--The State Board of  
25 Education shall issue bonds and approve resolutions regarding  
26 the expenditure of funds for capital projects and purposes  
27 pursuant to the State Constitution and other applicable law.

28           (7) ARTICULATION ACCOUNTABILITY.--The State Board of  
29 Education shall develop articulation accountability measures  
30 that assess the status of systemwide articulation processes,  
31

1 and shall establish an articulation accountability process in  
2 accordance with the provisions of chapter 1008.

3 (8) SYSTEMWIDE ENFORCEMENT.--The State Board of  
4 Education shall enforce compliance with law and state board  
5 rule by all school districts and public postsecondary  
6 educational institutions, in accordance with the provisions of  
7 s. 1008.32.

8 (9) MANAGEMENT INFORMATION DATABASES.--The State Board  
9 of Education shall continue to collect and maintain, at a  
10 minimum, the management information databases for state  
11 universities, and all other components of the public K-20  
12 education system as such databases existed on June 30, 2002.

13 (10) COMMON PLACEMENT TESTING FOR PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY  
14 EDUCATION.--The State Board of Education shall develop and  
15 implement a common placement test to assess the basic  
16 computation and communication skills of students who intend to  
17 enter a degree program at any community college or state  
18 university.

19 (11) MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR NONPUBLIC POSTSECONDARY  
20 EDUCATION.--The State Board of Education shall adopt minimum  
21 standards relating to nonpublic postsecondary education and  
22 institutions, in accordance with the provisions of chapter  
23 1005.

24 (12) COMMON POSTSECONDARY DEFINITIONS.--The State  
25 Board of Education shall adopt, by rule, common definitions  
26 for associate in science degrees and for certificates.

27 (13) CYCLIC REVIEW OF POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC  
28 PROGRAMS.--The State Board of Education shall provide for the  
29 cyclic review of all academic programs in community colleges  
30 and state universities at least every 7 years. Program reviews  
31 shall document how individual academic programs are achieving

1 stated student learning and program objectives within the  
2 context of the institution's mission. The results of the  
3 program reviews shall inform strategic planning, program  
4 development, and budgeting decisions at the institutional  
5 level.

6 (14) UNIFORM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT  
7 ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL.--The State Board of  
8 Education shall recommend to the Legislature by February 1,  
9 2003, a uniform classification system for school district  
10 administrative and management personnel that will facilitate  
11 the uniform coding of administrative and management personnel  
12 to total district employees.

13 Section 22. Part I.b. of chapter 1001, Florida  
14 Statutes, shall be entitled "Commissioner of Education" and  
15 shall consist of ss. 1001.10-1001.11.

16 Section 23. Section 1001.10, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18 1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and  
19 duties.--The Commissioner of Education is the chief  
20 educational officer of the state, and is responsible for  
21 giving full assistance to the State Board of Education in  
22 enforcing compliance with the mission and goals of the  
23 seamless K-20 education system. To facilitate innovative  
24 practices and to allow local selection of educational methods,  
25 the State Board of Education may authorize the commissioner to  
26 waive, upon the request of a district school board, State  
27 Board of Education rules that relate to district school  
28 instruction and school operations, except those rules  
29 pertaining to civil rights, and student health, safety, and  
30 welfare. The Commissioner of Education is not authorized to  
31 grant waivers for any provisions in rule pertaining to the

1 allocation and appropriation of state and local funds for  
2 public education; the election, compensation, and organization  
3 of school board members and superintendents; graduation and  
4 state accountability standards; financial reporting  
5 requirements; reporting of out-of-field teaching assignments  
6 under s. 1012.42; public meetings; public records; or due  
7 process hearings governed by chapter 120. No later than  
8 January 1 of each year, the commissioner shall report to the  
9 Legislature and the State Board of Education all approved  
10 waiver requests in the preceding year. Additionally, the  
11 commissioner has the following general powers and duties:

12 (1) To appoint staff necessary to carry out his or her  
13 powers and duties.

14 (2) To advise and counsel with the State Board of  
15 Education on all matters pertaining to education; to recommend  
16 to the State Board of Education actions and policies as, in  
17 the commissioner's opinion, should be acted upon or adopted;  
18 and to execute or provide for the execution of all acts and  
19 policies as are approved.

20 (3) To keep such records as are necessary to set forth  
21 clearly all acts and proceedings of the State Board of  
22 Education.

23 (4) To have a seal for his or her office with which,  
24 in connection with his or her own signature, the commissioner  
25 shall authenticate true copies of decisions, acts, or  
26 documents.

27 (5) To recommend to the State Board of Education  
28 policies and steps designed to protect and preserve the  
29 principal of the State School Fund; to provide an assured and  
30 stable income from the fund; to execute such policies and  
31

1 actions as are approved; and to administer the State School  
2 Fund.

3 (6) To take action on the release of mineral rights  
4 based upon the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the  
5 Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

6 (7) To submit to the State Board of Education, on or  
7 before August 1 of each year, recommendations for a  
8 coordinated K-20 education budget that estimates the  
9 expenditures for the State Board of Education, including the  
10 Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education, and  
11 all of the boards, institutions, agencies, and services under  
12 the general supervision of the State Board of Education for  
13 the ensuing fiscal year. Any program recommended to the State  
14 Board of Education that will require increases in state  
15 funding for more than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear  
16 budget plan.

17 (8) To develop and implement a plan for cooperating  
18 with the Federal Government in carrying out any or all phases  
19 of the educational program and to recommend policies for  
20 administering funds that are appropriated by Congress and  
21 apportioned to the state for any or all educational purposes.

22 (9) To develop and implement policies for cooperating  
23 with other public agencies in carrying out those phases of the  
24 program in which such cooperation is required by law or is  
25 deemed by the commissioner to be desirable and to cooperate  
26 with public and nonpublic agencies in planning and bringing  
27 about improvements in the educational program.

28 (10) To prepare forms and procedures as are necessary  
29 to be used by district school boards and all other educational  
30 agencies to assure uniformity, accuracy, and efficiency in the  
31 keeping of records, the execution of contracts, the

1 preparation of budgets, or the submission of reports; and to  
2 furnish at state expense, when deemed advisable by the  
3 commissioner, those forms that can more economically and  
4 efficiently be provided.

5 (11) To implement a program of school improvement and  
6 education accountability designed to provide all students the  
7 opportunity to make adequate learning gains in each year of  
8 school as provided by statute and State Board of Education  
9 rule based upon the achievement of the state education goals,  
10 recognizing the following:

11 (a) The State Board of Education is the body corporate  
12 responsible for the supervision of the system of public  
13 education.

14 (b) The district school board is responsible for  
15 school and student performance.

16 (c) The individual school is the unit for education  
17 accountability.

18 (d) The community college board of trustees is  
19 responsible for community college performance and student  
20 performance.

21 (e) The university board of trustees is responsible  
22 for university performance and student performance.

23 (12) To establish a Citizen Information Center  
24 responsible for the preparation, publication, and distribution  
25 of materials relating to the state system of seamless K-20  
26 public education.

27 (13) To prepare and publish annually reports giving  
28 statistics and other useful information pertaining to the  
29 Opportunity Scholarship Program.

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1           (14) To have printed or electronic copies of school  
2 laws, forms, instruments, instructions, and rules of the State  
3 Board of Education and provide for their distribution.

4           (15) To develop criteria for use by state  
5 instructional materials committees in evaluating materials  
6 submitted for adoption consideration. The criteria shall, as  
7 appropriate, be based on instructional expectations reflected  
8 in curriculum frameworks and student performance standards.  
9 The criteria for each subject or course shall be made  
10 available to publishers of instructional materials pursuant to  
11 the requirements of chapter 1006.

12           (16) To prescribe procedures for evaluating  
13 instructional materials submitted by publishers and  
14 manufacturers in each adoption.

15  
16 The commissioner's office shall operate all statewide  
17 functions necessary to support the State Board of Education  
18 and the K-20 education system, including strategic planning  
19 and budget development, general administration, and assessment  
20 and accountability.

21           Section 24. Section 1001.11, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23           1001.11 Commissioner of Education; other duties.--

24           (1) The Commissioner of Education must independently  
25 perform the following duties:

26           (a) Cooperate with and coordinate responses to  
27 requests from the members of the Legislature.

28           (b) Serve as the primary source of information to the  
29 Legislature, including the President of the Senate and the  
30 Speaker of the House of Representatives, concerning the State  
31 Board of Education and the K-20 education system.

1           (c) Develop and implement a process for receiving and  
2 processing requests, in conjunction with the Legislature, for  
3 the allocation of PECO funds for qualified postsecondary  
4 education projects.

5           (d) Integrally work with the boards of trustees of the  
6 state universities and community colleges.

7           (e) Monitor the activities of the State Board of  
8 Education and provide information related to current and  
9 pending policies to the members of the boards of trustees of  
10 the community colleges and state universities.

11           (f) Ensure the timely provision of information  
12 requested by the Legislature from the State Board of  
13 Education, the commissioner's office, and the Department of  
14 Education.

15           (2)(a) The Commissioner of Education shall recommend  
16 to the State Board of Education performance goals addressing  
17 the educational needs of the state for the K-20 education  
18 system. The Council for Education Policy Research and  
19 Improvement, as an independent entity, shall develop a report  
20 card assigning grades to indicate Florida's progress toward  
21 meeting those goals. The annual report card shall contain  
22 information showing Florida's performance relative to other  
23 states on selected measures, as well as Florida's ability to  
24 meet the need for postsecondary degrees and programs and how  
25 well the Legislature has provided resources to meet this need.  
26 The information shall include the results of the National  
27 Assessment of Educational Progress or a similar national  
28 assessment program administered to students in Florida. By  
29 January 1 of each year, the Council for Education Policy  
30 Research and Improvement shall submit the report card to the  
31 Legislature, the Governor, and the public.

1           (b) Prior to the regular legislative session, the  
2 Commissioner of Education shall present to the Legislature a  
3 plan for correcting any deficiencies identified in the report  
4 card.

5           (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
6 contrary, the Commissioner of Education, in conjunction with  
7 the Legislature, must recommend funding priorities for the  
8 distribution of capital outlay funds for public postsecondary  
9 educational institutions, based on priorities that include,  
10 but are not limited to, the following criteria:

11           (a) Growth at the institutions.

12           (b) Need for specific skills statewide.

13           (c) Need for maintaining and repairing existing  
14 facilities.

15           (4) The commissioner shall develop and implement an  
16 integrated K-20 information system for educational management  
17 in accordance with the requirements of chapter 1008.

18           (5) The commissioner shall design and implement a  
19 statewide program of educational assessment that provides  
20 information for the improvement of the operation and  
21 management of the public schools, including schools operating  
22 for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in  
23 Department of Juvenile Justice programs, in accordance with  
24 the requirements of chapter 1008.

25           (6) The commissioner is responsible for implementing  
26 and maintaining a system of intensive school improvement and  
27 stringent education accountability, in accordance with the  
28 requirements of chapter 1008.

29           Section 25. Part I.c. of chapter 1001, Florida  
30 Statutes, shall be entitled "Department of Education" and  
31 shall consist of ss. 1001.20-1001.28.

1           Section 26. Section 1001.20, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1001.20 Department under direction of state board.--

4           (1) The Department of Education shall be organized  
5 consistently with the requirements of s. 20.15, and shall act  
6 as an administrative and supervisory agency under the  
7 implementation direction of the State Board of Education.

8           (2) The department is to be located in the offices of  
9 the Commissioner of Education and shall assist in providing  
10 professional leadership and guidance and in carrying out the  
11 policies, procedures, and duties authorized by law or by the  
12 State Board of Education or found necessary by it to attain  
13 the purposes and objectives of this code.

14           (3) The Department of Education shall maintain an  
15 Office of the Commissioner of Education that includes the  
16 general areas of operation that are common to all delivery  
17 sectors, such as administration, communication, legal  
18 services, financial aid, and government and public relations,  
19 in order to increase efficiency, improve service delivery to  
20 students, and fully support the operational needs of the State  
21 Board of Education.

22           (4) The Department of Education shall establish the  
23 following offices within the Office of the Commissioner of  
24 Education which shall coordinate their activities with all  
25 other divisions and offices:

26           (a) Office of Technology and Information  
27 Services.--Responsible for developing a systemwide technology  
28 plan, making budget recommendations to the commissioner,  
29 providing data collection and management for the system, and  
30 coordinating services with other state, local, and private  
31 agencies. The office shall develop a method to address the

1 need for a statewide approach to planning and operations of  
2 library and information services to achieve a single K-20  
3 education system library information portal and a unified  
4 higher education library management system. The Florida  
5 Virtual School shall be administratively housed within the  
6 office.

7 (b) Office of Workforce and Economic  
8 Development.--Responsible for evaluating the role of each  
9 sector of education in Florida's workforce and economic  
10 development, assessing the specific work skills and variety of  
11 careers provided, and reporting to the State Board of  
12 Education the effectiveness of each sector.

13 (c) Office of Educational Facilities and SMART Schools  
14 Clearinghouse.--Responsible for validating all educational  
15 plant surveys and verifying Florida Inventory of School Houses  
16 (FISH) data. The office shall provide technical assistance to  
17 public school districts when requested.

18 (d) Office of Student Financial  
19 Assistance.--Responsible for providing access to and  
20 administering state and federal grants, scholarships, and  
21 loans to those students seeking financial assistance for  
22 postsecondary study pursuant to program criteria and  
23 eligibility requirements.

24 (e) Office of Inspector General.--Organized using  
25 existing resources and funds and responsible for promoting  
26 accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness and detecting  
27 fraud and abuse within school districts, community colleges,  
28 and state universities in Florida. If the Commissioner of  
29 Education determines that a district school board or public  
30 postsecondary educational institution board is unwilling or  
31 unable to address substantiated allegations made by any person

1 relating to waste, fraud, or financial mismanagement, the  
2 office shall conduct, coordinate, or request investigations  
3 into substantiated allegations made by any person relating to  
4 waste, fraud, or financial mismanagement within school  
5 districts, community colleges, and state universities in  
6 Florida. The office shall have access to all information and  
7 personnel necessary to perform its duties and shall have all  
8 of its current powers, duties, and responsibilities authorized  
9 in s. 20.055.

10 Section 27. Section 1001.21, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1001.21 Office of Private Schools and Home Education  
13 Programs.--The state recognizes the contributions of private  
14 schools and home education programs in providing alternatives  
15 to public school education. These nongovernmental educational  
16 systems serve the public, but are not considered to be a part  
17 of the public system of education.

18 (1) The Office of Private Schools and Home Education  
19 Programs is established within the Department of Education.  
20 The Department of Education and the Commissioner of Education  
21 have no authority over the institutions or students served by  
22 the office. The office shall:

23 (a) Serve the interests of students and the parents of  
24 students in private schools and home education programs.

25 (b) Serve the interests of private institutions.

26 (c) Provide general information to the public about  
27 private and home education delivery systems.

28 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint an  
29 executive director for the office who shall:

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1           (a) Serve as a source of communication between private  
2 schools, home education programs, the Commissioner of  
3 Education, and the State Board of Education.

4           (b) Evaluate pending policy to ensure that the policy  
5 does not subject private schools and home education programs  
6 to additional regulation or mandates.

7           (c) Establish a clearinghouse of information for the  
8 public.

9           (d) Foster a collaborative spirit and working  
10 relationship among private schools, home education programs,  
11 and the public sector.

12           (e) Identify and convey the best practices of private  
13 schools and home education programs for the benefit of the  
14 public and private education delivery sectors.

15           (f) Represent issues and concerns relating to home  
16 education programs and private schools on all applicable ad  
17 hoc advisory bodies.

18           Section 28. Section 1001.22, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20           1001.22 Commission for Independent Education.--The  
21 Commission for Independent Education shall authorize granting  
22 of certificates, diplomas, and degrees for independent  
23 postsecondary educational institutions pursuant to chapter  
24 1005.

25           Section 29. Section 1001.23, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27           1001.23 Specific powers and duties of the Department  
28 of Education.--In addition to all other duties assigned to it  
29 by law or by rule of the State Board of Education, the  
30 department shall:

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- 1           (1) Adopt the school readiness uniform screening  
2 developed by the Florida Partnership for School Readiness, in  
3 accordance with the criteria itemized in chapter 1008.
- 4           (2) Implement a training program to develop among  
5 state and district educators a cadre of facilitators of school  
6 improvement in accordance with the provisions of chapter 1008.
- 7           (3) Identify the needs of the state system of public  
8 education as they relate to the development and production of  
9 materials used in instruction, in accordance with the  
10 requirements of chapter 1006.
- 11           (4) After complying with the provisions of s. 257.37,  
12 the Department of Education may:
- 13           (a) Photograph, microphotograph, or reproduce on film  
14 or prints, documents, records, data, and information of a  
15 permanent character and destroy any of the documents after  
16 they have been photographed and after audit of the department  
17 has been completed for the period embracing the dates of the  
18 instruments. Photographs or microphotographs in the form of  
19 film or prints made in compliance with the provisions of this  
20 subsection shall have the same force and effect as the  
21 originals would have, and shall be treated as originals for  
22 the purpose of their admissibility in evidence. Duly certified  
23 or authenticated reproductions of such photographs or  
24 microphotographs shall be admitted in evidence equally with  
25 the original photographs or microphotographs.
- 26           (b) Destroy general correspondence that is over 3  
27 years old; records of bills, accounts, vouchers, and  
28 requisitions that are over 5 years old and copies of which  
29 have been filed with the Comptroller; and other records,  
30 papers, and documents over 3 years old that do not serve as  
31

1 part of an agreement or understanding and do not have value as  
2 permanent records.

3 Section 30. Section 1001.24, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1001.24 Direct-support organization; use of property;  
6 board of directors; audit.--

7 (1) DEFINITIONS.--For the purposes of this section,  
8 the term:

9 (a) "Department of Education direct-support  
10 organization" means an organization:

11 1. That is a corporation not for profit that is  
12 incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved  
13 by the Department of State.

14 2. That is organized and operated exclusively to  
15 receive, hold, invest, and administer property and to make  
16 expenditures to or for the benefit of public prekindergarten  
17 through 12th grade education in this state.

18 3. That the State Board of Education, after review,  
19 has certified to be operating in a manner consistent with the  
20 goals and best interest of the Department of Education.

21 (b) "Personal services" includes full-time or  
22 part-time personnel, as well as payroll processing.

23 (2) USE OF PROPERTY.--The State Board of Education:

24 (a) May permit the use of property, facilities, and  
25 personal services of the department by the direct-support  
26 organization, subject to the provisions of this section.

27 (b) Shall prescribe by rule conditions with which the  
28 direct-support organization must comply in order to use  
29 property, facilities, or personal services of the department.  
30 Such rules shall provide for budget and audit review and for  
31 oversight by the department.

1           (c) Shall not permit the use of property, facilities,  
 2 or personal services of the direct-support organization if  
 3 such organization does not provide equal employment  
 4 opportunities to all persons, regardless of race, color,  
 5 national origin, gender, age, or religion.

6           (3) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.--The board of directors of the  
 7 department direct-support organization shall be appointed by  
 8 the commissioner and shall include representation from  
 9 business, industry, and other components of Florida's economy.

10           (4) ANNUAL AUDIT.--Each direct-support organization  
 11 shall provide for an annual financial audit in accordance with  
 12 s. 215.981. The identity of donors who desire to remain  
 13 anonymous shall be protected, and that anonymity shall be  
 14 maintained in the auditor's report. All records of the  
 15 organization other than the auditor's report, management  
 16 letter, and any supplemental data requested by the Auditor  
 17 General and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
 18 Government Accountability shall be confidential and exempt  
 19 from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

20           Section 31. Section 1001.25, Florida Statutes, is  
 21 created to read:

22           1001.25 Educational television.--

23           (1) ESTABLISHMENT AND UTILIZATION OF NETWORK.--The  
 24 department may establish a television network connecting such  
 25 communities or such stations as it designates. For this  
 26 purpose, it may lease facilities in the name of the state from  
 27 communications' common carriers and use such transmission  
 28 channels as are necessary; however, if the department decides,  
 29 upon investigation, that it could more economically construct  
 30 and maintain such transmission channels, it may design,  
 31 construct, operate, and maintain them, including a television

1 microwave network. The network shall be utilized primarily for  
2 the instruction of students at existing and future public and  
3 private educational institutions and of the general public, as  
4 practical. The origination and transmission of all programs  
5 over such networks shall be as directed under policies  
6 approved by the State Board of Education. The department may  
7 cooperate with and assist all local and state educational  
8 agencies in making surveys pertaining to the use and economics  
9 of educational television in the fields of primary,  
10 elementary, secondary, or college level education and in the  
11 field of adult education, and may assist all public agencies  
12 in the planning of programs calculated to further the  
13 education of the state's citizens.

14 (2) POWERS OF DEPARTMENT.--

15 (a) The department may encourage:

16 1. The extension of educational television network  
17 facilities.

18 2. The coordination of Florida's educational  
19 television with that of other states and with the Federal  
20 Government.

21 3. The further development of educational television  
22 within the state.

23 (b) The department shall provide through educational  
24 television and other electronic media a means of extending  
25 educational services to all the state system of public  
26 education, except the state universities, which provision by  
27 the department is limited by paragraph (c) and by s.  
28 1006.26(1). The department shall recommend to the State Board  
29 of Education rules necessary to provide such services.

30 (c) The department may provide equipment, funds, and  
31 other services to extend and update both the existing and the

1 proposed educational television and radio systems of  
2 tax-supported and nonprofit, corporate-owned facilities. All  
3 stations funded must be qualified by the Corporation for  
4 Public Broadcasting. New stations eligible for funding shall  
5 provide a first service to an audience that is not currently  
6 receiving a broadcast signal or provide a significant new  
7 program service as defined by State Board of Education rules.  
8 Funds appropriated to the department for educational  
9 television and funds appropriated to the department for  
10 educational radio may be used by the department for either  
11 educational television or educational radio, or both.

12 (3) PROHIBITED USE, PENALTY.--

13 (a) None of the facilities, plant, or personnel of any  
14 educational television system that is supported in whole or in  
15 part by state funds shall be used directly or indirectly for  
16 the promotion, advertisement, or advancement of any political  
17 candidate for any municipal, county, legislative,  
18 congressional, or state office. However, fair, open, and free  
19 discussion between political candidates for municipal, county,  
20 legislative, congressional, or state office may be permitted  
21 in order to help materially reduce the excessive cost of  
22 campaigns and to ensure that the state's citizens are fully  
23 informed about issues and candidates in campaigns. The  
24 provisions of this paragraph apply to the advocacy for, or  
25 opposition to, any specific program, existing or proposed, of  
26 governmental action which includes, but is not limited to,  
27 constitutional amendments, tax referenda, and bond issues. The  
28 provisions of this paragraph shall be in accordance with rules  
29 of the State Board of Education.

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1           (b) Violation of any prohibition contained in this  
2 section is a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as  
3 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

4           (4) DUTY OF DEPARTMENT.--The department is responsible  
5 for identifying the needs of the state system of public  
6 education as they relate to the development and production of  
7 materials used in instruction. When such identified needs are  
8 considered to be best satisfied by the production of new  
9 materials, the department may commission or contract for the  
10 production of such materials.

11           Section 32. Section 1001.26, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13           1001.26 Public broadcasting program system.--

14           (1) There is created a public broadcasting program  
15 system for the state. The department shall administer this  
16 program system pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of  
17 Education. This program system must complement and share  
18 resources with the instructional programming service of the  
19 Department of Education and educational UHF, VHF, ITFS, and FM  
20 stations in the state. The program system must include:

21           (a) Support for existing Corporation for Public  
22 Broadcasting qualified program system educational radio and  
23 television stations and new stations meeting Corporation for  
24 Public Broadcasting qualifications and providing a first  
25 service to an audience that does not currently receive a  
26 broadcast signal or providing a significant new program  
27 service as defined by rule by the State Board of Education.

28           (b) Maintenance of quality broadcast capability for  
29 educational stations that are part of the program system.

30           (c) Interconnection of all educational stations that  
31 are part of the program system for simultaneous broadcast and

1 of such stations with all universities and other institutions  
2 as necessary for sharing of resources and delivery of  
3 programming.

4 (d) Establishment and maintenance of a capability for  
5 statewide program distribution with facilities and staff,  
6 provided such facilities and staff complement and strengthen  
7 existing or future educational television and radio stations  
8 in accordance with paragraph (a) and s. 1001.25(2)(c).

9 (e) Provision of both statewide programming funds and  
10 station programming support for educational television and  
11 educational radio to meet statewide priorities. Priorities for  
12 station programming need not be the same as priorities for  
13 programming to be used statewide. Station programming may  
14 include, but shall not be limited to, citizens' participation  
15 programs, music and fine arts programs, coverage of public  
16 hearings and governmental meetings, equal air time for  
17 political candidates, and other public interest programming.

18 (2)(a) The Department of Education is responsible for  
19 implementing the provisions of this section pursuant to part  
20 III of chapter 287 and may employ personnel, acquire equipment  
21 and facilities, and perform all duties necessary for carrying  
22 out the purposes and objectives of this section.

23 (b) The department shall provide through educational  
24 television and other electronic media a means of extending  
25 educational services to all the state system of public  
26 education. The department shall recommend to the State Board  
27 of Education rules necessary to provide such services.

28 (c) The department is authorized to provide equipment,  
29 funds, and other services to extend and update both the  
30 existing and the proposed educational television and radio  
31 systems of tax-supported and nonprofit, corporate-owned

1 facilities. All stations funded must be qualified by the  
2 Corporation for Public Broadcasting. New stations eligible  
3 for funding shall provide a first service to an audience that  
4 is not currently receiving a broadcast signal or provide a  
5 significant new program service as defined by State Board of  
6 Education rules. Funds appropriated to the department for  
7 educational television and funds appropriated to the  
8 department for educational radio may be used by the department  
9 for either educational television or educational radio, or for  
10 both.

11 (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for  
12 the proper enforcement and carrying out of these provisions.

13 Section 33. Section 1001.27, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15 1001.27 State satellite network.--

16 (1) There is created a state satellite network, which  
17 shall provide one-way video and audio transmissions with  
18 regional access for all Floridians, state agencies, county and  
19 municipal governments, business and industry, and other public  
20 and private entities to participate in classroom instruction,  
21 continuing education, special events programs, and one-way  
22 video teleconferencing.

23 (2) The network shall consist of compatible satellite  
24 receiving equipment at public educational institutions in each  
25 of the 28 community college regions.

26 (3) The department, in consultation with the  
27 Department of Management Services, shall implement the  
28 provisions of this section and coordinate the network.  
29 Specifically, the department shall:

30 (a) Provide for technical analysis of suitable  
31 existing satellite receiving equipment at Florida public

1 postsecondary educational institutions for inclusion in the  
2 network.

3 (b) Acquire by competitive sealed bid and place  
4 appropriate receiving equipment in those community college  
5 regions of the state in which such equipment is presently not  
6 available at a public postsecondary educational institution.

7 (c) Develop an implementation plan that provides for  
8 designation of a site in each community college region for  
9 inclusion in the initial network. Criteria for selection  
10 shall include:

11 1. Accessibility to a substantial portion of the  
12 population of the region.

13 2. Demonstrated institutional commitment to support  
14 and encourage use of the network both within the region and  
15 statewide.

16 3. Willingness to complement state support with  
17 matching institutional resources.

18 4. Evidence of cooperation and coordinated planning  
19 with other postsecondary educational institutions in the  
20 region.

21 5. Availability of existing telecommunications  
22 equipment which is compatible or adaptable for use in the  
23 network.

24 (d) Identify additional sites for inclusion in the  
25 network in the event that demand exceeds the capacity of the  
26 initial network.

27 (e) Coordinate scheduling and encourage use of the  
28 network.

29 (f) Develop operating procedures for the system and  
30 recommend fee schedules for both public and private entities  
31 wishing to transmit or receive programming through the

1 network. Scheduling procedures shall assign the highest  
2 priority to educational programming.

3 (g) Provide training for institutional, state agency,  
4 and other personnel in effective techniques for the use of the  
5 network.

6 (h) Provide initial startup support for operations,  
7 maintenance, and publicity costs of the network. Continuation  
8 costs in these areas shall be recovered through user fees and  
9 local resources.

10 (4) All audio components of this system that are not  
11 transmitted simultaneously with video to a domestic satellite  
12 shall be transmitted through common carriers regulated  
13 pursuant to chapter 364.

14 (5) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
15 necessary for the implementation of this section.

16 (6) This section shall be implemented only to the  
17 extent specifically authorized and funded by law.

18 Section 34. Section 1001.28, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1001.28 Distance learning duties.--The duties of the  
21 Department of Education concerning distance learning include,  
22 but are not limited to, the duty to:

23 (1) Facilitate the implementation of a statewide  
24 coordinated system and resource system for cost-efficient  
25 advanced telecommunications services and distance education  
26 which will increase overall student access to education.

27 (2) Coordinate the use of existing resources,  
28 including, but not limited to, the state's satellite  
29 transponders on the education satellites, the SUNCOM Network,  
30 the Florida Information Resource Network (FIRN), the  
31 Department of Management Services, the Department of

1 Corrections, and the Department of Children and Family  
2 Services' satellite communication facilities to support a  
3 statewide advanced telecommunications services and distance  
4 learning network.

5 (3) Assist in the coordination of the utilization of  
6 the production and uplink capabilities available through  
7 Florida's public television stations, eligible facilities,  
8 independent colleges and universities, private firms, and  
9 others as needed.

10 (4) Seek the assistance and cooperation of Florida's  
11 cable television providers in the implementation of the  
12 statewide advanced telecommunications services and distance  
13 learning network.

14 (5) Seek the assistance and cooperation of Florida's  
15 telecommunications carriers to provide affordable student  
16 access to advanced telecommunications services and to distance  
17 learning.

18 (6) Coordinate partnerships for development,  
19 acquisition, use, and distribution of distance learning.

20 (7) Secure and administer funding for programs and  
21 activities for distance learning from federal, state, local,  
22 and private sources and from fees derived from services and  
23 materials.

24 (8) Manage the state's satellite transponder resources  
25 and enter into lease agreements to maximize the use of  
26 available transponder time. All net revenue realized through  
27 the leasing of available transponder time, after deducting the  
28 costs of performing the management function, shall be recycled  
29 to support the public education distance learning in this  
30 state based upon an allocation formula of one-third to the  
31

1 Department of Education, one-third to community colleges, and  
2 one-third to state universities.

3 (9) Hire appropriate staff which may include a  
4 position that shall be exempt from part II of chapter 110 and  
5 is included in the Senior Management Service in accordance  
6 with s. 110.205.

7  
8 Nothing in this section shall be construed to abrogate,  
9 supersede, alter, or amend the powers and duties of any state  
10 agency, district school board, community college board of  
11 trustees, university board of trustees, or the State Board of  
12 Education.

13 Section 35. Part II of chapter 1001, Florida Statutes,  
14 shall be entitled "School District Governance" and shall  
15 consist of ss. 1001.30-1001.55.

16 Section 36. Section 1001.30, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18 1001.30 District unit.--Each county shall constitute a  
19 school district and shall be known as the school district of  
20 ... County, Florida. Each district shall constitute a unit  
21 for the control, organization, and administration of schools.  
22 The responsibility for the actual operation and administration  
23 of all schools needed within the districts in conformity with  
24 rules and minimum standards prescribed by the state, and also  
25 the responsibility for the provision of any desirable and  
26 practicable opportunities authorized by law beyond those  
27 required by the state, are delegated by law to the school  
28 officials of the respective districts.

29 Section 37. Section 1001.31, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31

1           1001.31 Scope of district system.--A district school  
2 system shall include all public schools, classes, and courses  
3 of instruction and all services and activities directly  
4 related to education in that district which are under the  
5 direction of the district school officials. A district school  
6 system may also include alternative site schools for  
7 disruptive or violent youth. Such schools for disruptive or  
8 violent youth may be funded by each district or provided  
9 through cooperative programs administered by a consortium of  
10 school districts, private providers, state and local law  
11 enforcement agencies, and the Department of Juvenile Justice.  
12 Pursuant to cooperative agreement, a district school system  
13 shall provide instructional personnel at juvenile justice  
14 facilities of 50 or more beds or slots with access to the  
15 district school system database for the purpose of accessing  
16 student academic, immunization, and registration records for  
17 students assigned to the programs. Such access shall be in the  
18 same manner as provided to other schools in the district.

19           Section 38. Section 1001.32, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21           1001.32 Management, control, operation,  
22 administration, and supervision.--The district school system  
23 must be managed, controlled, operated, administered, and  
24 supervised as follows:

25           (1) DISTRICT SYSTEM.--The district school system shall  
26 be considered as a part of the state system of public  
27 education. All actions of district school officials shall be  
28 consistent and in harmony with state laws and with rules and  
29 minimum standards of the state board and the commissioner.  
30 District school officials, however, shall have the authority  
31 to provide additional educational opportunities, as desired,

1 which are authorized, but not required, by law or by the  
2 district school board.

3 (2) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.--In accordance with the  
4 provisions of s. 4(b) of Art. IX of the State Constitution,  
5 district school boards shall operate, control, and supervise  
6 all free public schools in their respective districts and may  
7 exercise any power except as expressly prohibited by the State  
8 Constitution or general law.

9 (3) DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.--Responsibility  
10 for the administration and management of the schools and for  
11 the supervision of instruction in the district shall be vested  
12 in the district school superintendent as the secretary and  
13 executive officer of the district school board, as provided by  
14 law.

15 (4) SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR HEAD OF  
16 SCHOOL.--Responsibility for the administration of any school  
17 or schools at a given school center, for the supervision of  
18 instruction therein, and for providing leadership in the  
19 development or revision and implementation of a school  
20 improvement plan required pursuant to s. 1001.42(16) shall be  
21 delegated to the school principal or head of the school or  
22 schools in accordance with rules established by the district  
23 school board.

24 Section 39. Section 1001.33, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26 1001.33 Schools under control of district school board  
27 and district school superintendent.--Except as otherwise  
28 provided by law, all public schools conducted within the  
29 district shall be under the direction and control of the  
30 district school board with the district school superintendent  
31 as executive officer.

1           Section 40. Part II.a. of chapter 1001, Florida  
2 Statutes, shall be entitled "District School Boards" and shall  
3 consist of ss. 1001.34-1001.453.

4           Section 41. Section 1001.34, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1001.34 Membership of district school board.--Each  
7 district school board shall be composed of not less than five  
8 members. Each member of the district school board shall be a  
9 qualified elector of the district in which she or he serves,  
10 shall be a resident of the district school board member  
11 residence area from which she or he is elected, and shall  
12 maintain said residency throughout her or his term of office.

13           Section 42. Section 1001.35, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15           1001.35 Term of office.--District school board members  
16 shall be elected at the general election in November for terms  
17 of 4 years.

18           Section 43. Section 1001.36, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20           1001.36 District school board member residence  
21 areas.--

22           (1) For the purpose of electing district school board  
23 members, each district shall be divided into at least five  
24 district school board member residence areas, which shall be  
25 numbered one to five, inclusive, and which shall, as nearly as  
26 practicable, be equal in population.

27           (a) For those school districts, which have seven  
28 district school board members, the district may be divided  
29 into five district school board member residence areas, with  
30 two district school board members elected at large, or the  
31 district may be divided into seven district school board

1 member residence areas. In the latter case, the residence  
2 areas shall be numbered one to seven inclusive and shall be  
3 equal in population as nearly as practicable.

4 (b) For those school districts which have seven  
5 district school board members, the number of district school  
6 board member residence areas shall be determined by resolution  
7 passed by a majority vote of the district school board.

8 (2) Any district school board may make any change that  
9 it deems necessary in the boundaries of any district school  
10 board member residence area at any meeting of the district  
11 school board, provided that such changes shall be made only in  
12 odd-numbered years and that no change that would affect the  
13 residence qualifications of any incumbent member shall  
14 disqualify such incumbent member during the term for which he  
15 or she is elected.

16 (3) Such changes in boundaries shall be shown by  
17 resolutions spread upon the minutes of the district school  
18 board, shall be recorded in the office of the clerk of the  
19 circuit court, and shall be published at least once in a  
20 newspaper published in the district within 30 days after the  
21 adoption of the resolution, or, if there be no newspaper  
22 published in the district, shall be posted at the county  
23 courthouse door for 4 weeks thereafter. A certified copy of  
24 this resolution shall be transmitted to the Department of  
25 State.

26 Section 44. Section 1001.361, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1001.361 Election of board by districtwide  
29 vote.--Notwithstanding any provision of local law or any  
30 county charter, the election of members of the district school  
31 board shall be by vote of the qualified electors of the entire

1 district in a nonpartisan election as provided in chapter 105.  
2 Each candidate for district school board member shall, at the  
3 time she or he qualifies, be a resident of the district school  
4 board member residence area from which the candidate seeks  
5 election. Each candidate who qualifies to have her or his name  
6 placed on the ballot shall be listed according to the district  
7 school board member residence area in which she or he resides.  
8 Each qualified elector of the district shall be entitled to  
9 vote for one candidate from each district school board member  
10 residence area. The candidate from each district school board  
11 member residence area who receives the highest number of votes  
12 in the general election shall be elected to the district  
13 school board.

14 Section 45. Section 1001.362, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 1001.362 Alternate procedure for the election of  
17 district school board members to provide for single-member  
18 representation.--

19 (1) This section shall be known and may be referred to  
20 as "The School District Local Option Single-Member  
21 Representation Law of 1984."

22 (2) District school board members shall be elected to  
23 office in accordance with the provisions of ss. 1001.36 and  
24 1001.361, or as otherwise provided by law, unless a  
25 proposition calling for single-member representation within  
26 the residence areas of the district is submitted to and  
27 approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting on  
28 such proposition in the manner provided in subsection (3).

29 (a) If the district school board is composed of five  
30 members, such proposition shall provide that the five members  
31 shall reside one in each of five residence areas, the areas

1 together covering the entire district and as nearly equal in  
2 population as practicable, pursuant to s. 1001.36, each of  
3 whom shall be elected only by the qualified electors who  
4 reside in the same residence area as the member.

5 (b) If the district school board is composed of seven  
6 members, at the option of the school board, such proposition  
7 shall provide that:

8 1. Five of the seven members shall reside one in each  
9 of five residence areas, the areas together covering the  
10 entire district and as nearly equal in population as  
11 practicable, pursuant to s. 1001.36, each of whom shall be  
12 elected only by the qualified electors who reside in the same  
13 residence area as the member, and two of the seven members  
14 shall be elected at large; or

15 2. All seven members shall reside one in each of seven  
16 residence areas, the areas together covering the entire  
17 district and as nearly equal in population as practicable,  
18 pursuant to s. 1001.36, each of whom shall be elected only by  
19 the qualified electors who reside in the same residence area  
20 as the member.

21 (c) All members shall be elected for 4-year terms, but  
22 such terms shall be staggered so that, alternately, one more  
23 or one less than half of the members elected from residence  
24 areas and, if applicable, one of the members elected at large  
25 from the entire district are elected every 2 years. Any  
26 member may be elected to an initial term of less than 4 years  
27 if necessary to achieve or maintain such system of staggered  
28 terms.

29 (3) A proposition calling for single-member  
30 representation within the residence areas of the district  
31 shall be submitted to the electors of the district at any

1 primary, general, or otherwise-called special election, in  
2 either manner following:

3 (a) The district school board may adopt a formal  
4 resolution directing an election to be held to place the  
5 proposition on the ballot.

6 (b) The electors of the school district may petition  
7 to have the proposition placed on the ballot by presenting to  
8 the school board petitions signed by not less than 10 percent  
9 of the duly qualified electors residing within the school  
10 district. The number of signatures required shall be  
11 determined by the supervisor of elections according to the  
12 number of registered electors in the district as of the date  
13 the petitioning electors register as a political committee as  
14 provided in subsection (4).

15 (4) The electors petitioning to have the proposition  
16 placed on the ballot shall register as a political committee  
17 pursuant to s. 106.03, and a specific person shall be  
18 designated therein as chair of the committee to act for the  
19 committee.

20 (5)(a) Each petition form circulated for single-member  
21 representation within the residence areas of a district where  
22 the school board is composed of five members shall include the  
23 wording: "As a registered elector of the school district of  
24 ... County, Florida, I am petitioning for a referendum  
25 election to determine whether the five school board members of  
26 said district shall be elected from single-member residence  
27 areas by electors residing in each of those areas only."

28 (b) Each petition form circulated for single-member  
29 representation within the residence areas of a district where  
30 the district school board is composed of seven members, none  
31 of whom are to be elected at large, shall include the wording:

1 "As a registered elector of the school district of ....  
2 County, Florida, I am petitioning for a referendum election to  
3 determine whether the seven members of said district shall be  
4 elected from single-member residence areas by electors  
5 residing in each of those areas only."

6 (c) Each petition form circulated for single-member  
7 representation within the residence areas of a district where  
8 the school board is composed of seven members, two of whom are  
9 to be elected at large, shall include the wording: "As a  
10 registered elector of the school district of .... County,  
11 Florida, I am petitioning for a referendum election to  
12 determine whether five of the seven district school board  
13 members of said district shall be elected from single-member  
14 residence areas by electors residing in each of those areas  
15 only, with the two remaining members being elected at large."

16  
17 The petition shall also include space for the signature and  
18 address of the elector. Each signature obtained shall be  
19 dated when made and is valid for a period of 4 years following  
20 that date.

21 (6) Upon the filing of the petitions with the district  
22 school board by the chair of the committee, the district  
23 school board shall submit the petitions to the supervisor of  
24 elections for verification of the signatures. Within a period  
25 of not more than 30 days, the supervisor of elections shall  
26 determine whether the petitions contain the required number of  
27 valid signatures. The supervisor of elections shall be paid  
28 by the committee seeking verification the sum of 10 cents for  
29 each name checked.

30 (7) If it is determined that the petitions have the  
31 required signatures, the supervisor of elections shall certify

1 the petitions to the district school board, which shall adopt  
2 a resolution requesting that an election date be set to  
3 conform to the earliest primary, general, or otherwise-called  
4 special election that occurs not less than 30 days after  
5 certification of the petitions. If it is determined that the  
6 petitions do not contain the required signatures, the  
7 supervisor of elections shall so notify the district school  
8 board, which shall file the petitions without taking further  
9 action, and the matter shall be at an end. No additional names  
10 may be added to the petitions, and the petitions may not be  
11 used in any other proceeding.

12 (8) No special election may be called for the sole  
13 purpose of presenting the proposition to the vote of the  
14 electors.

15 (9) Any district adopting any of the propositions set  
16 forth in this section may thereafter return to the procedures  
17 otherwise provided by law by following the same procedure  
18 outlined in subsection (3).

19 (10) No district school board member elected prior to  
20 or at the election that approves any revision as permitted  
21 herein shall be affected in his or her term of office. The  
22 resolution adopted by the district school board under  
23 paragraph (3)(a) or subsection (7) which presents the proposed  
24 revision to the electorate for approval shall specify an  
25 orderly method and procedure for implementing the revision  
26 contemplated in the resolution.

27 Section 46. Section 1001.363, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1001.363 District school board members to represent  
30 entire district.--Each district school board of each district  
31 shall represent the entire district. Each member of the

1 district school board shall serve as the representative of the  
2 entire district, rather than as the representative of a  
3 district school board member residence area.

4 Section 47. Section 1001.37, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1001.37 District school board members shall  
7 qualify.--Before entering upon the duties of office after  
8 being elected, or, if appointed, within 10 days after  
9 receiving notice of appointment, each member of the district  
10 school board shall take the prescribed oath of office.

11 Section 48. Section 1001.371, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13 1001.371 Organization of district school board.--On  
14 the third Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each  
15 year, the district school board shall organize by electing a  
16 chair. It may elect a vice chair, and the district school  
17 superintendent shall act ex officio as the secretary. If a  
18 vacancy should occur in the position of chair, the district  
19 school board shall proceed to elect a chair at the next  
20 ensuing regular or special meeting. At the organization  
21 meeting, the district school superintendent shall act as chair  
22 until the organization is completed. The chair and secretary  
23 shall then make and sign a copy of the proceedings of  
24 organization, including the schedule for regular meetings and  
25 the names and addresses of all district school officers, and  
26 annex their affidavits that the same is a true and correct  
27 copy of the original, and the secretary shall file the  
28 document within 2 weeks with the Department of Education.

29 Section 49. Section 1001.372, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31 1001.372 District school board meetings.--

1           (1) REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS.--The district school  
2 board shall hold not less than one regular meeting each month  
3 for the transaction of business according to a schedule  
4 arranged by the district school board and shall convene in  
5 special sessions when called by the district school  
6 superintendent or by the district school superintendent on  
7 request of the chair of the district school board, or on  
8 request of a majority of the members of the district school  
9 board; provided that actions taken at special meetings shall  
10 have the same force and effect as if taken at a regular  
11 meeting; and provided further that in the event the district  
12 school superintendent should fail to call a special meeting  
13 when requested to do so, as prescribed herein, such a meeting  
14 may be called by the chair of the district school board or by  
15 a majority of the members of the district school board by  
16 giving 2 days' written notice of the time and purpose of the  
17 meeting to all members and to the district school  
18 superintendent, in which event the minutes of the meeting  
19 shall set forth the facts regarding the procedure in calling  
20 the meeting and the reason therefor and shall be signed either  
21 by the chair or by a majority of the members of the district  
22 school board.

23           (2) PLACE OF MEETINGS.--

24           (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), all regular  
25 and special meetings of the district school board shall be  
26 held in the office of the district school superintendent or in  
27 a room convenient to that office and regularly designated as  
28 the district school board meeting room.

29           (b) Upon the giving of due public notice, regular or  
30 special meetings of the district school board may be held at  
31 any appropriate public place in the county.

1           (c) For purpose of this section, due public notice  
2 shall consist of publication in a newspaper of general  
3 circulation in the county or in each county where there is no  
4 newspaper of general circulation in the county an announcement  
5 over at least one radio station whose signal is generally  
6 received in the county, a reasonable number of times daily  
7 during the 48 hours immediately preceding the date of such  
8 meeting, or by posting a notice at the courthouse door if no  
9 newspaper is published in the county, at least 2 days prior to  
10 the meeting.

11           (3) REMOVAL OF PERSONS INTERFERING WITH MEETINGS.--The  
12 presiding officer of any district school board may order the  
13 removal, from a public meeting held by the district school  
14 board, of any person interfering with the expeditious or  
15 orderly process of such meeting, provided such officer has  
16 first issued a warning that continued interference with the  
17 orderly processes of the meeting will result in removal. Any  
18 law enforcement authority or a sergeant-at-arms designated by  
19 the officer shall remove any person ordered removed pursuant  
20 to this section.

21           (4) MAJORITY A QUORUM.--A majority shall constitute a  
22 quorum for any meeting of the district school board. No  
23 business may be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum is  
24 present, except that a minority of the district school board  
25 may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum is  
26 present.

27           Section 50. Section 1001.38, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29           1001.38 Vacancies; how filled.--The office of any  
30 district school board member shall be vacant when the member  
31 removes his or her residence from the district school board

1 member residence area from which he or she was elected. All  
2 vacancies on the district school board shall be filled by  
3 appointment by the Governor.

4 Section 51. Section 1001.39, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1001.39 District school board members; travel  
7 expenses.--

8 (1) In addition to the salary provided in s. 1001.395,  
9 each member of a district school board shall be allowed, from  
10 the district school fund, reimbursement of travel expenses as  
11 authorized in s. 112.061, except as provided in subsection  
12 (2). Any travel outside the district shall also be governed  
13 by the rules of the State Board of Education.

14 (2) Each district school board may reimburse a  
15 district school board member for travel expenses for travel  
16 from the member's residence incurred in the performance of a  
17 public purpose authorized by law to be performed by the  
18 district school board, including, but not limited to,  
19 attendance at regular and special board meetings. Mileage  
20 allowance in the amount provided by law for reimbursement of  
21 travel expenses, when authorized, shall be computed from the  
22 member's place of residence to the place of the meeting or  
23 function and return.

24 Section 52. Effective upon this act becoming a law,  
25 section 1001.395, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

26 1001.395 District school board members;  
27 compensation.--

28 (1) Each district school board shall annually  
29 determine the salary of its members at the first regular  
30 meeting following the organizational meeting held pursuant to  
31 s. 1001.371. The proposed salary to be adopted shall be

1 noticed at the time of the meeting notice and shall not be  
2 increased during the meeting. The salary adopted by the  
3 district school board shall be in effect during the succeeding  
4 12 months.

5 (2) This section shall apply to any district school  
6 board member elected or reelected at the November 2002 general  
7 election or any subsequent general election and to any person  
8 appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of any such member.

9 Section 53. Section 1001.40, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11 1001.40 District school board to constitute a  
12 corporation.--The governing body of each school district shall  
13 be a district school board. Each district school board is  
14 constituted a body corporate by the name of "The School Board  
15 of .... County, Florida." In all suits against district  
16 school boards, service of process shall be had on the chair of  
17 the district school board or, if he or she cannot be found, on  
18 the district school superintendent as executive officer of the  
19 district school board or, in the absence of the chair and the  
20 district school superintendent, on another member of the  
21 district school board.

22 Section 54. Section 1001.41, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1001.41 General powers of district school board.--The  
25 district school board, after considering recommendations  
26 submitted by the district school superintendent, shall  
27 exercise the following general powers:

28 (1) Determine policies and programs consistent with  
29 state law and rule deemed necessary by it for the efficient  
30 operation and general improvement of the district school  
31 system.

1           (2) Adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54  
2 to implement the provisions of law conferring duties upon it  
3 to supplement those prescribed by the State Board of Education  
4 and the Commissioner of Education.

5           (3) Prescribe and adopt standards as are considered  
6 desirable by it for improving the district school system.

7           (4) Contract, sue, and be sued. The district school  
8 board shall constitute the contracting agent for the district  
9 school system.

10           (5) Perform duties and exercise those responsibilities  
11 that are assigned to it by law or by rules of the State Board  
12 of Education or the Commissioner of Education and, in addition  
13 thereto, those that it may find to be necessary for the  
14 improvement of the district school system in carrying out the  
15 purposes and objectives of the education code.

16           (6) Assign students to schools.

17           (7) Enter into agreements for accepting credit card,  
18 charge card, and debit card payments as compensation for  
19 goods, services, tuition, and fees, as authorized by law.

20           Section 55. Section 1001.42, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22           1001.42 Powers and duties of district school  
23 board.--The district school board, acting as a board, shall  
24 exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below:

25           (1) REQUIRE MINUTES AND RECORDS TO BE KEPT.--Require  
26 the district school superintendent, as secretary, to keep such  
27 minutes and records as are necessary to set forth clearly all  
28 actions and proceedings of the school board.

29           (a) Minutes, recording.--The minutes of each meeting  
30 shall be reviewed, corrected if necessary, and approved at the  
31 next regular meeting, provided that this action may be taken

1 at an intervening special meeting if the district school board  
2 desires. The minutes shall be kept as a public record in a  
3 permanent location.

4 (b) Minutes, contents.--The minutes shall show the  
5 vote of each member present on all matters on which the  
6 district school board takes action. It shall be the duty of  
7 each member to see to it that both the matter and his or her  
8 vote thereon are properly recorded in the minutes. Unless  
9 otherwise shown by the minutes, it shall be presumed that the  
10 vote of each member present supported any action taken by the  
11 district school board in either the exercise of, violation of,  
12 or neglect of the powers and duties imposed upon the district  
13 school board by law or rule, whether such action is recorded  
14 in the minutes or is otherwise established. It shall also be  
15 presumed that the policies, appointments, programs, and  
16 expenditures not recorded in the minutes but made and actually  
17 in effect in the district school system were made and put into  
18 effect at the direction of the district school board, unless  
19 it can be shown that they were done without the actual or  
20 constructive knowledge of the members of the district school  
21 board.

22 (2) CONTROL PROPERTY.--Subject to rules of the State  
23 Board of Education, control property and convey the title to  
24 real and personal property.

25 (3) ADOPT SCHOOL PROGRAM.--Adopt a school program for  
26 the entire school district.

27 (4) ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OPERATION OF  
28 SCHOOLS.--Adopt and provide for the execution of plans for the  
29 establishment, organization, and operation of the schools of  
30 the district, including, but not limited to, the following:  
31

1           (a) Schools and enrollment plans.--Establish schools  
2 and adopt enrollment plans that may include school attendance  
3 areas and open enrollment provisions.

4           (b) Elimination of school centers and consolidation of  
5 schools.--Provide for the elimination of school centers and  
6 the consolidation of schools.

7           (c) Adequate educational facilities for all children  
8 without tuition.--Provide adequate educational facilities for  
9 all children without payment of tuition.

10           (d) Cooperate with school boards of adjoining  
11 districts in maintaining schools.--Approve plans for  
12 cooperating with school boards of adjoining districts in this  
13 state or in adjoining states for establishing school  
14 attendance areas composed of territory lying within the  
15 districts and for the joint maintenance of district-line  
16 schools or other schools which are to serve those attendance  
17 areas. The conditions of such cooperation shall be as  
18 follows:

19           1. Establishment.--The establishment of a school to  
20 serve attendance areas lying in more than one district and the  
21 plans for maintaining the school and providing educational  
22 services to students shall be effected by annual resolutions  
23 spread upon the minutes of each district school board  
24 concerned, which resolutions shall set out the territorial  
25 limits of the areas from which children are to attend the  
26 school and the plan to be followed in maintaining and  
27 operating the school.

28           2. Control.--Control of the school or schools involved  
29 shall be vested in the district school board of the district  
30 in which the school or schools are located unless otherwise  
31 agreed by the district school boards.

1           3. Settlement of disagreements.--In the event an  
2 agreement cannot be reached relating to such attendance areas  
3 or to the school or schools therein, the matter may be  
4 referred jointly by the cooperating district school boards or  
5 by either district school board to the Department of Education  
6 for decision under rules of the State Board of Education, and  
7 its decision shall be binding on both school boards.

8           (e) Classification and standardization of  
9 schools.--Provide for the classification and standardization  
10 of schools.

11           (f) Opening and closing of schools; fixing uniform  
12 date.--Adopt policies for the opening and closing of schools  
13 and fix uniform dates.

14           (g) Observance of school holidays and vacation  
15 periods.--Designate the observance of school holidays and  
16 vacation periods.

17           (h) Career and technical classes and schools.--Provide  
18 for the establishment and maintenance of career and technical  
19 schools, departments, or classes, giving instruction in career  
20 and technical education as defined by rules of the State Board  
21 of Education, and use any moneys raised by public taxation in  
22 the same manner as moneys for other school purposes are used  
23 for the maintenance and support of public schools or classes.

24           (i) District school boards may establish public  
25 evening schools.--Have the authority to establish public  
26 evening schools.

27           (j) Cooperate with other agencies in joint  
28 projects.--Cooperate with other agencies in joint projects.

29           (k) Planning time for teachers.--May adopt rules for  
30 planning time for teachers in accordance with the provisions  
31 of chapter 1012.

1           (l) Exceptional students.--Provide for an appropriate  
2 program of special instruction, facilities, and services for  
3 exceptional students as prescribed by the State Board of  
4 Education as acceptable in accordance with the provisions of  
5 s. 1003.57.

6           (m) Alternative education programs for students in  
7 residential care facilities.--Provide, in accordance with the  
8 provisions of chapter 1006, educational programs according to  
9 rules of the State Board of Education to students who reside  
10 in residential care facilities operated by the Department of  
11 Children and Family Services.

12           (n) Educational services in detention facilities.--In  
13 accordance with the provisions of chapter 1006, offer services  
14 to students in detention facilities.

15           (5) PERSONNEL.--Designate positions to be filled,  
16 prescribe qualifications for those positions, and provide for  
17 the appointment, compensation, promotion, suspension, and  
18 dismissal of employees, subject to the requirements of chapter  
19 1012. Notwithstanding s. 1012.55 or any other provision of law  
20 or rule to the contrary, the district school board may,  
21 consistent with adopted district school board policy relating  
22 to alternative certification for school principals, appoint  
23 persons to the position of school principal who do not hold  
24 educator certification.

25           (6) CHILD WELFARE.--In accordance with the provisions  
26 of chapters 1003 and 1006, provide for the proper accounting  
27 for all children of school age, for the attendance and control  
28 of students at school, and for proper attention to health,  
29 safety, and other matters relating to the welfare of children.  
30  
31

- 1           (7) COURSES OF STUDY AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL  
2 MATERIALS.--Provide adequate instructional materials for all  
3 students in accordance with the requirements of chapter 1006.
- 4           (8) TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS.--After considering  
5 recommendations of the district school superintendent, make  
6 provision for the transportation of students to the public  
7 schools or school activities they are required or expected to  
8 attend; authorize transportation routes arranged efficiently  
9 and economically; provide the necessary transportation  
10 facilities, and, when authorized under rules of the State  
11 Board of Education and if more economical to do so, provide  
12 limited subsistence in lieu thereof; and adopt the necessary  
13 rules and regulations to ensure safety, economy, and  
14 efficiency in the operation of all buses, as prescribed in  
15 chapter 1006.
- 16           (9) SCHOOL PLANT.--Approve plans for locating,  
17 planning, constructing, sanitating, insuring, maintaining,  
18 protecting, and condemning school property as prescribed in  
19 chapter 1013 and as follows:
- 20           (a) School building program.--Approve and adopt a  
21 districtwide school building program.
- 22           (b) Sites, buildings, and equipment.--
- 23           1. Select and purchase school sites, playgrounds, and  
24 recreational areas located at centers at which schools are to  
25 be constructed, of adequate size to meet the needs of  
26 projected students to be accommodated.
- 27           2. Approve the proposed purchase of any site,  
28 playground, or recreational area for which district funds are  
29 to be used.
- 30           3. Expand existing sites.
- 31           4. Rent buildings when necessary.

1           5. Enter into leases or lease-purchase arrangements,  
2 in accordance with the requirements and conditions provided in  
3 s. 1013.15(2), with private individuals or corporations for  
4 the rental of necessary grounds and educational facilities for  
5 school purposes or of educational facilities to be erected for  
6 school purposes. Current or other funds authorized by law may  
7 be used to make payments under a lease-purchase agreement.  
8 Notwithstanding any other statutes, if the rental is to be  
9 paid from funds received from ad valorem taxation and the  
10 agreement is for a period greater than 12 months, an approving  
11 referendum must be held. The provisions of such contracts,  
12 including building plans, shall be subject to approval by the  
13 Department of Education, and no such contract shall be entered  
14 into without such approval. As used in this section,  
15 "educational facilities" means the buildings and equipment  
16 that are built, installed, or established to serve educational  
17 purposes and that may lawfully be used. The State Board of  
18 Education may adopt such rules as are necessary to implement  
19 these provisions.

20           6. Provide for the proper supervision of construction.

21           7. Make or contract for additions, alterations, and  
22 repairs on buildings and other school properties.

23           8. Ensure that all plans and specifications for  
24 buildings provide adequately for the safety and well-being of  
25 students, as well as for economy of construction.

26           (c) Maintenance and upkeep of school plant.--Provide  
27 adequately for the proper maintenance and upkeep of school  
28 plants, so that students may attend school without sanitary or  
29 physical hazards, and provide for the necessary heat, lights,  
30 water, power, and other supplies and utilities necessary for  
31 the operation of the schools.

1           (d) Insurance of school property.--Carry insurance on  
2 every school building in all school plants including contents,  
3 boilers, and machinery, except buildings of three classrooms  
4 or less that are of frame construction and located in a tenth  
5 class public protection zone as defined by the Florida  
6 Inspection and Rating Bureau, and on all school buses and  
7 other property under the control of the district school board  
8 or title to which is vested in the district school board,  
9 except as exceptions may be authorized under rules of the  
10 State Board of Education.

11           (e) Condemnation of buildings.--Condemn and prohibit  
12 the use for public school purposes of any building that can be  
13 shown for sanitary or other reasons to be no longer suitable  
14 for such use and, when any building is condemned by any state  
15 or other government agency as authorized in chapter 1013, see  
16 that it is no longer used for school purposes.

17           (10) FINANCE.--Take steps to assure students adequate  
18 educational facilities through the financial procedure  
19 authorized in chapters 1010 and 1011 and as prescribed below:

20           (a) Provide for all schools to operate at least 180  
21 days.--Provide for the operation of all public schools, both  
22 elementary and secondary, as free schools for a term of at  
23 least 180 days or the equivalent on an hourly basis as  
24 specified by rules of the State Board of Education; determine  
25 district school funds necessary in addition to state funds to  
26 operate all schools for such minimum term; and arrange for the  
27 levying of district school taxes necessary to provide the  
28 amount needed from district sources.

29           (b) Annual budget.--Cause to be prepared, adopt, and  
30 have submitted to the Department of Education as required by  
31 law and rules of the State Board of Education, the annual

1 school budget, such budget to be so prepared and executed as  
2 to promote the improvement of the district school system.

3 (c) Tax levies.--Adopt and spread on its minutes a  
4 resolution fixing the district school tax levy, provided for  
5 under s. 9, Art. VII of the State Constitution, necessary to  
6 carry on the school program adopted for the district for the  
7 next ensuing fiscal year as required by law, and fixing the  
8 district bond interest and sinking fund tax levy necessary for  
9 districts against which bonds are outstanding; and adopt and  
10 spread on its minutes a resolution suggesting the tax levy  
11 provided for in s. 9, Art. VII of the State Constitution,  
12 found necessary to carry on the school program adopted for the  
13 district for the next ensuing fiscal year.

14 (d) School funds.--Require that an accurate account is  
15 kept of all funds that should be transmitted to the district  
16 school board for school purposes at various periods during the  
17 year from all sources and, if any funds are not transmitted  
18 promptly, take the necessary steps to have such funds made  
19 available.

20 (e) Borrow money.--Borrow money, as prescribed in ss.  
21 1011.12-1011.16, when necessary in anticipation of funds  
22 reasonably to be expected during the year as shown by the  
23 budget.

24 (f) Financial records and accounts.--Provide for  
25 keeping of accurate records of all financial transactions.

26 (g) Approval and payment of accounts.--Implement a  
27 system of accounting and budgetary control to ensure that  
28 payments do not exceed amounts budgeted, as required by law;  
29 make available all records for proper audit by state officials  
30 or independent certified public accountants; and have prepared  
31 required periodic statements to be filed with the Department

1 of Education as provided by rules of the State Board of  
2 Education.

3 (h) Bonds of employees.--Fix and prescribe the bonds,  
4 and pay the premium on all such bonds, of all school employees  
5 who are responsible for school funds in order to provide  
6 reasonable safeguards for all such funds or property.

7 (i) Contracts for materials, supplies, and  
8 services.--Contract for materials, supplies, and services  
9 needed for the district school system. No contract for  
10 supplying these needs shall be made with any member of the  
11 district school board, with the district school  
12 superintendent, or with any business organization in which any  
13 district school board member or the district school  
14 superintendent has any financial interest whatsoever.

15 (j) Purchasing regulations to be secured from  
16 Department of Management Services.--Secure purchasing  
17 regulations and amendments and changes thereto from the  
18 Department of Management Services and prior to any purchase  
19 have reported to it by its staff, and give consideration to  
20 the lowest price available to it under such regulations,  
21 provided a regulation applicable to the item or items being  
22 purchased has been adopted by the department. The department  
23 should meet with educational administrators to expand the  
24 inventory of standard items for common usage in all schools  
25 and postsecondary educational institutions.

26 (k) Protection against loss.--Provide for adequate  
27 protection against any loss or damage to school property or  
28 loss resulting from any liability for which the district  
29 school board or its officers, agents, or employees may be  
30 responsible under law. In fulfilling this responsibility, the  
31 district school board may purchase insurance, to be

1 self-insured, to enter into risk management programs managed  
2 by district school boards, school-related associations, or  
3 insurance companies, or to have any combination thereof in any  
4 area to the extent the district school board is either  
5 authorized or required by law to contract for insurance. Any  
6 risk management program entered into pursuant to this  
7 subsection shall provide for strict accountability of all  
8 funds to the member district school boards and an annual audit  
9 by an independent certified public accountant of all receipts  
10 and disbursements.

11 (l) Internal auditor.--May employ an internal auditor  
12 to perform ongoing financial verification of the financial  
13 records of the school district. The internal auditor shall  
14 report directly to the district school board or its designee.

15 (m) Financial and performance audits.--In addition to  
16 the audits required by ss. 11.45 and 218.39, may contract with  
17 an independent certified public accountant to conduct a  
18 financial or performance audit of its accounts and records  
19 retained by it and paid from its public funds.

20 (11) RECORDS AND REPORTS.--Provide for the keeping of  
21 all necessary records and the making of all needed or required  
22 reports, as follows:

23 (a) Forms, blanks, and reports.--Require all employees  
24 to keep accurately all records and to make promptly in the  
25 proper form all reports required by law or by rules of the  
26 State Board of Education.

27 (b) Reports to the department.--Require that the  
28 district school superintendent prepare all reports to the  
29 Department of Education that may be required by law or rules  
30 of the State Board of Education; see that all such reports are  
31 promptly transmitted to the department; withhold the further

1 payment of salary to the superintendent or employee when  
2 notified by the department that he or she has failed to file  
3 any report within the time or in the manner prescribed; and  
4 continue to withhold the salary until the district school  
5 board is notified by the department that such report has been  
6 received and accepted, provided that when any report has not  
7 been received by the date due and after due notice has been  
8 given to the district school board of that fact, the  
9 department, if it deems necessary, may require the report to  
10 be prepared by a member of its staff, and the district school  
11 board shall pay all expenses connected therewith. Any member  
12 of the district school board who is responsible for the  
13 violation of this provision is subject to suspension and  
14 removal.

15 (c) Reports to parents.--Require that, at regular  
16 intervals, reports are made by school principals or teachers  
17 to parents, apprising them of the progress being made by the  
18 students in their studies and giving other needful  
19 information.

20 (12) COOPERATION WITH OTHER DISTRICT SCHOOL  
21 BOARDS.--May establish and participate in educational  
22 consortia that are designed to provide joint programs and  
23 services to cooperating school districts, consistent with the  
24 provisions of s. 4(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution. The  
25 State Board of Education shall adopt rules providing for the  
26 establishment, funding, administration, and operation of such  
27 consortia.

28 (13) ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND RULES.--Require that all  
29 laws and rules of the State Board of Education or of the  
30 district school board are properly enforced.  
31

- 1           (14) SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.--Assume such  
2 responsibilities and exercise such powers and perform such  
3 duties as may be assigned to it by law or as may be required  
4 by rules of the State Board of Education or, as in the opinion  
5 of the district school board, are necessary to ensure school  
6 lunch services, consistent with needs of students; effective  
7 and efficient operation of the program; and the proper  
8 articulation of the school lunch program with other phases of  
9 education in the district.
- 10           (15) PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT  
11 PROGRAM.--
- 12           (a) Adopt procedures whereby the general public can be  
13 adequately informed of the educational programs, needs, and  
14 objectives of public education within the district, including  
15 educational opportunities available through the Florida  
16 Virtual School.
- 17           (b) Encourage teachers and administrators to keep  
18 parents informed of student progress, student programs,  
19 student attendance requirements pursuant to ss. 1003.26,  
20 1003.27, 414.1251, and 984.151, and availability of resources  
21 for academic assistance.
- 22           (16) IMPLEMENT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND  
23 ACCOUNTABILITY.--Maintain a system of school improvement and  
24 education accountability as provided by statute and State  
25 Board of Education rule. This system of school improvement and  
26 education accountability shall be consistent with, and  
27 implemented through, the district's continuing system of  
28 planning and budgeting required by this section and ss.  
29 1008.385, 1010.01, and 1011.01. This system of school  
30 improvement and education accountability shall include, but is  
31 not limited to, the following:

1           (a) School improvement plans.--Annually approve and  
2 require implementation of a new, amended, or continuation  
3 school improvement plan for each school in the district,  
4 except that a district school board may establish a district  
5 school improvement plan that includes all schools in the  
6 district operating for the purpose of providing educational  
7 services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs.  
8 Such plan shall be designed to achieve the state education  
9 priorities pursuant to s. 1000.03(5) and student performance  
10 standards. Each plan shall also address issues relative to  
11 budget, training, instructional materials, technology,  
12 staffing, student support services, specific school safety and  
13 discipline strategies, and other matters of resource  
14 allocation, as determined by district school board policy, and  
15 shall be based on an analysis of student achievement and other  
16 school performance data.

17           (b) Approval process.--Develop a process for approval  
18 of a school improvement plan presented by an individual school  
19 and its advisory council. In the event a district school board  
20 does not approve a school improvement plan after exhausting  
21 this process, the Department of Education shall be notified of  
22 the need for assistance.

23           (c) Assistance and intervention.--

24           1. Develop a 2-year plan of increasing individualized  
25 assistance and intervention for each school in danger of not  
26 meeting state standards or making adequate progress, as  
27 defined pursuant to statute and State Board of Education rule,  
28 toward meeting the goals and standards of its approved school  
29 improvement plan.

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1           2. Provide assistance and intervention to a school  
2 that is identified as being in performance grade category "D"  
3 pursuant to s. 1008.34 and is in danger of failing.

4           3. Develop a plan to encourage teachers with  
5 demonstrated mastery in improving student performance to  
6 remain at or transfer to a school designated as performance  
7 grade category "D" or "F" or to an alternative school that  
8 serves disruptive or violent youths. If a classroom teacher,  
9 as defined by s. 1012.01(2)(a), who meets the definition of  
10 teaching mastery developed according to the provisions of this  
11 paragraph, requests assignment to a school designated as  
12 performance grade category "D" or "F" or to an alternative  
13 school that serves disruptive or violent youths, the district  
14 school board shall make every practical effort to grant the  
15 request.

16           4. Prioritize, to the extent possible, the  
17 expenditures of funds received from the supplemental academic  
18 instruction categorical fund under s. 1011.62(1)(f) to improve  
19 student performance in schools that receive a performance  
20 grade category designation of "D" or "F."

21           (d) After 2 years.--Notify the Commissioner of  
22 Education and the State Board of Education in the event any  
23 school does not make adequate progress toward meeting the  
24 goals and standards of a school improvement plan by the end of  
25 2 years of failing to make adequate progress and proceed  
26 according to guidelines developed pursuant to statute and  
27 State Board of Education rule. School districts shall provide  
28 intervention and assistance to schools in danger of being  
29 designated as performance grade category "F," failing to make  
30 adequate progress.

31

1           (e) Public disclosure.--Provide information regarding  
2 performance of students and educational programs as required  
3 pursuant to ss. 1008.385 and 1008.22 and implement a system of  
4 school reports as required by statute and State Board of  
5 Education rule that shall include schools operating for the  
6 purpose of providing educational services to youth in  
7 Department of Juvenile Justice programs, and for those  
8 schools, report on the elements specified in s. 1003.52(20).  
9 Annual public disclosure reports shall be in an easy-to-read  
10 report card format and shall include the school's student and  
11 school performance grade category designation and performance  
12 data as specified in state board rule.

13           (f) School improvement funds.--Provide funds to  
14 schools for developing and implementing school improvement  
15 plans. Such funds shall include those funds appropriated for  
16 the purpose of school improvement pursuant to s. 24.121(5)(c).

17           (17) LOCAL-LEVEL DECISIONMAKING.--

18           (a) Adopt policies that clearly encourage and enhance  
19 maximum decisionmaking appropriate to the school site. Such  
20 policies must include guidelines for schools in the adoption  
21 and purchase of district and school site instructional  
22 materials and technology, staff training, school advisory  
23 council member training, student support services, budgeting,  
24 and the allocation of staff resources.

25           (b) Adopt waiver process policies to enable all  
26 schools to exercise maximum flexibility and notify advisory  
27 councils of processes to waive school district and state  
28 policies.

29           (c) Develop policies for periodically monitoring the  
30 membership composition of school advisory councils to ensure  
31 compliance with requirements established in s. 1001.452.

1           (d) Adopt policies that assist in giving greater  
2 autonomy, including authority over the allocation of the  
3 school's budget, to schools designated as performance grade  
4 category "A," making excellent progress, and schools rated as  
5 having improved at least two performance grade categories.

6           (18) OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS.--Adopt policies  
7 allowing students attending schools that have been designated  
8 as performance grade category "F," failing to make adequate  
9 progress, for 2 school years in a 4-year period to attend a  
10 higher performing school in the district or an adjoining  
11 district or be granted a state opportunity scholarship to a  
12 private school, in conformance with s. 1002.38 and State Board  
13 of Education rule.

14           (19) AUTHORITY TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.--May declare  
15 an emergency in cases in which one or more schools in the  
16 district are failing or are in danger of failing and negotiate  
17 special provisions of its contract with the appropriate  
18 bargaining units to free these schools from contract  
19 restrictions that limit the school's ability to implement  
20 programs and strategies needed to improve student performance.

21           (20) SCHOOL-WITHIN-A-SCHOOL.--In order to reduce the  
22 anonymity of students in large schools, adopt policies to  
23 encourage any school that does not meet the definition of a  
24 small school, as established by s. 1013.43(2), to subdivide  
25 into schools-within-a-school, that shall operate within  
26 existing resources in accordance with the provisions of  
27 chapter 1003.

28           (21) FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL.--Provide students with  
29 access to enroll in courses available through the Florida  
30 Virtual School and award credit for successful completion of  
31 such courses. Access shall be available to students during or

1 after the normal school day, and through summer school  
2 enrollment.

3 (22) ADOPT RULES.--Adopt rules pursuant to ss.  
4 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section.

5 Section 56. Section 1001.43, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1001.43 Supplemental powers and duties of district  
8 school board.--The district school board may exercise the  
9 following supplemental powers and duties as authorized by this  
10 code or State Board of Education rule.

11 (1) STUDENT MANAGEMENT.--The district school board may  
12 adopt programs and policies to ensure the safety and welfare  
13 of individuals, the student body, and school personnel, which  
14 programs and policies may:

15 (a) Prohibit the possession of weapons and drugs on  
16 campus, student hazing, and other activities that could  
17 threaten the operation of the school or the safety and welfare  
18 of the student body or school personnel.

19 (b) Require uniforms to be worn by the student body,  
20 or impose other dress-related requirements, if the district  
21 school board finds that those requirements are necessary for  
22 the safety or welfare of the student body or school personnel.

23 (c) Provide procedures for student dismissal  
24 precautions and for granting permission for students to leave  
25 school grounds during school hours, including releasing a  
26 student from school upon request by a parent or for public  
27 appearances of school groups.

28 (d) Provide procedures for managing protests,  
29 demonstrations, sit-ins, walk-outs, or other acts of civil  
30 disobedience.

31

- 1           (e) Provide procedures for detaining students and for  
2 readmission of students after expulsion.
- 3           (f) Regulate student automobile use and parking.
- 4           (2) FISCAL MANAGEMENT.--The district school board may  
5 adopt policies providing for fiscal management of the school  
6 district with respect to school purchasing, facilities,  
7 nonstate revenue sources, budgeting, fundraising, and other  
8 activities relating to the fiscal management of district  
9 resources, including, but not limited to, the policies  
10 governing:
- 11           (a) Sales calls and demonstrations by agents,  
12 solicitors, salespersons, and vendors on campus; local  
13 preference criteria for vendors; specifications for quantity  
14 purchasing; prioritization of awards for bids; declining bid  
15 awards; and purchase requisitions, approvals, and routing.
- 16           (b) Sales by booster clubs; marathon fundraisers; and  
17 student sales of candy, paper products, or other goods  
18 authorized by the district school board.
- 19           (c) Inventory and disposal of district property; use  
20 of safe-deposit boxes; and selection of real estate  
21 appraisers.
- 22           (d) Payment of contractors and other service  
23 providers.
- 24           (e) Accounting systems; petty cash accounts procedures  
25 and reporting; school activities funds procedures and  
26 reporting; management and reporting of grants from private  
27 sources; and management of funds, including auxiliary  
28 enterprise funds.
- 29           (f) District budgeting system, including setting  
30 budget deadlines and schedules, budget planning, and  
31 implementation and determination of budget priorities.

- 1           (3) INSTRUCTIONAL AIDS.--The district school board may  
2 adopt policies providing for innovative teaching techniques,  
3 teaching programs and methods, instructional aids and  
4 objectives, extracurricular and interscholastic activities,  
5 and supplemental programs including, but not limited to,  
6 policies providing for:
- 7           (a) Use of technology, including appropriate use of  
8 the Internet as a tool for learning.
- 9           (b) Instructional priorities and objectives, pilot  
10 projects and evaluations, curriculum adoption and design, and  
11 lesson planning.
- 12           (c) Extracurricular and interscholastic activities,  
13 including field trips, publishing a student newspaper and  
14 other publications, and special programs relating to the arts,  
15 music, or other topics of current interest.
- 16           (d) Participation in physical education programs,  
17 including appropriate physical education attire and protective  
18 gear; programs for exceptional students; summer school; and  
19 the Title I program, including comparability procedures.
- 20           (4) FACILITIES MANAGEMENT.--The district school board  
21 may adopt policies providing for management of the physical  
22 campus and its environs, including, but not limited to, energy  
23 conservation measures; building and ground maintenance;  
24 fencing, landscaping, and other property improvements; site  
25 acquisition; new construction and renovation; dedication and  
26 rededication or naming and renaming of district buildings and  
27 other district facilities; and development of facilities  
28 management planning and priorities.
- 29           (5) SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS.--The district school  
30 board may adopt policies governing public gifts and donations  
31 to schools; input from the community concerning instruction

1 resources; advertising in schools; participation in community  
2 affairs, including coordination with local governments and  
3 planning authorities; protocols for interagency agreements;  
4 business community partnerships; community use of school  
5 facilities; public solicitations in schools, including the  
6 distribution and posting of promotional materials and  
7 literature; visitors to the school campus; school advisory  
8 councils; and parent volunteers and chaperones.

9       (6) LEGAL ISSUES.--The district school board may adopt  
10 policies and procedures necessary to implement federal  
11 mandates and programs, court orders, and other legal  
12 requirements of the state.

13       (7) FIRST AID AND EMERGENCIES.--The district school  
14 board may adopt programs and policies to ensure appropriate  
15 response in emergency situations; the provision of first aid  
16 to individuals, the student body, and school personnel; and  
17 the effective management of student illness, which programs  
18 and policies may include, but are not limited to:

19           (a) The provision of first aid and emergency medical  
20 care and the provision of school health care facilities and  
21 services.

22           (b) The provision of school safety patrol.

23           (c) Procedures for reporting hazards, including  
24 threats of nature, bomb threats, threatening messages, and  
25 similar occurrences, and the provision of warning systems  
26 including alarm systems and other technical devices.

27           (d) Procedures for evacuating the classrooms,  
28 playground, or any other district facility.

29           (e) Procedures for reporting accidents, including  
30 traffic accidents and traffic violations involving  
31 district-owned vehicles.

1           (f) Student insurance programs.

2           (8) STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND AFFAIRS.--The district  
3 school board may adopt policies and procedures governing  
4 attendance monitoring and checks; truancy; graduation  
5 requirements and graduation exercises; fees, fines, and  
6 charges imposed on students; evaluation of student records and  
7 transcripts; transfer of student records; grading and academic  
8 evaluation of students; tests and examinations, including  
9 early examinations; guidance and counseling; and student  
10 participation in competitions, student performances and  
11 exhibitions, contests for students, and social events.

12           (9) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.--The district  
13 school board may adopt policies and procedures governing  
14 purchase of property insurance, including comprehensive  
15 general liability insurance; transportation of students for  
16 extracurricular activities and special events, including  
17 transportation of students in privately owned vehicles;  
18 transportation of district personnel, including personal use  
19 of district owned vehicles; computer security and computer  
20 room access and computer database resources; mail and delivery  
21 services, including use of couriers; copyright compliance; and  
22 computerized data systems, including computer use,  
23 transmission of data, access to the Internet, and other  
24 technology-based services.

25           (10) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE AND  
26 OPERATIONS.--The district school board may adopt policies and  
27 procedures necessary for the daily business operation of the  
28 district school board, including, but not limited to, the  
29 provision of legal services for the district school board;  
30 conducting a district legislative program; district school  
31 board member participation at conferences, conventions, and

1 workshops, including member compensation and reimbursement for  
 2 expenses; district school board policy development, adoption,  
 3 and repeal; district school board meeting procedures,  
 4 including participation via telecommunications networks, use  
 5 of technology at meetings, and presentations by nondistrict  
 6 personnel; citizen communications with the district school  
 7 board and with individual district school board members;  
 8 collaboration with local government and other entities as  
 9 required by law; and organization of the district school  
 10 board, including special committees and advisory committees.

11 (11) PERSONNEL.--The district school board may adopt  
 12 policies and procedures necessary for the management of all  
 13 personnel of the school system.

14 (12) COOPERATION WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGES.--The  
 15 district school board shall work with the community colleges  
 16 in the district to ensure that the community college students  
 17 have access to remedial education.

18 Section 57. Section 1001.44, Florida Statutes, is  
 19 created to read:

20 1001.44 Technical centers.--

21 (1) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MAY ESTABLISH OR ACQUIRE  
 22 TECHNICAL CENTERS.--Any district school board, after first  
 23 obtaining the approval of the Department of Education, may, as  
 24 a part of the district school system, organize, establish and  
 25 operate a technical center, or acquire and operate a technical  
 26 school previously established.

27 (2) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS OF CONTIGUOUS DISTRICTS MAY  
 28 ESTABLISH OR ACQUIRE TECHNICAL CENTERS.--The district school  
 29 boards of any two or more contiguous districts may, upon first  
 30 obtaining the approval of the department, enter into an  
 31

1 agreement to organize, establish and operate, or acquire and  
2 operate, a technical center under this section.

3 (3) TECHNICAL CENTER PART OF DISTRICT SCHOOL SYSTEM  
4 DIRECTED BY A DIRECTOR.--

5 (a) A technical center established or acquired under  
6 provisions of law and minimum standards prescribed by the  
7 commissioner shall comprise a part of the district school  
8 system and shall mean an educational institution offering  
9 terminal courses of a technical nature, and courses for  
10 out-of-school youth and adults; shall be subject to all  
11 applicable provisions of this code; shall be under the control  
12 of the district school board of the school district in which  
13 it is located; and shall be directed by a director responsible  
14 through the district school superintendent to the district  
15 school board of the school district in which the center is  
16 located.

17 (b) Each technical center shall maintain an academic  
18 transcript for each student enrolled in the center. Such  
19 transcript shall delineate each course completed by the  
20 student. Courses shall be delineated by the course prefix and  
21 title assigned pursuant to s. 1007.24. The center shall make  
22 a copy of a student's transcript available to any student who  
23 requests it.

24 Section 58. Section 1001.451, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26 1001.451 Regional consortium service  
27 organizations.--In order to provide a full range of programs  
28 to larger numbers of students, minimize duplication of  
29 services, and encourage the development of new programs and  
30 services:

31

1           (1) School districts with 20,000 or fewer unweighted  
2 full-time equivalent students may enter into cooperative  
3 agreements to form a regional consortium service organization.  
4 Each regional consortium service organization shall provide,  
5 at a minimum, three of the following services: exceptional  
6 student education; teacher education centers; environmental  
7 education; federal grant procurement and coordination; data  
8 processing; health insurance; risk management insurance; staff  
9 development; purchasing; or planning and accountability.

10           (2)(a) Each regional consortium service organization  
11 that consists of four or more school districts is eligible to  
12 receive, through the Department of Education, an incentive  
13 grant of \$25,000 per school district to be used for the  
14 delivery of services within the participating school  
15 districts.

16           (b) Application for incentive grants shall be made to  
17 the Commissioner of Education by July 30 of each year for  
18 distribution to qualifying regional consortium service  
19 organizations by January 1 of the fiscal year.

20           Section 59. Section 1001.452, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22           1001.452 District and school advisory councils.--

23           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.--

24           (a) The district school board shall establish an  
25 advisory council for each school in the district and shall  
26 develop procedures for the election and appointment of  
27 advisory council members. Each school advisory council shall  
28 include in its name the words "school advisory council." The  
29 school advisory council shall be the sole body responsible for  
30 final decisionmaking at the school relating to implementation  
31 of the provisions of ss. 1008.345, and 1001.42(16). A majority

1 of the members of each school advisory council must be persons  
2 who are not employed by the school. Each advisory council  
3 shall be composed of the principal and an appropriately  
4 balanced number of teachers, education support employees,  
5 students, parents, and other business and community citizens  
6 who are representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic  
7 community served by the school. Technical center and high  
8 school advisory councils shall include students, and middle  
9 and junior high school advisory councils may include students.  
10 School advisory councils of technical and adult education  
11 centers are not required to include parents as members.  
12 Council members representing teachers, education support  
13 employees, students, and parents shall be elected by their  
14 respective peer groups at the school in a fair and equitable  
15 manner as follows:

- 16 1. Teachers shall be elected by teachers.
- 17 2. Education support employees shall be elected by  
18 education support employees.
- 19 3. Students shall be elected by students.
- 20 4. Parents shall be elected by parents.

21

22 The district school board shall establish procedures for use  
23 by schools in selecting business and community members that  
24 include means of ensuring wide notice of vacancies and of  
25 taking input on possible members from local business, chambers  
26 of commerce, community and civic organizations and groups, and  
27 the public at large. The district school board shall review  
28 the membership composition of each advisory council. If the  
29 district school board determines that the membership elected  
30 by the school is not representative of the ethnic, racial, and  
31 economic community served by the school, the district school

1 board shall appoint additional members to achieve proper  
2 representation. The commissioner shall determine if schools  
3 have maximized their efforts to include on their advisory  
4 councils minority persons and persons of lower socioeconomic  
5 status. Although schools are strongly encouraged to establish  
6 school advisory councils, the district school board of any  
7 school district that has a student population of 10,000 or  
8 fewer may establish a district advisory council which shall  
9 include at least one duly elected teacher from each school in  
10 the district. For the purposes of school advisory councils  
11 and district advisory councils, the term "teacher" shall  
12 include classroom teachers, certified student services  
13 personnel, and media specialists. For purposes of this  
14 paragraph, "education support employee" means any person  
15 employed by a school who is not defined as instructional or  
16 administrative personnel pursuant to s. 1012.01 and whose  
17 duties require 20 or more hours in each normal working week.

18 (b) The district school board may establish a district  
19 advisory council representative of the district and composed  
20 of teachers, students, parents, and other citizens or a  
21 district advisory council that may be comprised of  
22 representatives of each school advisory council. Recognized  
23 schoolwide support groups that meet all criteria established  
24 by law or rule may function as school advisory councils.

25 (c) For those schools operating for the purpose of  
26 providing educational services to youth in Department of  
27 Juvenile Justice programs, district school boards may  
28 establish a district advisory council with appropriate  
29 representatives for the purpose of developing and monitoring a  
30 district school improvement plan that encompasses all such  
31 schools in the district, pursuant to s. 1001.42(16)(a).

1           (2) DUTIES.--Each advisory council shall perform such  
 2 functions as are prescribed by regulations of the district  
 3 school board; however, no advisory council shall have any of  
 4 the powers and duties now reserved by law to the district  
 5 school board. Each school advisory council shall assist in the  
 6 preparation and evaluation of the school improvement plan  
 7 required pursuant to s. 1001.42(16). With technical assistance  
 8 from the Department of Education, each school advisory council  
 9 shall assist in the preparation of the school's annual budget  
 10 and plan as required by s. 1008.385(1). A portion of funds  
 11 provided in the annual General Appropriations Act for use by  
 12 school advisory councils must be used for implementing the  
 13 school improvement plan.

14           Section 60. Section 1001.453, Florida Statutes, is  
 15 created to read:

16           1001.453 Direct-support organization; use of property;  
 17 board of directors; audit.--

18           (1) DEFINITIONS.--For the purposes of this section,  
 19 the term:

20           (a) "District school board direct-support  
 21 organization" means an organization that:

- 22           1. Is approved by the district school board;
- 23           2. Is a Florida corporation not for profit,  
 24 incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved  
 25 by the Department of State; and
- 26           3. Is organized and operated exclusively to receive,  
 27 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures  
 28 to or for the benefit of public kindergarten through 12th  
 29 grade education and adult career and technical and community  
 30 education programs in this state.

31

1           **(b) "Personal services" includes full-time or**  
2 **part-time personnel, as well as payroll processing.**

3           **(2) USE OF PROPERTY.--A district school board:**

4           **(a) Is authorized to permit the use of property,**  
5 **facilities, and personal services of the district by a**  
6 **direct-support organization, subject to the provisions of this**  
7 **section.**

8           **(b) Shall prescribe by rule conditions with which a**  
9 **district school board direct-support organization must comply**  
10 **in order to use property, facilities, or personal services of**  
11 **the district. Adoption of such rules shall be coordinated with**  
12 **the Department of Education. The rules shall provide for**  
13 **budget and audit review and oversight by the district school**  
14 **board and the department.**

15           **(c) Shall not permit the use of property, facilities,**  
16 **or personal services of a direct-support organization if such**  
17 **organization does not provide equal employment opportunities**  
18 **to all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age,**  
19 **or national origin.**

20           **(3) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.--The board of directors of the**  
21 **district school board direct-support organization shall be**  
22 **approved by the district school board.**

23           **(4) ANNUAL AUDIT.--Each direct-support organization**  
24 **with more than \$100,000 in expenditures or expenses shall**  
25 **provide for an annual financial audit of its accounts and**  
26 **records, to be conducted by an independent certified public**  
27 **accountant in accordance with rules adopted by the Auditor**  
28 **General pursuant to s. 11.45(8) and the Commissioner of**  
29 **Education. The annual audit report shall be submitted within 9**  
30 **months after the fiscal year's end to the district school**  
31 **board and the Auditor General. The Commissioner of Education,**

1 the Auditor General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis  
2 and Government Accountability have the authority to require  
3 and receive from the organization or the district auditor any  
4 records relative to the operation of the organization. The  
5 identity of donors and all information identifying donors and  
6 prospective donors are confidential and exempt from the  
7 provisions of s. 119.07(1), and that anonymity shall be  
8 maintained in the auditor's report. All other records and  
9 information shall be considered public records for the  
10 purposes of chapter 119.

11 Section 61. Part II.b. of chapter 1001, Florida  
12 Statutes, shall be entitled "District School Superintendents"  
13 and shall consist of ss. 1001.46-1001.53.

14 Section 62. Section 1001.46, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 1001.46 District school superintendent; election and  
17 term of office.--The district school superintendent shall be  
18 elected for a term of 4 years or until the election or  
19 appointment and qualification of his or her successor.

20 Section 63. Section 1001.461, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22 1001.461 District school superintendent; procedures  
23 for making office appointive.--

24 (1) Pursuant to the provisions of s. 5, Art. IX of the  
25 State Constitution, the district school superintendent shall  
26 be appointed by the district school board in a school district  
27 wherein the proposition is affirmed by a majority of the  
28 qualified electors voting in the same election making the  
29 office of district school superintendent appointive.

30 (2) To submit the proposition to the electors, the  
31 district school board by formal resolution shall request an

1 election, that shall be at a general election or a statewide  
2 primary or special election. The board of county  
3 commissioners, upon such timely request from the district  
4 school board, shall cause to be placed on the ballot at such  
5 election the proposition to make the office of district school  
6 superintendent appointive.

7 (3) Any district adopting the appointive method for  
8 its district school superintendent may after 4 years return to  
9 its former status and reject the provisions of this section by  
10 following the same procedure outlined in subsection (2) for  
11 adopting the provisions thereof.

12 Section 64. Section 1001.462, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14 1001.462 Oath of district school  
15 superintendent.--Before entering upon the duties of his or her  
16 office, the district school superintendent shall take the oath  
17 of office prescribed by the State Constitution.

18 Section 65. Section 1001.463, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1001.463 Vacancy in office of district school  
21 superintendent.--The office of district school superintendent  
22 in any district shall be vacant when the district school  
23 superintendent removes his or her residence from the district.

24 Section 66. Section 1001.464, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26 1001.464 District school superintendent to devote full  
27 time to office.--The position of district school  
28 superintendent shall be considered a full-time position.

29 Section 67. Section 1001.47, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31 1001.47 District school superintendent; salary.--

- 1       (1) Each district school superintendent shall receive  
2 as salary the amount indicated pursuant to this section.  
3 However, a district school board, by majority vote, may  
4 approve a salary in excess of the amount specified in this  
5 section.
- 6       (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 145 to  
7 the contrary, the annual salaries of elected district school  
8 superintendents for 1993 and each year thereafter shall be  
9 established at the same amounts as the district school  
10 superintendents were paid for fiscal year 1991-1992, adjusted  
11 by each annual increase provided for in chapter 145.
- 12       (3) This section does not apply to a district school  
13 superintendent appointed pursuant to the terms of s. 1001.50.
- 14       (4)(a) There shall be an additional \$2,000 per year  
15 special qualification salary for each district school  
16 superintendent who has met the certification requirements  
17 established by the Department of Education. Any district  
18 school superintendent who is certified during a calendar year  
19 shall receive in that year a pro rata share of the special  
20 qualification salary based on the remaining period of the  
21 year.
- 22       (b) In order to qualify for the special qualification  
23 salary provided by paragraph (a), the district school  
24 superintendent must complete the requirements established by  
25 the Department of Education within 6 years after first taking  
26 office.
- 27       (c) After a district school superintendent meets the  
28 requirements of paragraph (a), in order to remain certified  
29 the district school superintendent shall thereafter be  
30 required to complete each year a course of continuing  
31 education as prescribed by the Department of Education.

1           (5)(a) The Department of Education shall provide a  
2 leadership development and performance compensation program  
3 for district school superintendents, comparable to chief  
4 executive officer development programs for corporate executive  
5 officers, to include:

6           1. A content-knowledge-and-skills phase consisting of:  
7 creative leadership models and theory, demonstration of  
8 effective practice, simulation exercises and personal skills  
9 practice, and assessment with feedback, taught in a  
10 professional training setting under the direction of  
11 experienced, successful trainers.

12           2. A competency-acquisition phase consisting of  
13 on-the-job application of knowledge and skills for a period of  
14 not less than 6 months following the successful completion of  
15 the content-knowledge-and-skills phase. The  
16 competency-acquisition phase shall be supported by adequate  
17 professional technical assistance provided by experienced  
18 trainers approved by the department. Competency acquisition  
19 shall be demonstrated through assessment and feedback.

20           (b) Upon the successful completion of both phases and  
21 demonstrated successful performance, as determined by the  
22 department, a district school superintendent shall be issued a  
23 Chief Executive Officer Leadership Development Certificate and  
24 shall be given an annual performance salary incentive of not  
25 less than \$3,000 or more than \$7,500 based upon his or her  
26 performance evaluation.

27           (c) A district school superintendent's eligibility to  
28 continue receiving the annual performance salary incentive is  
29 contingent upon his or her continued performance assessment  
30 and followup training prescribed by the department.  
31

1 Section 68. Section 1001.48, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1001.48 Secretary and executive officer of the  
4 district school board.--The district school superintendent  
5 shall be the secretary and executive officer of the district  
6 school board, provided that when the district school  
7 superintendent is required to be absent on account of  
8 performing services in the volunteer forces of the United  
9 States or in the National Guard of the state or in the regular  
10 Army or Navy of the United States, when said district school  
11 superintendent shall be called into active training or service  
12 of the United States under an Act of Congress or pursuant to a  
13 proclamation by the President of the United States, the  
14 district school superintendent shall then be entitled to a  
15 leave of absence not to exceed the remaining portion of the  
16 term for which he or she was elected.

17 Section 69. Section 1001.49, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1001.49 General powers of district school  
20 superintendent.--The district school superintendent shall have  
21 the authority, and when necessary for the more efficient and  
22 adequate operation of the district school system, the district  
23 school superintendent shall exercise the following powers:

24 (1) GENERAL OVERSIGHT.--Exercise general oversight  
25 over the district school system in order to determine problems  
26 and needs, and recommend improvements.

27 (2) ADVISE, COUNSEL, AND RECOMMEND TO DISTRICT SCHOOL  
28 BOARD.--Advise and counsel with the district school board on  
29 all educational matters and recommend to the district school  
30 board for action such matters as should be acted upon.  
31

1           (3) RECOMMEND POLICIES.--Recommend to the district  
 2 school board for adoption such policies pertaining to the  
 3 district school system as the district school superintendent  
 4 may consider necessary for its more efficient operation.

5           (4) RECOMMEND AND EXECUTE RULES.--Prepare and organize  
 6 by subjects and submit to the district school board for  
 7 adoption such rules to supplement those adopted by the State  
 8 Board of Education as, in the district school superintendent's  
 9 opinion, will contribute to the efficient operation of any  
 10 aspect of education in the district. When rules have been  
 11 adopted, the district school superintendent shall see that  
 12 they are executed.

13           (5) RECOMMEND AND EXECUTE MINIMUM STANDARDS.--From  
 14 time to time prepare, organize by subject, and submit to the  
 15 district school board for adoption such minimum standards  
 16 relating to the operation of any phase of the district school  
 17 system as are needed to supplement those adopted by the State  
 18 Board of Education and as will contribute to the efficient  
 19 operation of any aspect of education in the district and  
 20 ensure that minimum standards adopted by the district school  
 21 board and the state board are observed.

22           (6) PERFORM DUTIES AND EXERCISE  
 23 RESPONSIBILITIES.--Perform such duties and exercise such  
 24 responsibilities as are assigned to the district school  
 25 superintendent by law and by rules of the State Board of  
 26 Education.

27           Section 70. Section 1001.50, Florida Statutes, is  
 28 created to read:  
 29           1001.50 Superintendents employed under Art. IX of the  
 30 State Constitution.--  
 31

1           (1) In every district authorized to employ a district  
2 school superintendent under Art. IX of the State Constitution,  
3 the district school superintendent shall be the executive  
4 officer of the district school board and shall not be subject  
5 to the provisions of law, either general or special, relating  
6 to tenure of employment or contracts of other school  
7 personnel. The district school superintendent's duties  
8 relating to the district school system shall be as provided by  
9 law and rules of the State Board of Education.

10           (2) The district school board of each of such  
11 districts shall enter into contracts of employment with the  
12 district school superintendent and shall adopt rules relating  
13 to his or her appointment.

14           (3) The district school board of each such district  
15 shall pay to the district school superintendent a reasonable  
16 annual salary. In determining the amount of compensation to be  
17 paid, the board shall take into account such factors as:

18           (a) The population of the district.

19           (b) The rate and character of population growth.

20           (c) The size and composition of the student body to be  
21 served.

22           (d) The geographic extent of the district.

23           (e) The number and character of the schools to be  
24 supervised.

25           (f) The educational qualifications, professional  
26 experience, and age of the candidate for the position of  
27 district school superintendent.

28           Section 71. Section 1001.51, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30           1001.51 Duties and responsibilities of district school  
31 superintendent.--The district school superintendent shall

1 exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below and  
2 elsewhere in the law, provided that, in so doing, he or she  
3 shall advise and counsel with the district school board. The  
4 district school superintendent shall perform all tasks  
5 necessary to make sound recommendations, nominations,  
6 proposals, and reports required by law to be acted upon by the  
7 district school board. All such recommendations, nominations,  
8 proposals, and reports by the district school superintendent  
9 shall be either recorded in the minutes or shall be made in  
10 writing, noted in the minutes, and filed in the public records  
11 of the district school board. It shall be presumed that, in  
12 the absence of the record required in this section, the  
13 recommendations, nominations, and proposals required of the  
14 district school superintendent were not contrary to the action  
15 taken by the district school board in such matters.

16 (1) ASSIST IN ORGANIZATION OF DISTRICT SCHOOL  
17 BOARD.--Preside at the organization meeting of the district  
18 school board and transmit to the Department of Education,  
19 within 2 weeks following such meeting, a certified copy of the  
20 proceedings of organization, including the schedule of regular  
21 meetings, and the names and addresses of district school  
22 officials.

23 (2) REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE DISTRICT  
24 SCHOOL BOARD.--Attend all regular meetings of the district  
25 school board, call special meetings when emergencies arise,  
26 and advise, but not vote, on questions under consideration.

27 (3) RECORDS FOR THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.--Keep  
28 minutes of all official actions and proceedings of the  
29 district school board and keep such other records, including  
30 records of property held or disposed of by the district school  
31

- 1 board, as may be necessary to provide complete information  
2 regarding the district school system.
- 3 (4) SCHOOL PROPERTY.--Act for the district school  
4 board as custodian of school property.
- 5 (5) SCHOOL PROGRAM; PREPARE PLANS.--Supervise the  
6 assembling of data and sponsor studies and surveys essential  
7 to the development of a planned school program for the entire  
8 district and prepare and recommend such a program to the  
9 district school board as the basis for operating the district  
10 school system.
- 11 (6) ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OPERATION OF  
12 SCHOOLS, CLASSES, AND SERVICES.--Recommend the establishment,  
13 organization, and operation of such schools, classes, and  
14 services as are needed to provide adequate educational  
15 opportunities for all children in the district.
- 16 (7) PERSONNEL.--Be responsible, as required herein,  
17 for directing the work of the personnel, subject to the  
18 requirements of chapter 1012.
- 19 (8) COURSES OF STUDY AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL  
20 AIDS.--Recommend such plans for improving, providing,  
21 distributing, accounting for, and caring for textbooks and  
22 other instructional aids as will result in general improvement  
23 of the district school system, as prescribed in chapter 1006.
- 24 (9) TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS.--Provide for student  
25 transportation as prescribed in s. 1006.21.
- 26 (10) SCHOOL PLANT.--Recommend plans, and execute such  
27 plans as are approved, regarding all phases of the school  
28 plant program, as prescribed in chapter 1013.
- 29 (11) FINANCE.--Recommend measures to the district  
30 school board to assure adequate educational facilities  
31 throughout the district, in accordance with the financial

1 procedure authorized in chapters 1010 and 1011 and as  
2 prescribed below:

3 (a) Plan for operating all schools for minimum  
4 term.--Determine and recommend district funds necessary in  
5 addition to state funds to provide for at least a 180-day  
6 school term or the equivalent on an hourly basis as specified  
7 by rules adopted by the State Board of Education and recommend  
8 plans for ensuring the operation of all schools for the term  
9 authorized by the district school board.

10 (b) Annual budget.--Prepare the annual school budget  
11 to be submitted to the district school board for adoption  
12 according to law and submit this budget, when adopted by the  
13 district school board, to the Department of Education on or  
14 before the date required by rules of the State Board of  
15 Education.

16 (c) Tax levies.--Recommend to the district school  
17 board, on the basis of the needs shown by the budget, the  
18 amount of district school tax levy necessary to provide the  
19 district school funds needed for the maintenance of the public  
20 schools; recommend to the district school board the tax levy  
21 required on the basis of the needs shown in the budget for the  
22 district bond interest and sinking fund of each district; and  
23 recommend to the district school board to be included on the  
24 ballot at each district millage election the school district  
25 tax levies necessary to carry on the school program.

26 (d) School funds.--Keep an accurate account of all  
27 funds that should be transmitted to the district school board  
28 for school purposes at various periods during the year and  
29 ensure, insofar as possible, that these funds are transmitted  
30 promptly and report promptly to the district school board any  
31

1 delinquencies or delays that occur in making available any  
2 funds that should be made available for school purposes.  
3 (e) Borrowing money.--Recommend when necessary the  
4 borrowing of money as prescribed by law.  
5 (f) Financial records and accounting.--Keep or have  
6 kept accurate records of all financial transactions.  
7 (g) Payrolls and accounts.--Maintain accurate and  
8 current statements of accounts due to be paid by the district  
9 school board; certify these statements as correct; liquidate  
10 district school board obligations in accordance with the  
11 official budget and rules of the district school board; and  
12 prepare periodic reports as required by rules of the State  
13 Board of Education, showing receipts, balances, and  
14 disbursements to date, and file copies of such periodic  
15 reports with the Department of Education.  
16 (h) Bonds for employees.--Recommend the bonds of all  
17 school employees who should be bonded in order to provide  
18 reasonable safeguards for all school funds or property.  
19 (i) Contracts.--After study of the feasibility of  
20 contractual services with industry, recommend to the district  
21 school board the desirable terms, conditions, and  
22 specifications for contracts for supplies, materials, or  
23 services to be rendered and see that materials, supplies, or  
24 services are provided according to contract.  
25 (j) Investment policies.--After careful examination,  
26 recommend policies to the district school board that will  
27 provide for the investment or deposit of school funds not  
28 needed for immediate expenditures which shall earn the maximum  
29 possible yield under the circumstances on such investments or  
30 deposits. The district school superintendent shall cause to be  
31 invested at all times all school moneys not immediately needed

1 for expenditures pursuant to the policies of the district  
2 school board.

3 (k) Protection against loss.--Recommend programs and  
4 procedures to the district school board necessary to protect  
5 the school system adequately against loss or damage to school  
6 property or against loss resulting from any liability for  
7 which the district school board or its officers, agents, or  
8 employees may be responsible under law.

9 (l) Millage elections.--Recommend plans and procedures  
10 for holding and supervising all school district millage  
11 elections.

12 (m) Budgets and expenditures.--Prepare, after  
13 consulting with the principals of the various schools,  
14 tentative annual budgets for the expenditure of district funds  
15 for the benefit of public school students of the district.

16 (n) Bonds.--Recommend the amounts of bonds to be  
17 issued in the district and assist in the preparation of the  
18 necessary papers for an election to determine whether the  
19 proposed bond issue will be approved by the electors and, if  
20 such bond issue be approved by the electors, recommend plans  
21 for the sale of bonds and for the proper expenditure of the  
22 funds derived therefrom.

23 (12) RECORDS AND REPORTS.--Recommend such records as  
24 should be kept in addition to those prescribed by rules of the  
25 State Board of Education; prepare forms for keeping such  
26 records as are approved by the district school board; ensure  
27 that such records are properly kept; and make all reports that  
28 are needed or required, as follows:

29 (a) Forms, blanks, and reports.--Require that all  
30 employees accurately keep all records and promptly make in  
31 proper form all reports required by the education code or by

1 rules of the State Board of Education; recommend the keeping  
2 of such additional records and the making of such additional  
3 reports as may be deemed necessary to provide data essential  
4 for the operation of the school system; and prepare such forms  
5 and blanks as may be required and ensure that these records  
6 and reports are properly prepared.

7       (b) Reports to the department.--Prepare, for the  
8 approval of the district school board, all reports that may be  
9 required by law or rules of the State Board of Education to be  
10 made to the department and transmit promptly all such reports,  
11 when approved, to the department, as required by law. If any  
12 such reports are not transmitted at the time and in the manner  
13 prescribed by law or by State Board of Education rules, the  
14 salary of the district school superintendent must be withheld  
15 until the report has been properly submitted. Unless otherwise  
16 provided by rules of the State Board of Education, the annual  
17 report on attendance and personnel is due on or before July 1,  
18 and the annual school budget and the report on finance are due  
19 on the date prescribed by the commissioner.

20  
21 Any district school superintendent who knowingly signs and  
22 transmits to any state official a false or incorrect report  
23 shall forfeit his or her right to any salary for the period of  
24 1 year from that date.

25       (13) COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.--

26       (a) Cooperation with governmental agencies in  
27 enforcement of laws and rules.--Recommend plans for  
28 cooperating with, and, on the basis of approved plans,  
29 cooperate with federal, state, county, and municipal agencies  
30 in the enforcement of laws and rules pertaining to all matters  
31 relating to education and child welfare.

1           (b) Identifying and reporting names of migratory  
2 children, other information.--Recommend plans for identifying  
3 and reporting to the Department of Education the name of each  
4 child in the school district who qualifies according to the  
5 definition of a migratory child, based on Pub. L. No. 95-561,  
6 and for reporting such other information as may be prescribed  
7 by the department.

8           (14) ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS AND RULES.--Require that all  
9 laws and rules of the State Board of Education, as well as  
10 supplementary rules of the district school board, are properly  
11 observed and report to the district school board any violation  
12 that the district school superintendent does not succeed in  
13 having corrected.

14           (15) COOPERATE WITH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.--Cooperate  
15 with the district school board in every manner practicable to  
16 the end that the district school system may continuously be  
17 improved.

18           (16) VISITATION OF SCHOOLS.--Visit the schools;  
19 observe the management and instruction; give suggestions for  
20 improvement; and advise supervisors, principals, teachers,  
21 patrons, and other citizens with the view of promoting  
22 interest in education and improving the school conditions of  
23 the district.

24           (17) CONFERENCES, INSTITUTES, AND STUDY COURSES.--Call  
25 and conduct institutes and conferences with employees of the  
26 district school board, school patrons, and other interested  
27 citizens; organize and direct study and extension courses for  
28 employees, advising them as to their professional studies; and  
29 assist patrons and people generally in acquiring knowledge of  
30 the aims, services, and needs of the schools.

31

- 1           (18) PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL IMPROVEMENT.--Attend  
2 such conferences for district school superintendents as may be  
3 called or scheduled by the Department of Education and avail  
4 himself or herself of means of professional and general  
5 improvement so that he or she may function most efficiently.
- 6           (19) RECOMMEND REVOKING CERTIFICATES.--Recommend in  
7 writing to the Department of Education the revoking of any  
8 certificate for good cause, including a full statement of the  
9 reason for the district school superintendent's  
10 recommendation.
- 11           (20) MAKE RECORDS AVAILABLE TO SUCCESSOR.--Leave with  
12 the district school board and make available to his or her  
13 successor, upon retiring from office, a complete inventory of  
14 school equipment and other property, together with all  
15 official records and such other records as may be needed in  
16 supervising instruction and in administering the district  
17 school system.
- 18           (21) RECOMMEND PROCEDURES FOR INFORMING GENERAL  
19 PUBLIC.--Recommend to the district school board procedures  
20 whereby the general public can be adequately informed of the  
21 educational programs, needs, and objectives of public  
22 education within the district.
- 23           (22) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.--Recommend  
24 procedures for implementing and maintaining a system of school  
25 improvement and education accountability as provided by  
26 statute and State Board of Education rule.
- 27           (23) OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.--Perform such  
28 other duties as are assigned to the district school  
29 superintendent by law or by rules of the State Board of  
30 Education.  
31

1           Section 72. Section 1001.52, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1001.52 Reproduction and destruction of district  
4 school records.--

5           (1) The purpose of this section is to reduce the  
6 present space required by the district school systems for the  
7 storage of their records and to permit the district school  
8 superintendent to administer the affairs of the district  
9 school system more efficiently.

10           (2) After complying with the provisions of s. 257.37,  
11 the district school superintendent may photograph,  
12 microphotograph, or reproduce documents, records, data, and  
13 information of a permanent character which in his or her  
14 discretion he or she may select, and the district school  
15 superintendent may destroy any of the said documents after  
16 they have been reproduced and after audit of the district  
17 school superintendent's office has been completed for the  
18 period embracing the dates of said instruments. Information  
19 made in compliance with the provisions of this section shall  
20 have the same force and effect as the originals thereof would  
21 have, and shall be treated as originals for the purpose of  
22 their admissibility into evidence. Duly certified or  
23 authenticated reproductions shall be admitted into evidence  
24 equally with the originals.

25           (3) After complying with the provisions of s. 257.37,  
26 the district school superintendent may, in his or her  
27 discretion, destroy general correspondence that is over 3  
28 years old and other records, papers, and documents over 3  
29 years old that do not serve as part of an agreement or  
30 understanding and do not have value as permanent records.  
31

1           Section 73. Section 1001.53, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1001.53 District school superintendent responsible for  
4 enforcement of attendance.--The district school superintendent  
5 shall be responsible for the enforcement of the attendance  
6 provisions of chapters 1003 and 1006. In a district in which  
7 no attendance assistant is employed, the district school  
8 superintendent shall have those duties and responsibilities  
9 and exercise those powers assigned by law to attendance  
10 assistants.

11           Section 74. Part II.c. of chapter 1001, Florida  
12 Statutes, shall be entitled "School Principals" and shall  
13 consist of s. 1001.54.

14           Section 75. Section 1001.54, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16           1001.54 Duties of school principals.--

17           (1) A district school board shall employ, through  
18 written contract, public school principals. The school  
19 principal has authority over school district personnel in  
20 accordance with s. 1012.28.

21           (2) Each school principal shall provide leadership in  
22 the development or revision and implementation of a school  
23 improvement plan, pursuant to s. 1001.42(16).

24           (3) Each school principal must make the necessary  
25 provisions to ensure that all school reports are accurate and  
26 timely, and must provide the necessary training opportunities  
27 for staff to accurately report attendance, FTE program  
28 participation, student performance, teacher appraisal, and  
29 school safety and discipline data.

30  
31

1           (4) Each school principal is responsible for the  
2 management and care of instructional materials, in accordance  
3 with the provisions of chapter 1006.

4           Section 76. Part III of chapter 1001, Florida  
5 Statutes, shall be entitled "Community Colleges" and shall  
6 consist of ss. 1001.61-1001.65.

7           Section 77. Section 1001.61, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9           1001.61 Community college boards of trustees;  
10 membership.--

11           (1) Community college boards of trustees shall be  
12 comprised of five members when a community college district is  
13 confined to one school board district; seven members when a  
14 community college district is confined to one school board  
15 district and the board of trustees so elects; and not more  
16 than nine members when the district contains two or more  
17 school board districts, as provided by rules of the State  
18 Board of Education. However, Florida Community College at  
19 Jacksonville shall have an odd number of trustees.

20           (2) Trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and  
21 confirmed by the Senate in regular session.

22           (3) Members of the board of trustees shall receive no  
23 compensation but may receive reimbursement for expenses as  
24 provided in s. 112.061.

25           (4) At its first regular meeting after July 1 of each  
26 year, each community college board of trustees shall organize  
27 by electing a chair, whose duty as such is to preside at all  
28 meetings of the board, to call special meetings thereof, and  
29 to attest to actions of the board, and a vice chair, whose  
30 duty as such is to act as chair during the absence or  
31 disability of the elected chair. It is the further duty of the

1 chair of each board of trustees to notify the Governor, in  
2 writing, whenever a board member fails to attend three  
3 consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year,  
4 which absences may be grounds for removal.

5 (5) A community college president shall serve as the  
6 executive officer and corporate secretary of the board of  
7 trustees and shall be responsible to the board of trustees for  
8 setting the agenda for meetings of the board of trustees in  
9 consultation with the chair. The president also serves as the  
10 chief administrative officer of the community college, and all  
11 the components of the institution and all aspects of its  
12 operation are responsible to the board of trustees through the  
13 president.

14 Section 78. Section 1001.62, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 1001.62 Transfer of benefits arising under local or  
17 special acts.--All local or special acts in force on July 1,  
18 1968, that provide benefits for a community college through a  
19 district school board shall continue in full force and effect,  
20 and such benefits shall be transmitted to the community  
21 college board of trustees.

22 Section 79. Section 1001.63, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1001.63 Community college board of trustees; board of  
25 trustees to constitute a corporation.--Each community college  
26 board of trustees is constituted a body corporate by the name  
27 of "The District Board of Trustees of ...(name of community  
28 college)..., Florida" with all the powers and duties of a body  
29 corporate, including the power to adopt a corporate seal, to  
30 contract and be contracted with, to sue or be sued, to plead  
31 and be impleaded in all courts of law or equity, and to give

1 and receive donations. In all suits against a board of  
2 trustees, service of process shall be made on the chair of the  
3 board of trustees or, in the absence of the chair, the  
4 corporate secretary or designee of the chair.

5 Section 80. Section 1001.64, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1001.64 Community college boards of trustees; powers  
8 and duties.--

9 (1) The boards of trustees shall be responsible for  
10 cost-effective policy decisions appropriate to the community  
11 college's mission, the implementation and maintenance of  
12 high-quality education programs within law and rules of the  
13 State Board of Education, the measurement of performance, the  
14 reporting of information, and the provision of input regarding  
15 state policy, budgeting, and education standards.

16 (2) Each board of trustees is vested with the  
17 responsibility to govern its respective community college and  
18 with such necessary authority as is needed for the proper  
19 operation and improvement thereof in accordance with rules of  
20 the State Board of Education.

21 (3) A board of trustees shall have the power to take  
22 action without a recommendation from the president and shall  
23 have the power to require the president to deliver to the  
24 board of trustees all data and information required by the  
25 board of trustees in the performance of its duties.

26 (4)(a) The board of trustees, after considering  
27 recommendations submitted by the community college president,  
28 may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to  
29 implement the provisions of law conferring duties upon it.  
30 These rules may supplement those prescribed by the State Board  
31

1 of Education if they will contribute to the more orderly and  
2 efficient operation of community colleges.

3 (b) Each board of trustees is specifically authorized  
4 to adopt rules, procedures, and policies, consistent with law  
5 and rules of the State Board of Education, related to its  
6 mission and responsibilities as set forth in s. 1004.65, its  
7 governance, personnel, budget and finance, administration,  
8 programs, curriculum and instruction, buildings and grounds,  
9 travel and purchasing, technology, students, contracts and  
10 grants, or college property.

11 (5) Each board of trustees shall have responsibility  
12 for the use, maintenance, protection, and control of community  
13 college owned or community college controlled buildings and  
14 grounds, property and equipment, name, trademarks and other  
15 proprietary marks, and the financial and other resources of  
16 the community college. Such authority may include placing  
17 restrictions on activities and on access to facilities,  
18 firearms, food, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, distribution of  
19 printed materials, commercial solicitation, animals, and  
20 sound.

21 (6) Each board of trustees has responsibility for the  
22 establishment and discontinuance of program and course  
23 offerings in accordance with law and rule; provision for  
24 instructional and noninstructional community services,  
25 location of classes, and services provided; and dissemination  
26 of information concerning such programs and services. New  
27 programs must be approved pursuant to s. 1004.03.

28 (7) Each board of trustees has responsibility for:  
29 ensuring that students have access to general education  
30 courses as identified in rule; requiring no more than 60  
31 semester hours of degree program coursework, including 36

1 semester hours of general education coursework, for an  
2 associate in arts degree; notifying students that earned hours  
3 in excess of 60 semester hours may not be accepted by state  
4 universities; notifying students of unique program  
5 prerequisites; and ensuring that degree program coursework  
6 beyond general education coursework is consistent with degree  
7 program prerequisite requirements adopted pursuant to s.  
8 1007.25(5).

9       (8) Each board of trustees has authority for policies  
10 related to students, enrollment of students, student records,  
11 student activities, financial assistance, and other student  
12 services.

13       (a) Each board of trustees shall govern admission of  
14 students pursuant to s. 1007.263 and rules of the State Board  
15 of Education. A board of trustees may establish additional  
16 admissions criteria, which shall be included in the district  
17 interinstitutional articulation agreement developed according  
18 to s. 1007.235, to ensure student readiness for postsecondary  
19 instruction. Each board of trustees may consider the past  
20 actions of any person applying for admission or enrollment and  
21 may deny admission or enrollment to an applicant because of  
22 misconduct if determined to be in the best interest of the  
23 community college.

24       (b) Each board of trustees shall adopt rules  
25 establishing student performance standards for the award of  
26 degrees and certificates pursuant to s. 1004.68.

27       (c) Boards of trustees are authorized to establish  
28 intrainstitutional and interinstitutional programs to maximize  
29 articulation pursuant to s. 1007.22.

30       (d) Boards of trustees shall identify their core  
31 curricula, which shall include courses required by the State

1 Board of Education, pursuant to the provisions of s.  
2 1007.25(6).

3 (e) Each board of trustees must adopt a written  
4 antihazing policy, provide a program for the enforcement of  
5 such rules, and adopt appropriate penalties for violations of  
6 such rules pursuant to the provisions of s. 1006.63(1)-(3).

7 (f) Each board of trustees may establish a uniform  
8 code of conduct and appropriate penalties for violation of its  
9 rules by students and student organizations, including rules  
10 governing student academic honesty. Such penalties, unless  
11 otherwise provided by law, may include fines, the withholding  
12 of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with rules or  
13 payment of fines, and the imposition of probation, suspension,  
14 or dismissal.

15 (g) Each board of trustees pursuant to s. 1006.53  
16 shall adopt a policy in accordance with rules of the State  
17 Board of Education that reasonably accommodates the religious  
18 observance, practice, and belief of individual students in  
19 regard to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of  
20 examinations and work assignments.

21 (9) A board of trustees may contract with the board of  
22 trustees of a state university for the community college to  
23 provide college-preparatory instruction on the state  
24 university campus.

25 (10) Each board of trustees shall establish fees  
26 pursuant to ss. 1009.22, 1009.23, 1009.25, 1009.26, and  
27 1009.27.

28 (11) Each board of trustees shall submit an  
29 institutional budget request, including a request for fixed  
30 capital outlay, and an operating budget to the State Board of  
31

1 Education for approval in accordance with guidelines  
2 established by the State Board of Education.

3 (12) Each board of trustees shall account for  
4 expenditures of all state, local, federal and other funds in  
5 the manner described by the Department of Education.

6 (13) Each board of trustees is responsible for the  
7 uses for the proceeds of academic improvement trust funds  
8 pursuant to s. 1011.85.

9 (14) Each board of trustees shall develop a strategic  
10 plan specifying institutional goals and objectives for the  
11 community college for recommendation to the State Board of  
12 Education.

13 (15) Each board of trustees shall develop an  
14 accountability plan pursuant to s. 1008.45.

15 (16) Each board of trustees must expend performance  
16 funds provided for workforce development education pursuant to  
17 the provisions of s. 1011.80.

18 (17) Each board of trustees is accountable for  
19 performance in certificate career education and diploma  
20 programs pursuant to s. 1008.44.

21 (18) Each board of trustees shall establish the  
22 personnel program for all employees of the community college,  
23 including the president, pursuant to the provisions of chapter  
24 1012 and rules and guidelines of the State Board of Education,  
25 including: compensation and other conditions of employment;  
26 recruitment and selection; nonreappointment; standards for  
27 performance and conduct; evaluation; benefits and hours of  
28 work; leave policies; recognition; inventions and work  
29 products; travel; learning opportunities; exchange programs;  
30 academic freedom and responsibility; promotion; assignment;  
31 demotion; transfer; ethical obligations and conflict of

1 interest; restrictive covenants; disciplinary actions;  
2 complaints; appeals and grievance procedures; and separation  
3 and termination from employment.

4 (19) Each board of trustees shall appoint, suspend, or  
5 remove the president of the community college. The board of  
6 trustees may appoint a search committee. The board of trustees  
7 shall conduct annual evaluations of the president in  
8 accordance with rules of the State Board of Education and  
9 submit such evaluations to the State Board of Education for  
10 review. The evaluation must address the achievement of the  
11 performance goals established by the accountability process  
12 implemented pursuant to s. 1008.45 and the performance of the  
13 president in achieving the annual and long-term goals and  
14 objectives established in the community college's employment  
15 accountability program implemented pursuant to s. 1012.86.

16 (20) Each board of trustees is authorized to enter  
17 into contracts to provide a State Community College System  
18 Optional Retirement Program pursuant to s. 1012.875 and to  
19 enter into consortia with other boards of trustees for this  
20 purpose.

21 (21) Each board of trustees is authorized to purchase  
22 annuities for its community college personnel who have 25 or  
23 more years of creditable service and who have reached age 55  
24 and have applied for retirement under the Florida Retirement  
25 System pursuant to the provisions of s. 1012.87.

26 (22) A board of trustees may defray all costs of  
27 defending civil actions against officers, employees, or agents  
28 of the board of trustees pursuant to s. 1012.85.

29 (23) Each board of trustees has authority for risk  
30 management, safety, security, and law enforcement operations.  
31 Each board of trustees is authorized to employ personnel,

1 including police officers pursuant to s. 1012.88, to carry out  
2 the duties imposed by this subsection.

3 (24) Each board of trustees shall provide rules  
4 governing parking and the direction and flow of traffic within  
5 campus boundaries. Except for sworn law enforcement personnel,  
6 persons employed to enforce campus parking rules have no  
7 authority to arrest or issue citations for moving traffic  
8 violations. The board of trustees may adopt a uniform code of  
9 appropriate penalties for violations. Such penalties, unless  
10 otherwise provided by law, may include the levying of fines,  
11 the withholding of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance  
12 with rules or payment of fines, and the imposition of  
13 probation, suspension, or dismissal. Moneys collected from  
14 parking rule infractions shall be deposited in appropriate  
15 funds at each community college for student financial aid  
16 purposes.

17 (25) Each board of trustees constitutes the  
18 contracting agent of the community college. It may when acting  
19 as a body make contracts, sue, and be sued in the name of the  
20 board of trustees. In any suit, a change in personnel of the  
21 board of trustees shall not abate the suit, which shall  
22 proceed as if such change had not taken place.

23 (26) Each board of trustees is authorized to contract  
24 for the purchase, sale, lease, license, or acquisition in any  
25 manner (including purchase by installment or lease-purchase  
26 contract which may provide for the payment of interest on the  
27 unpaid portion of the purchase price and for the granting of a  
28 security interest in the items purchased) of goods, materials,  
29 equipment, and services required by the community college. The  
30 board of trustees may choose to consolidate equipment  
31

1 contracts under master equipment financing agreements made  
2 pursuant to s. 287.064.

3 (27) Each board of trustees shall be responsible for  
4 managing and protecting real and personal property acquired or  
5 held in trust for use by and for the benefit of such community  
6 college. To that end, any board of trustees is authorized to  
7 be self-insured, to enter into risk management programs, or to  
8 purchase insurance for whatever coverage it may choose, or to  
9 have any combination thereof, in anticipation of any loss,  
10 damage, or destruction. A board of trustees may contract for  
11 self-insurance services pursuant to s. 1004.725.

12 (28) Each board of trustees is authorized to enter  
13 into agreements for, and accept, credit card, charge card, and  
14 debit card payments as compensation for goods, services,  
15 tuition, and fees. Each community college is further  
16 authorized to establish accounts in credit card, charge card,  
17 and debit card banks for the deposit of sales invoices.

18 (29) Each board of trustees may provide incubator  
19 facilities to eligible small business concerns pursuant to s.  
20 1004.79.

21 (30) Each board of trustees may establish a technology  
22 transfer center for the purpose of providing institutional  
23 support to local business and industry and governmental  
24 agencies in the application of new research in technology  
25 pursuant to the provisions of s. 1004.78.

26 (31) Each board of trustees may establish economic  
27 development centers for the purpose of serving as liaisons  
28 between community colleges and the business sector pursuant to  
29 the provisions of s. 1004.80.

30 (32) Each board of trustees may establish a child  
31 development training center pursuant to s. 1004.81.

1           (33) Each board of trustees is authorized to develop  
2 and produce work products relating to educational endeavors  
3 that are subject to trademark, copyright, or patent statutes  
4 pursuant to chapter 1004.

5           (34) Each board of trustees shall administer the  
6 facilities program pursuant to chapter 1013, including but not  
7 limited to: the construction of public educational and  
8 ancillary plants; the acquisition and disposal of property;  
9 compliance with building and life safety codes; submission of  
10 data and information relating to facilities and construction;  
11 use of buildings and grounds; establishment of safety and  
12 sanitation programs for the protection of building occupants;  
13 and site planning and selection.

14           (35) Each board of trustees may exercise the right of  
15 eminent domain pursuant to the provisions of chapter 1013.

16           (36) Each board of trustees may enter into  
17 lease-purchase arrangements with private individuals or  
18 corporations for necessary grounds and buildings for community  
19 college purposes, other than dormitories, or for buildings  
20 other than dormitories to be erected for community college  
21 purposes. Such arrangements shall be paid from capital outlay  
22 and debt service funds as provided by s. 1011.84(2), with  
23 terms not to exceed 30 years at a stipulated rate. The  
24 provisions of such contracts, including building plans, are  
25 subject to approval by the Department of Education, and no  
26 such contract may be entered into without such approval.

27           (37) Each board of trustees may purchase, acquire,  
28 receive, hold, own, manage, lease, sell, dispose of, and  
29 convey title to real property, in the best interests of the  
30 community college.

31

1           (38) Each board of trustees is authorized to borrow  
2 funds and incur debt, including entering into lease-purchase  
3 agreements and the issuance of revenue bonds as specifically  
4 authorized and only for the purposes authorized in ss.  
5 1009.22(6) and (9) and 1009.23(11) and (12). At the option of  
6 the board of trustees, bonds may be issued which are secured  
7 by a combination of revenues authorized to be pledged to bonds  
8 pursuant to ss. 1009.22(6) and 1009.23(11) or ss. 1009.22(9)  
9 and 1009.23(12). Lease-purchase agreements may be secured by a  
10 combination of revenues as specifically authorized pursuant to  
11 ss. 1009.22(7) and 1009.23(10).

12           (39) Each board of trustees shall prescribe conditions  
13 for direct-support organizations to be certified and to use  
14 community college property and services. Conditions relating  
15 to certification must provide for audit review and oversight  
16 by the board of trustees.

17           (40) Each board of trustees may adopt policies  
18 pursuant to s. 1010.02 that provide procedures for  
19 transferring to the direct-support organization of that  
20 community college for administration by such organization  
21 contributions made to the community college.

22           (41) The board of trustees shall exert every effort to  
23 collect all delinquent accounts pursuant to s. 1010.03.

24           (42) Each board of trustees shall implement a plan, in  
25 accordance with guidelines of the State Board of Education,  
26 for working on a regular basis with the other community  
27 college boards of trustees, representatives of the university  
28 boards of trustees, and representatives of the district school  
29 boards to achieve the goals of the seamless education system.

30  
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1           (43) Each board of trustees has responsibility for  
2 compliance with state and federal laws, rules, regulations,  
3 and requirements.

4           (44) Each board of trustees may adopt rules,  
5 procedures, and policies related to institutional governance,  
6 administration, and management in order to promote orderly and  
7 efficient operation, including, but not limited to, financial  
8 management, budget management, physical plant management, and  
9 property management.

10           (45) Each board of trustees may adopt rules and  
11 procedures related to data or technology, including, but not  
12 limited to, information systems, communications systems,  
13 computer hardware and software, and networks.

14           (46) Each board of trustees may consider the past  
15 actions of any person applying for employment and may deny  
16 employment to a person because of misconduct if determined to  
17 be in the best interest of the community college.

18           Section 81. Section 1001.65, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20           1001.65 Community college presidents; powers and  
21 duties.--The president is the chief executive officer of the  
22 community college, shall be corporate secretary of the  
23 community college board of trustees, and is responsible for  
24 the operation and administration of the community college.  
25 Each community college president shall:

26           (1) Recommend the adoption of rules, as appropriate,  
27 to the community college board of trustees to implement  
28 provisions of law governing the operation and administration  
29 of the community college, which shall include the specific  
30 powers and duties enumerated in this section. Such rules shall  
31

1 be consistent with law, the mission of the community college  
2 and the rules and policies of the State Board of Education.  
3 (2) Prepare a budget request and an operating budget  
4 pursuant to s. 1011.30 for approval by the community college  
5 board of trustees at such time and in such format as the State  
6 Board of Education may prescribe.  
7 (3) Establish and implement policies and procedures to  
8 recruit, appoint, transfer, promote, compensate, evaluate,  
9 reward, demote, discipline, and remove personnel, within law  
10 and rules of the State Board of Education and in accordance  
11 with rules or policies approved by the community college board  
12 of trustees.  
13 (4) Govern admissions, subject to law and rules or  
14 policies of the community college board of trustees and the  
15 State Board of Education.  
16 (5) Approve, execute, and administer contracts for and  
17 on behalf of the community college board of trustees for  
18 licenses; the acquisition or provision of commodities, goods,  
19 equipment, and services; leases of real and personal property;  
20 and planning and construction to be rendered to or by the  
21 community college, provided such contracts are within law and  
22 guidelines of the State Board of Education and in conformance  
23 with policies of the community college board of trustees, and  
24 are for the implementation of approved programs of the  
25 community college.  
26 (6) Act for the community college board of trustees as  
27 custodian of all community college property and financial  
28 resources. The authority vested in the community college  
29 president under this subsection includes the authority to  
30 prioritize the use of community college space, property,  
31

- 1 equipment, and resources and the authority to impose charges  
2 for the use of those items.
- 3 (7) Establish the internal academic calendar of the  
4 community college within general guidelines of the State Board  
5 of Education.
- 6 (8) Administer the community college's program of  
7 intercollegiate athletics.
- 8 (9) Recommend to the board of trustees the  
9 establishment and termination of programs within the approved  
10 role and scope of the community college.
- 11 (10) Award degrees.
- 12 (11) Recommend to the board of trustees a schedule of  
13 tuition and fees to be charged by the community college,  
14 within law and rules of the State Board of Education.
- 15 (12) Organize the community college to efficiently and  
16 effectively achieve the goals of the community college.
- 17 (13) Review periodically the operations of the  
18 community college in order to determine how effectively and  
19 efficiently the community college is being administered and  
20 whether it is meeting the goals of its strategic plan adopted  
21 by the State Board of Education.
- 22 (14) Enter into agreements for student exchange  
23 programs that involve students at the community college and  
24 students in other institutions of higher learning.
- 25 (15) Approve the internal procedures of student  
26 government organizations and provide purchasing, contracting,  
27 and budgetary review processes for these organizations.
- 28 (16) Ensure compliance with federal and state laws,  
29 rules, regulations, and other requirements that are applicable  
30 to the community college.  
31

1       (17) Maintain all data and information pertaining to  
2 the operation of the community college, and report on the  
3 attainment by the community college of institutional and  
4 statewide performance accountability goals.

5       (18) Certify to the department a project's compliance  
6 with the requirements for expenditure of PECO funds prior to  
7 release of funds pursuant to the provisions of chapter 1013.

8       (19) Provide to the law enforcement agency and fire  
9 department that has jurisdiction over the community college a  
10 copy of the floor plans and other relevant documents for each  
11 educational facility as defined in s. 1013.01(6). After the  
12 initial submission of the floor plans and other relevant  
13 documents, the community college president shall submit, by  
14 October 1 of each year, revised floor plans and other relevant  
15 documents for each educational facility that was modified  
16 during the preceding year.

17       (20) Establish a committee to consider requests for  
18 waivers from the provisions of s. 1008.29 and approve or  
19 disapprove the committee's recommendations.

20       (21) Develop and implement jointly with school  
21 superintendents a comprehensive articulated acceleration  
22 program, including a comprehensive interinstitutional  
23 articulation agreement, for the students enrolled in their  
24 respective school districts and service areas pursuant to the  
25 provisions of s. 1007.235.

26       (22) Have authority, after notice to the student of  
27 the charges and after a hearing thereon, to expel, suspend, or  
28 otherwise discipline any student who is found to have violated  
29 any law, ordinance, or rule or regulation of the State Board  
30 of Education or of the board of trustees of the community  
31 college pursuant to the provisions of s. 1006.62.

1           (23) Submit an annual employment accountability plan  
2 to the Department of Education pursuant to the provisions of  
3 s. 1012.86.

4           (24) Annually evaluate, or have a designee annually  
5 evaluate, each department chairperson, dean, provost, and vice  
6 president in achieving the annual and long-term goals and  
7 objectives of the community college's employment  
8 accountability plan.

9           (25) Have vested with the president or the president's  
10 designee the authority that is vested with the community  
11 college.

12           Section 82. Part IV of chapter 1001, Florida Statutes,  
13 shall be entitled "State Universities" and shall consist of  
14 ss. 1001.71-1001.75.

15           Section 83. Section 1001.71, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17           1001.71 University boards of trustees; membership.--

18           (1) University boards of trustees shall be comprised  
19 of 12 members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the  
20 Senate in the regular legislative session immediately  
21 following his or her appointment. In addition, the student  
22 body president elected on the main campus of the university  
23 shall serve ex officio as a voting member of his or her  
24 university board of trustees. There shall be no state  
25 residency requirement for university board members, but the  
26 Governor shall consider diversity and regional representation.

27           (2) Members of the boards of trustees shall receive no  
28 compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem  
29 expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

30           (3) The Governor may remove a trustee upon the  
31 recommendation of the State Board of Education, or for cause.

1       (4) Boards of trustees' members shall be appointed for  
2 staggered 4-year terms, and may be reappointed for additional  
3 terms not to exceed 8 years of service.

4       (5) Each board of trustees shall select its chair and  
5 vice chair from the appointed members at its first regular  
6 meeting after July 1. The chair shall serve for 2 years and  
7 may be reselected for one additional consecutive term. The  
8 duties of the chair shall include presiding at all meetings of  
9 the board of trustees, calling special meetings of the board  
10 of trustees, attesting to actions of the board of trustees,  
11 and notifying the Governor in writing whenever a board member  
12 fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in  
13 any fiscal year, which failure may be grounds for removal. The  
14 duty of the vice chair is to act as chair during the absence  
15 or disability of the chair.

16       (6) The university president shall serve as executive  
17 officer and corporate secretary of the board of trustees and  
18 shall be responsible to the board of trustees for all  
19 operations of the university and for setting the agenda for  
20 meetings of the board of trustees in consultation with the  
21 chair.

22       Section 84. Section 1001.72, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24       1001.72 University boards of trustees; boards to  
25 constitute a corporation.--

26       (1) Each board of trustees shall be a public body  
27 corporate by the name of "The (name of university) Board of  
28 Trustees," with all the powers of a body corporate, including  
29 the power to adopt a corporate seal, to contract and be  
30 contracted with, to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded  
31 in all courts of law or equity, and to give and receive

1 donations. In all suits against a board of trustees, service  
2 of process shall be made on the chair of the board of trustees  
3 or, in the absence of the chair, on the corporate secretary or  
4 designee.

5 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
6 university boards of trustees are not departments of the  
7 executive branch of state government within the scope and  
8 meaning of s. 6, Art. IV of the State Constitution.

9 (3) The corporation is constituted as a public  
10 instrumentality, and the exercise by the corporation of the  
11 power conferred by this section is considered to be the  
12 performance of an essential public function. The corporation  
13 shall constitute an agency for the purposes of s. 120.52. The  
14 corporation is subject to chapter 119, subject to exceptions  
15 applicable to the corporation, and to the provisions of  
16 chapter 286; however, the corporation shall be entitled to  
17 provide notice of internal review committee meetings for  
18 competitive proposals or procurement to applicants by mail or  
19 facsimile rather than by means of publication. The corporation  
20 is not governed by chapter 607, but by the provisions of this  
21 part. The corporation shall maintain coverage under the State  
22 Risk Management Trust Fund as provided in chapter 284.

23 (4) No bureau, department, division, agency, or  
24 subdivision of the state shall exercise any responsibility and  
25 authority to operate any state university except as  
26 specifically provided by law or rules of the State Board of  
27 Education. This section shall not prohibit any department,  
28 bureau, division, agency, or subdivision of the state from  
29 providing access to programs or systems or providing other  
30 assistance to a state university pursuant to an agreement  
31

1 between the board of trustees and such department, bureau,  
2 division, agency, or subdivision of the state.

3 (5) University boards of trustees shall be  
4 corporations primarily acting as instrumentalities or agencies  
5 of the state, pursuant to s. 768.28(2), for purposes of  
6 sovereign immunity.

7 Section 85. Section 1001.73, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9 1001.73 University board empowered to act as  
10 trustee.--

11 (1) Whenever appointed by any competent court of the  
12 state, or by any statute, or in any will, deed, or other  
13 instrument, or in any manner whatever as trustee of any funds  
14 or real or personal property in which any of the institutions  
15 or agencies under its management, control, or supervision, or  
16 their departments or branches or students, faculty members,  
17 officers, or employees, may be interested as beneficiaries, or  
18 otherwise, or for any educational purpose, a university board  
19 of trustees is hereby authorized to act as trustee with full  
20 legal capacity as trustee to administer such trust property,  
21 and the title thereto shall vest in said board as trustee. In  
22 all such cases, the university board of trustees shall have  
23 the power and capacity to do and perform all things as fully  
24 as any individual trustee or other competent trustee might do  
25 or perform, and with the same rights, privileges, and duties,  
26 including the power, capacity, and authority to convey,  
27 transfer, mortgage, or pledge such property held in trust and  
28 to contract and execute all other documents relating to said  
29 trust property which may be required for, or appropriate to,  
30 the administration of such trust or to accomplish the purposes  
31 of any such trust.

1           (2) Deeds, mortgages, leases, and other contracts of  
2 the university board of trustees relating to real property of  
3 any such trust or any interest therein may be executed by the  
4 university board of trustees, as trustee, in the same manner  
5 as is provided by the laws of the state for the execution of  
6 similar documents by other corporations or may be executed by  
7 the signatures of a majority of the members of the board of  
8 trustees; however, to be effective, any such deed, mortgage,  
9 or lease contract for more than 10 years of any trust  
10 property, executed hereafter by the university board of  
11 trustees, shall be approved by a resolution of the State Board  
12 of Education; and such approving resolution may be evidenced  
13 by the signature of either the chair or the secretary of the  
14 State Board of Education to an endorsement on the instrument  
15 approved, reciting the date of such approval, and bearing the  
16 seal of the State Board of Education. Such signed and sealed  
17 endorsement shall be a part of the instrument and entitled to  
18 record without further proof.

19           (3) Any and all such appointments of, and acts by, the  
20 Board of Regents as trustee of any estate, fund, or property  
21 prior to May 18, 1949, are hereby validated, and said board's  
22 capacity and authority to act as trustee subject to the  
23 provisions of s. 1000.01(5)(a) in all of such cases is  
24 ratified and confirmed; and all deeds, conveyances, lease  
25 contracts, and other contracts heretofore executed by the  
26 Board of Regents, either by the signatures of a majority of  
27 the members of the board or in the board's name by its chair  
28 or chief executive officer, are hereby approved, ratified,  
29 confirmed, and validated.

30           (4) Nothing herein shall be construed to authorize a  
31 university board of trustees to contract a debt on behalf of,

1 or in any way to obligate, the state; and the satisfaction of  
2 any debt or obligation incurred by the university board as  
3 trustee under the provisions of this section shall be  
4 exclusively from the trust property, mortgaged or encumbered;  
5 and nothing herein shall in any manner affect or relate to the  
6 provisions of ss. 1010.61-1010.619, or s. 1013.78.

7 Section 86. Section 1001.74, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9 1001.74 Powers and duties of university boards of  
10 trustees.--

11 (1) The boards of trustees shall be responsible for  
12 cost-effective policy decisions appropriate to the  
13 university's mission, the implementation and maintenance of  
14 high quality education programs within law and rules of the  
15 State Board of Education, the measurement of performance, the  
16 reporting of information, and the provision of input regarding  
17 state policy, budgeting, and education standards.

18 (2) Each board of trustees is vested with the  
19 authority to govern its university, as necessary to provide  
20 proper governance and improvement of the university in  
21 accordance with law and with rules of the State Board of  
22 Education. Each board of trustees shall perform all duties  
23 assigned by law or by rule of the State Board of Education or  
24 the Commissioner of Education.

25 (3) A board of trustees shall have the power to take  
26 action without a recommendation from the president and shall  
27 have the power to require the president to deliver to the  
28 board of trustees all data and information required by the  
29 board of trustees in the performance of its duties.

30 (4) Each board of trustees may adopt rules pursuant to  
31 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of law

1 conferring duties upon it. Such rules must be consistent with  
2 rules of the State Board of Education.

3 (5) Each board of trustees shall have the authority to  
4 acquire real and personal property and contract for the sale  
5 and disposal of same and approve and execute contracts for the  
6 purchase, sale, lease, license, or acquisition of commodities,  
7 goods, equipment, contractual services, leases of real and  
8 personal property, and construction. The acquisition may  
9 include purchase by installment or lease-purchase. Such  
10 contracts may provide for payment of interest on the unpaid  
11 portion of the purchase price. Title to all real property  
12 acquired prior to January 7, 2003, and to all real property  
13 acquired with funds appropriated by the Legislature shall be  
14 vested in the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement  
15 Trust Fund and shall be transferred and conveyed by it.  
16 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subsection, each  
17 board of trustees shall comply with the provisions of s.  
18 287.055 for the procurement of professional services as  
19 defined therein.

20 (6) Each board of trustees shall have responsibility  
21 for the use, maintenance, protection, and control of  
22 university-owned or university-controlled buildings and  
23 grounds, property and equipment, name, trademarks and other  
24 proprietary marks, and the financial and other resources of  
25 the university. Such authority may include placing  
26 restrictions on activities and on access to facilities,  
27 firearms, food, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, distribution of  
28 printed materials, commercial solicitation, animals, and  
29 sound. The authority vested in the board of trustees in this  
30 subsection includes the prioritization of the use of space,  
31

1 property, equipment, and resources and the imposition of  
2 charges for those items.

3 (7) Each board of trustees has responsibility for the  
4 establishment and discontinuance of degree programs up to and  
5 including the master's degree level; the establishment and  
6 discontinuance of course offerings; provision of credit and  
7 noncredit educational offerings; location of classes; services  
8 provided; and dissemination of information concerning such  
9 programs and services. Approval of new programs must be  
10 pursuant to criteria established by the State Board of  
11 Education.

12 (8) Each board of trustees is authorized to create  
13 divisions of sponsored research pursuant to the provisions of  
14 s. 1011.411 to serve the function of administration and  
15 promotion of the programs of research.

16 (9) Each board of trustees has responsibility for:  
17 ensuring that students have access to general education  
18 courses as identified in rule and requiring no more than 120  
19 semester hours of coursework for baccalaureate degree programs  
20 unless approved by the State Board of Education. At least half  
21 of the required coursework for any baccalaureate degree must  
22 be offered at the lower-division level, except in program  
23 areas approved by the State Board of Education.

24 (10) Each board of trustees has responsibility for  
25 policies related to students, enrollment of students, student  
26 activities and organizations, financial assistance, and other  
27 student services.

28 (a) Each board of trustees shall govern admission of  
29 students pursuant to s. 1007.261 and rules of the State Board  
30 of Education. Each board of trustees may consider the past  
31 actions of any person applying for admission or enrollment and

1 may deny admission or enrollment to an applicant because of  
2 misconduct if determined to be in the best interest of the  
3 university.

4 (b) Each board of trustees shall establish student  
5 performance standards for the award of degrees and  
6 certificates.

7 (c) Each board of trustees must identify its core  
8 curricula and work with school districts to ensure that its  
9 curricula coordinate with the core curricula and prepare  
10 students for college-level work.

11 (d) Each board of trustees must adopt a written  
12 antihazing policy, appropriate penalties for violations of  
13 such policy, and a program for enforcing such policy.

14 (e) Each board of trustees may establish a uniform  
15 code of conduct and appropriate penalties for violations of  
16 its rules by students and student organizations, including  
17 rules governing student academic honesty. Such penalties,  
18 unless otherwise provided by law, may include fines, the  
19 withholding of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with  
20 rules or payment of fines, and the imposition of probation,  
21 suspension, or dismissal.

22 (f) Each board of trustees shall establish a  
23 committee, at least one-half of the members of which shall be  
24 students appointed by the student body president, to  
25 periodically review and evaluate the student judicial system.

26 (g) Each board of trustees must adopt a policy  
27 pursuant to s. 1006.53 that reasonably accommodates the  
28 religious observance, practice, and belief of individual  
29 students in regard to admissions, class attendance, and the  
30 scheduling of examinations and work assignments.

31

- 1           (h) A board of trustees may establish  
2 intrainstitutional and interinstitutional programs to maximize  
3 articulation pursuant to s. 1007.22.
- 4           (i) Each board of trustees shall approve the internal  
5 procedures of student government organizations.
- 6           (11) Each board of trustees shall establish fees  
7 pursuant to ss. 1009.24 and 1009.26.
- 8           (12) Each board of trustees shall submit an  
9 institutional budget request, including a request for fixed  
10 capital outlay, and an operating budget to the State Board of  
11 Education for approval in accordance with guidelines  
12 established by the State Board of Education.
- 13           (13) Each board of trustees shall account for  
14 expenditures of all state, local, federal, and other funds in  
15 the manner described by the Department of Education.
- 16           (14) Each board of trustees shall develop a strategic  
17 plan specifying institutional goals and objectives for the  
18 university for recommendation to the State Board of Education.
- 19           (15) Each board of trustees shall develop an  
20 accountability plan pursuant to guidelines established by the  
21 State Board of Education.
- 22           (16) Each board of trustees shall maintain an  
23 effective information system to provide accurate, timely, and  
24 cost-effective information about the university.
- 25           (17) Each board of trustees is authorized to secure  
26 comprehensive general liability insurance pursuant to s.  
27 1004.24.
- 28           (18) Each board of trustees may provide for payment of  
29 the costs of civil actions against officers, employees, or  
30 agents of the board pursuant to s. 1012.965.  
31

1           (19) Each board of trustees shall establish the  
2 personnel program for all employees of the university,  
3 including the president, pursuant to the provisions of chapter  
4 1012 and, in accordance with rules and guidelines of the State  
5 Board of Education, including: compensation and other  
6 conditions of employment, recruitment and selection,  
7 nonreappointment, standards for performance and conduct,  
8 evaluation, benefits and hours of work, leave policies,  
9 recognition and awards, inventions and works, travel, learning  
10 opportunities, exchange programs, academic freedom and  
11 responsibility, promotion, assignment, demotion, transfer,  
12 tenure and permanent status, ethical obligations and conflicts  
13 of interest, restrictive covenants, disciplinary actions,  
14 complaints, appeals and grievance procedures, and separation  
15 and termination from employment. The Department of Management  
16 Services shall retain authority over state university  
17 employees for programs established in ss. 110.123, 110.1232,  
18 110.1234, and 110.1238 and in chapters 121, 122, and 238.

19           (20) Each board of trustees may consider the past  
20 actions of any person applying for employment and may deny  
21 employment to a person because of misconduct if determined to  
22 be in the best interest of the university.

23           (21) Each board of trustees shall appoint a  
24 presidential search committee to make recommendations to the  
25 full board of trustees, from which the board of trustees may  
26 select a candidate for ratification by the State Board of  
27 Education.

28           (22) Each board of trustees shall conduct an annual  
29 evaluation of the president in accordance with rules of the  
30 State Board of Education and submit such evaluations to the  
31 State Board of Education for review. The evaluation must

1 address the achievement of the performance goals established  
2 by the accountability process implemented pursuant to s.  
3 1008.46 and the performance of the president in achieving the  
4 annual and long-term goals and objectives established in the  
5 institution's employment equity accountability program  
6 implemented pursuant to s. 1012.95.

7 (23) Each board of trustees constitutes the  
8 contracting agent of the university.

9 (24) Each board of trustees may enter into agreements  
10 for, and accept, credit card payments as compensation for  
11 goods, services, tuition, and fees.

12 (25) Each board of trustees may establish educational  
13 research centers for child development pursuant to s. 1011.48.

14 (26) Each board of trustees may develop and produce  
15 work products relating to educational endeavors that are  
16 subject to trademark, copyright, or patent statutes pursuant  
17 to s. 1004.23.

18 (27) Each board of trustees shall submit to the State  
19 Board of Education, for approval, all new campuses and  
20 instructional centers.

21 (28) Each board of trustees shall administer a program  
22 for the maintenance and construction of facilities pursuant to  
23 chapter 1013.

24 (29) Each board of trustees shall ensure compliance  
25 with the provisions of s. 287.09451 for all procurement and  
26 ss. 255.101 and 255.102 for construction contracts, and rules  
27 adopted pursuant thereto, relating to the utilization of  
28 minority business enterprises, except that procurements  
29 costing less than the amount provided for in CATEGORY FIVE as  
30 provided in s. 287.017 shall not be subject to s. 287.09451.

31

1           (30) Each board of trustees may exercise the right of  
2 eminent domain pursuant to the provisions of chapter 1013. Any  
3 suits or actions brought by the board of trustees shall be  
4 brought in the name of the board of trustees, and the  
5 Department of Legal Affairs shall conduct the proceedings for,  
6 and act as the counsel of, the board of trustees.

7           (31) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 253.025,  
8 each board of trustees may, with the consent of the Board of  
9 Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, sell, convey,  
10 transfer, exchange, trade, or purchase real property and  
11 related improvements necessary and desirable to serve the  
12 needs and purposes of the university.

13           (a) The board of trustees may secure appraisals and  
14 surveys. The board of trustees shall comply with the rules of  
15 the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund  
16 in securing appraisals. Whenever the board of trustees finds  
17 it necessary for timely property acquisition, it may contract,  
18 without the need for competitive selection, with one or more  
19 appraisers whose names are contained on the list of approved  
20 appraisers maintained by the Division of State Lands in the  
21 Department of Environmental Protection.

22           (b) The board of trustees may negotiate and enter into  
23 an option contract before an appraisal is obtained. The option  
24 contract must state that the final purchase price may not  
25 exceed the maximum value allowed by law. The consideration for  
26 such an option contract may not exceed 10 percent of the  
27 estimate obtained by the board of trustees or 10 percent of  
28 the value of the parcel, whichever is greater, unless  
29 otherwise authorized by the board of trustees.

30           (c) This subsection is not intended to abrogate in any  
31 manner the authority delegated to the Board of Trustees of the

1 Internal Improvement Trust Fund or the Division of State Lands  
2 to approve a contract for purchase of state lands or to  
3 require policies and procedures to obtain clear legal title to  
4 parcels purchased for state purposes. Title to property  
5 acquired by a university board of trustees prior to January 7,  
6 2003, and to property acquired with funds appropriated by the  
7 Legislature shall vest in the Board of Trustees of the  
8 Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

9 (32) Each board of trustees shall prepare and adopt a  
10 campus master plan pursuant to s. 1013.30.

11 (33) Each board of trustees shall prepare, adopt, and  
12 execute a campus development agreement pursuant to s. 1013.30.

13 (34) Each board of trustees has responsibility for  
14 compliance with state and federal laws, rules, regulations,  
15 and requirements.

16 (35) Each board of trustees may govern traffic on the  
17 grounds of that campus pursuant to s. 1006.66.

18 (36) A board of trustees has responsibility for  
19 supervising faculty practice plans for the academic health  
20 science centers.

21 (37) Each board of trustees shall prescribe conditions  
22 for direct-support organizations and university health  
23 services support organizations to be certified and to use  
24 university property and services. Conditions relating to  
25 certification must provide for audit review and oversight by  
26 the board of trustees.

27 (38) Each board of trustees shall actively implement a  
28 plan, in accordance with guidelines of the State Board of  
29 Education, for working on a regular basis with the other  
30 university boards of trustees, representatives of the  
31 community college boards of trustees, and representatives of

1 the district school boards, to achieve the goals of the  
2 seamless education system.

3 (39) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.351, a  
4 board of trustees may authorize the rent or lease of parking  
5 facilities, provided that such facilities are funded through  
6 parking fees or parking fines imposed by a university. A board  
7 of trustees may authorize a university to charge fees for  
8 parking at such rented or leased parking facilities.

9 (40) Each board of trustees may adopt rules and  
10 procedures related to data and technology, including  
11 information systems, communications systems, computer hardware  
12 and software, and networks.

13 (41) A board of trustees shall perform such other  
14 duties as are provided by law or rule of the State Board of  
15 Education.

16 Section 87. Section 1001.75, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18 1001.75 University presidents; powers and duties.--The  
19 president is the chief executive officer of the state  
20 university, shall be corporate secretary of the university  
21 board of trustees, and is responsible for the operation and  
22 administration of the university. Each state university  
23 president shall:

24 (1) Recommend the adoption of rules, as appropriate,  
25 to the university board of trustees to implement provisions of  
26 law governing the operation and administration of the  
27 university, which shall include the specific powers and duties  
28 enumerated in this section. Such rules shall be consistent  
29 with the mission of the university and the rules and policies  
30 of the State Board of Education.

31

1           (2) Prepare a budget request and an operating budget  
2 for approval by the university board of trustees.

3           (3) Establish and implement policies and procedures to  
4 recruit, appoint, transfer, promote, compensate, evaluate,  
5 reward, demote, discipline, and remove personnel, within law  
6 and rules of the State Board of Education and in accordance  
7 with rules or policies approved by the university board of  
8 trustees.

9           (4) Govern admissions, subject to law and rules or  
10 policies of the university board of trustees and the State  
11 Board of Education.

12           (5) Approve, execute, and administer contracts for and  
13 on behalf of the university board of trustees for licenses;  
14 the acquisition or provision of commodities, goods, equipment,  
15 and services; leases of real and personal property; and  
16 planning and construction to be rendered to or by the  
17 university, provided such contracts are within law and rules  
18 of the State Board of Education and in conformance with  
19 policies of the university board of trustees, and are for the  
20 implementation of approved programs of the university.  
21 University presidents shall comply with the provisions of s.  
22 287.055 for the procurement of professional services and may  
23 approve and execute all contracts on behalf of the board of  
24 trustees for planning, construction, and equipment. For the  
25 purposes of a university president's contracting authority, a  
26 "continuing contract" for professional services under the  
27 provisions of s. 287.055 is one in which construction costs do  
28 not exceed \$1 million or the fee for study activity does not  
29 exceed \$100,000.

30           (6) Act for the university board of trustees as  
31 custodian of all university property.

- 1           (7) Establish the internal academic calendar of the  
2 university within general guidelines of the State Board of  
3 Education.
- 4           (8) Administer the university's program of  
5 intercollegiate athletics.
- 6           (9) Recommend to the board of trustees the  
7 establishment and termination of undergraduate and  
8 master's-level degree programs within the approved role and  
9 scope of the university.
- 10           (10) Award degrees.
- 11           (11) Recommend to the board of trustees a schedule of  
12 tuition and fees to be charged by the university, within law  
13 and rules of the State Board of Education.
- 14           (12) Organize the university to efficiently and  
15 effectively achieve the goals of the university.
- 16           (13) Review periodically the operations of the  
17 university in order to determine how effectively and  
18 efficiently the university is being administered and whether  
19 it is meeting the goals of its strategic plan adopted by the  
20 State Board of Education.
- 21           (14) Enter into agreements for student exchange  
22 programs that involve students at the university and students  
23 in other postsecondary educational institutions.
- 24           (15) Provide purchasing, contracting, and budgetary  
25 review processes for student government organizations.
- 26           (16) Ensure compliance with federal and state laws,  
27 rules, regulations, and other requirements that are applicable  
28 to the university.
- 29           (17) Maintain all data and information pertaining to  
30 the operation of the university, and report on the attainment  
31

1 by the university of institutional and statewide performance  
2 accountability goals.

3 (18) Adjust property records and dispose of  
4 state-owned tangible personal property in the university's  
5 custody in accordance with procedures established by the  
6 university board of trustees. Notwithstanding the provisions  
7 of s. 273.055(5), all moneys received from the disposition of  
8 state-owned tangible personal property shall be retained by  
9 the university and disbursed for the acquisition of tangible  
10 personal property and for all necessary operating  
11 expenditures. The university shall maintain records of the  
12 accounts into which such moneys are deposited.

13 (19) Have vested with the president or the president's  
14 designee the powers, duties, and authority that is vested with  
15 the university.

16 Section 88. Chapter 1002, Florida Statutes, shall be  
17 entitled "Student and Parental Rights and Educational Choices"  
18 and shall consist of ss. 1002.01-1002.44.

19 Section 89. Part I of chapter 1002, Florida Statutes,  
20 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of s.  
21 1002.01.

22 Section 90. Section 1002.01, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1002.01 Definitions.--

25 (1) A "home education program" means the sequentially  
26 progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her  
27 parent in order to satisfy the attendance requirements of ss.  
28 1002.41, 1003.01(4), and 1003.21(1).

29 (2) A "private school" is a nonpublic school defined  
30 as an individual, association, copartnership, or corporation,  
31 or department, division, or section of such organizations,

1 that designates itself as an educational center that includes  
2 kindergarten or a higher grade or as an elementary, secondary,  
3 business, technical, or trade school below college level or  
4 any organization that provides instructional services that  
5 meet the intent of s. 1003.01(14) or that gives preemployment  
6 or supplementary training in technology or in fields of trade  
7 or industry or that offers academic, literary, or career and  
8 technical training below college level, or any combination of  
9 the above, including an institution that performs the  
10 functions of the above schools through correspondence or  
11 extension, except those licensed under the provisions of  
12 chapter 1005. A private school may be a parochial, religious,  
13 denominational, for-profit, or nonprofit school. This  
14 definition does not include home education programs conducted  
15 in accordance with s. 1002.41.

16 Section 91. Part II of chapter 1002, Florida Statutes,  
17 shall be entitled "Student and Parental Rights" and shall  
18 consist of ss. 1002.20-1002.22.

19 Section 92. Section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.--K-12 students  
22 and their parents are afforded numerous statutory rights  
23 including, but not limited to, the following:

24 (1) SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.--In accordance with s. 1,  
25 Art. IX of the State Constitution, all K-12 public school  
26 students are entitled to a uniform, safe, secure, efficient,  
27 and high quality system of education, one that allows students  
28 the opportunity to obtain a high quality education. Parents  
29 are responsible to ready their children for school; however,  
30 the State of Florida cannot be the guarantor of each  
31 individual student's success.

1           (2) ATTENDANCE.--

2           (a) Compulsory school attendance.--The compulsory  
3 school attendance laws apply to all children between the ages  
4 of 6 and 16 years, as provided in s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a),  
5 and, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.21(1) and  
6 (2)(a):

7           1. A student who attains the age of 16 years during  
8 the school year has the right to file a formal declaration of  
9 intent to terminate school enrollment if the declaration is  
10 signed by the parent. The parent has the right to be notified  
11 by the school district of the district's receipt of the  
12 student's declaration of intent to terminate school  
13 enrollment.

14           2. Students who become or have become married or who  
15 are pregnant and parenting have the right to attend school and  
16 receive the same or equivalent educational instruction as  
17 other students.

18           (b) Regular school attendance.--Parents of students  
19 who have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any  
20 school year but who have not attained the age of 16 years must  
21 comply with the compulsory school attendance laws. Parents  
22 have the option to comply with the school attendance laws by  
23 attendance of the student in a public school; a parochial,  
24 religious, or denominational school; a private school; a home  
25 education program; or a private tutoring program, in  
26 accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.01(14).

27           (c) Absence for religious purposes.--A parent of a  
28 public school student may request and be granted permission  
29 for absence of the student from school for religious  
30 instruction or religious holidays, in accordance with the  
31 provisions of s. 1003.21(2)(b).

1           (d) Dropout prevention and academic intervention  
2 programs.--The parent of a public school student has the right  
3 to receive written notice by certified mail prior to placement  
4 of the student in a dropout prevention and academic  
5 intervention program and shall be notified in writing and  
6 entitled to an administrative review of any action by school  
7 personnel relating to the student's placement, in accordance  
8 with the provisions of s. 1003.53(5).

9           (3) HEALTH ISSUES.--

10           (a) School-entry health examinations.--The parent of  
11 any child attending a public or private school shall be exempt  
12 from the requirement of a health examination upon written  
13 request stating objections on religious grounds in accordance  
14 with the provisions of s. 1003.22(1) and (2).

15           (b) Immunizations.--The parent of any child attending  
16 a public or private school shall be exempt from the school  
17 immunization requirements upon meeting any of the exemptions  
18 in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.22(5).

19           (c) Biological experiments.--Parents may request that  
20 their child be excused from performing surgery or dissection  
21 in biological science classes in accordance with the  
22 provisions of s. 1003.47.

23           (d) Reproductive health and disease education.--A  
24 public school student whose parent makes written request to  
25 the school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of  
26 reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, in  
27 accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.42(3).

28           (e) Contraceptive services to public school  
29 students.--In accordance with the provisions of s.  
30 1006.062(7), students may not be referred to or offered  
31

1 contraceptive services at school facilities without the  
2 parent's consent.

3 (f) Career and technical education courses involving  
4 hazardous substances.--High school students must be given  
5 plano safety glasses or devices in career and technical  
6 education courses involving the use of hazardous substances  
7 likely to cause eye injury, in accordance with the provisions  
8 of s. 1006.65.

9 (g) Substance abuse reports.--The parent of a public  
10 school student must be timely notified of any verified report  
11 of a substance abuse violation by the student, in accordance  
12 with the provisions of s. 1006.09(8).

13 (h) Inhaler use.--Asthmatic students whose parent and  
14 physician provide their approval to the school principal may  
15 carry a metered dose inhaler on their person while in school.  
16 The school principal shall be provided a copy of the parent's  
17 and physician's approval.

18 (4) DISCIPLINE.--

19 (a) Suspension of public school student.--In  
20 accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.09(1)-(4):

21 1. A student may be suspended only as provided by rule  
22 of the district school board. A good faith effort must be made  
23 to immediately inform the parent by telephone of the student's  
24 suspension and the reason. Each suspension and the reason  
25 must be reported in writing within 24 hours to the parent by  
26 U.S. mail. A good faith effort must be made to use parental  
27 assistance before suspension unless the situation requires  
28 immediate suspension.

29 2. A student with a disability may only be recommended  
30 for suspension or expulsion in accordance with State Board of  
31 Education rules.

1           (b) Expulsion.--Public school students and their  
2 parents have the right to written notice of a recommendation  
3 of expulsion, including the charges against the student and a  
4 statement of the right of the student to due process, in  
5 accordance with the provisions of s. 1001.51(8).

6           (c) Corporal punishment.--In accordance with the  
7 provisions of s. 1003.32, corporal punishment of a public  
8 school student may only be administered by a teacher or school  
9 principal within guidelines of the school principal and  
10 according to district school board policy. Another adult must  
11 be present and must be informed in the student's presence of  
12 the reason for the punishment. Upon request, the teacher or  
13 school principal must provide the parent with a written  
14 explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of  
15 the other adult who was present.

16           (5) SAFETY.--In accordance with the provisions of s.  
17 1006.13(5), students who have been victims of certain felony  
18 offenses by other students, as well as the siblings of the  
19 student victims, have the right to be kept separated from the  
20 student offender both at school and during school  
21 transportation.

22           (6) EDUCATIONAL CHOICE.--

23           (a) Public school choices.--Parents of public school  
24 students may seek whatever public school choice options that  
25 are applicable to their students and are available to students  
26 in their school districts. These options may include  
27 controlled open enrollment, lab schools, charter schools,  
28 charter technical career centers, magnet schools, alternative  
29 schools, special programs, advanced placement, dual  
30 enrollment, International Baccalaureate, early admissions,  
31 credit by examination or demonstration of competency, the New

1 World School of the Arts, the Florida School for the Deaf and  
2 the Blind, and the Florida Virtual School. These options may  
3 also include the public school choice options of the  
4 Opportunity Scholarship Program and the McKay Scholarships for  
5 Students with Disabilities Program.

6 (b) Private school choices.--Parents of public school  
7 students may seek private school choice options under certain  
8 programs.

9 1. Under the Opportunity Scholarship Program, the  
10 parent of a student in a failing public school may request and  
11 receive an opportunity scholarship for the student to attend a  
12 private school in accordance with the provisions of s.  
13 1002.38.

14 2. Under the McKay Scholarships for Students with  
15 Disabilities Program, the parent of a public school student  
16 with a disability who is dissatisfied with the student's  
17 progress may request and receive a McKay Scholarship for the  
18 student to attend a private school in accordance with the  
19 provisions of s. 1002.39.

20 3. Under the corporate income tax credit scholarship  
21 program, the parent of a student who qualifies for free or  
22 reduced-price school lunch may seek a scholarship from an  
23 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization in  
24 accordance with the provisions of s. 220.187.

25 (c) Home education.--The parent of a student may  
26 choose to place the student in a home education program in  
27 accordance with the provisions of s. 1002.41.

28 (d) Private tutoring.--The parent of a student may  
29 choose to place the student in a private tutoring program in  
30 accordance with the provisions of s. 1002.43(1).  
31

- 1           (7) NONDISCRIMINATION.--All education programs,  
2 activities, and opportunities offered by public educational  
3 institutions must be made available without discrimination on  
4 the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender,  
5 disability, or marital status, in accordance with the  
6 provisions of s. 1000.05.
- 7           (8) STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.--Parents of public  
8 school students with disabilities and parents of public school  
9 students in residential care facilities are entitled to notice  
10 and due process in accordance with the provisions of ss.  
11 1003.57 and 1003.58. Public school students with disabilities  
12 must be provided the opportunity to meet the graduation  
13 requirements for a standard high school diploma in accordance  
14 with the provisions of s. 1003.43(4). Certain public school  
15 students with disabilities may be awarded a special diploma  
16 upon high school graduation.
- 17           (9) BLIND STUDENTS.--Blind students have the right to  
18 an individualized written education program and appropriate  
19 instructional materials to attain literacy, in accordance with  
20 provisions of s. 1003.55.
- 21           (10) LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT STUDENTS.--In  
22 accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.56, limited English  
23 proficient students have the right to receive ESOL (English  
24 for Speakers of Other Languages) instruction designed to  
25 develop the student's mastery of listening, speaking, reading,  
26 and writing in English as rapidly as possible, and the  
27 students' parents have the right of parental involvement in  
28 the ESOL program.
- 29           (11) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.--A public school student  
30 must be excused from reciting the pledge of allegiance upon  
31

1 written request by the student's parent, in accordance with  
2 the provisions of s. 1003.44.

3 (12) STUDENT RECORDS.--  
4 (a) Parent rights.--Parents have rights regarding the  
5 student records of their children, including right of access,  
6 right of waiver of access, right to challenge and hearing, and  
7 right of privacy, in accordance with the provisions of s.  
8 1002.22.

9 (b) Student rights.--In accordance with the provisions  
10 of s. 1008.386, a student is not required to provide his or  
11 her social security number as a condition for enrollment or  
12 graduation.

13 (13) STUDENT REPORT CARDS.--Students and their parents  
14 have the right to receive student report cards on a regular  
15 basis that clearly depict and grade the student's academic  
16 performance in each class or course, the student's conduct,  
17 and the student's attendance, in accordance with the  
18 provisions of s. 1003.33.

19 (14) STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS.--Parents of public  
20 school students shall be apprised at regular intervals of the  
21 academic progress and other needed information regarding their  
22 child, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.02(1)(h)2.

23 (15) SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT  
24 RATING REPORTS.--Parents of public school students are  
25 entitled to an easy-to-read report card about the grade  
26 designation, school accountability including the school  
27 financial report, and school improvement rating of their  
28 child's school in accordance with the provisions of ss.  
29 1008.22, 1003.02(3), and 1010.215(5).

30 (16) ATHLETICS; PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL.--  
31

1           (a) Eligibility.--Eligibility requirements for all  
2 students participating in high school athletic competition  
3 must allow a student to be eligible in the school in which he  
4 or she first enrolls each school year, or makes himself or  
5 herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in  
6 practice before enrolling, in accordance with the provisions  
7 of s. 1006.20(2)(a).

8           (b) Medical evaluation.--Students must satisfactorily  
9 pass a medical evaluation each year before participating in  
10 athletics, unless the parent objects in writing based on  
11 religious tenets or practices, in accordance with the  
12 provisions of s. 1006.20(2)(d).

13           (17) EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.--In accordance with  
14 the provisions of s. 1006.15:

15           (a) Eligibility.--Students who meet specified academic  
16 and conduct requirements are eligible to participate in  
17 extracurricular activities.

18           (b) Home education students.--Home education students  
19 who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are  
20 eligible to participate in extracurricular activities at the  
21 public school to which the student would be assigned or could  
22 choose to attend according to district school board policies,  
23 or may develop an agreement to participate at a private  
24 school.

25           (c) Charter school students.--Charter school students  
26 who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are  
27 eligible to participate in extracurricular activities at the  
28 public school to which the student would be assigned or could  
29 choose to attend according to district school board policies,  
30 unless such activity is provided by the student's charter  
31 school.

1           (d) Discrimination prohibited.--Organizations that  
2 regulate or govern extracurricular activities of public  
3 schools shall not discriminate against any eligible student  
4 based on an educational choice of public, private, or home  
5 education.

6           (18) INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.--

7           (a) Core courses.--Each public school student is  
8 entitled to sufficient instructional materials in the core  
9 courses of mathematics, language arts, social studies,  
10 science, reading, and literature, in accordance with the  
11 provisions of ss. 1003.02(1)(d) and 1006.40(2).

12           (b) Curricular objectives.--The parent of each public  
13 school student has the right to receive effective  
14 communication from the school principal as to the manner in  
15 which instructional materials are used to implement the  
16 school's curricular objectives, in accordance with the  
17 provisions of s. 1006.28(3)(a).

18           (c) Sale of instructional materials.--Upon request of  
19 the parent of a public school student, the school principal  
20 must sell to the parent any instructional materials used in  
21 the school, in accordance with the provisions of s.  
22 1006.28(3)(c).

23           (d) Dual enrollment students.--Instructional materials  
24 purchased by a district school board or community college  
25 board of trustees on behalf of public school dual enrollment  
26 students shall be made available to the dual enrollment  
27 students free of charge, in accordance with the provisions of  
28 s. 1007.271(14) and (15).

29           (19) JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS.--Students who are in  
30 juvenile justice programs have the right to receive  
31

1 educational programs and services in accordance with the  
2 provisions of s. 1003.52.

3 (20) PARENTAL INPUT AND MEETINGS.--

4 (a) Meetings with school district personnel.--Parents  
5 of public school students may be accompanied by another adult  
6 of their choice at any meeting with school district personnel.

7 (b) School district best financial management practice  
8 reviews.--Public school students and their parents may provide  
9 input regarding their concerns about the operations and  
10 management of the school district both during and after the  
11 conduct of a school district best financial management  
12 practices review, in accordance with the provisions of s.  
13 1008.35.

14 (c) District school board educational facilities  
15 programs.--Parents of public school students and other members  
16 of the public have the right to receive proper public notice  
17 and opportunity for public comment regarding the district  
18 school board's educational facilities work program, in  
19 accordance with the provisions of s. 1013.35.

20 (21) TRANSPORTATION.--

21 (a) Transportation to school.--Public school students  
22 shall be provided transportation to school, in accordance with  
23 the provisions of s. 1006.21(3)(a).

24 (b) Hazardous walking conditions.--K-6 public school  
25 students shall be provided transportation if they are  
26 subjected to hazardous walking conditions, in accordance with  
27 the provisions of ss. 1006.21(3)(b) and 1006.23.

28 (c) Parental consent.--Each parent of a public school  
29 student must be notified in writing and give written consent  
30 before the student may be transported in a privately owned  
31

1 motor vehicle to a school function, in accordance with the  
2 provisions of s. 1006.22(2)(b).

3 Section 93. Section 1002.21, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1002.21 Postsecondary student and parent rights.--

6 (1) STUDENT RECORDS.--Parents have rights regarding  
7 the student records of their children, and students 18 years  
8 of age and older have rights regarding their student records,  
9 including right of access, right of waiver of access, right to  
10 challenge and hearing, and right of privacy, in accordance  
11 with the provisions of ss. 1002.22, 1005.36, and 1006.52.

12 (2) LEARNING DISABLED STUDENTS.--Impaired and learning  
13 disabled students may be eligible for reasonable substitution  
14 for admission, graduation, and upper-level division  
15 requirements of public postsecondary educational institutions,  
16 in accordance with the provisions of s. 1007.264.

17 (3) EXPULSION, SUSPENSION, DISCIPLINE.--Public  
18 postsecondary education students may be expelled, suspended,  
19 or otherwise disciplined by the president of a public  
20 postsecondary educational institution after notice to the  
21 student of the charges and a hearing on the charges, in  
22 accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.62.

23 (4) RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.--Public postsecondary  
24 educational institutions must provide reasonable  
25 accommodations for the religious practices and beliefs of  
26 individual students in regard to admissions, class attendance,  
27 and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments, in  
28 accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.53, and must provide  
29 and describe in the student handbook a grievance procedure for  
30 students to seek redress when they feel they have been

31

1 unreasonably denied an educational benefit due to their  
 2 religious beliefs or practices.

3 (5) STUDENT HANDBOOKS.--Each state university and  
 4 community college shall provide its students with an  
 5 up-to-date student handbook that includes student rights and  
 6 responsibilities, appeals processes available to students,  
 7 contact persons available to help students, student conduct  
 8 code, and information regarding HIV and AIDS, in accordance  
 9 with the provisions of s. 1006.50.

10 (6) STUDENT OMBUDSMAN OFFICE.--Each state university  
 11 and community college shall maintain a student ombudsman  
 12 office and established procedures for students to appeal to  
 13 the office regarding decisions about the student's access to  
 14 courses and credit granted toward the student's degree, in  
 15 accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.51.

16 Section 94. Section 1002.22, Florida Statutes, is  
 17 created to read:

18 1002.22 Student records and reports; rights of parents  
 19 and students; notification; penalty.--

20 (1) PURPOSE.--The purpose of this section is to  
 21 protect the rights of students and their parents with respect  
 22 to student records and reports as created, maintained, and  
 23 used by public educational institutions in the state. The  
 24 intent of the Legislature is that students and their parents  
 25 shall have rights of access, rights of challenge, and rights  
 26 of privacy with respect to such records and reports, and that  
 27 rules shall be available for the exercise of these rights.

28 (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section:

29 (a) "Chief executive officer" means that person,  
 30 whether elected or appointed, who is responsible for the  
 31 management and administration of any public educational body

1 or unit, or the chief executive officer's designee for student  
2 records; that is, the district school superintendent, the  
3 director of an area technical center, the president of a  
4 public postsecondary educational institution, or their  
5 designees.

6 (b) "Directory information" includes the student's  
7 name, address, telephone number if it is a listed number, date  
8 and place of birth, major field of study, participation in  
9 officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height  
10 of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and  
11 awards received, and the most recent previous educational  
12 agency or institution attended by the student.

13 (c) "Records" and "reports" mean official records,  
14 files, and data directly related to students that are created,  
15 maintained, and used by public educational institutions,  
16 including all material that is incorporated into each  
17 student's cumulative record folder and intended for school use  
18 or to be available to parties outside the school or school  
19 system for legitimate educational or research purposes.  
20 Materials that shall be considered as part of a student's  
21 record include, but are not necessarily limited to:  
22 identifying data, including a student's social security  
23 number; academic work completed; level of achievement records,  
24 including grades and standardized achievement test scores;  
25 attendance data; scores on standardized intelligence,  
26 aptitude, and psychological tests; interest inventory results;  
27 health data; family background information; teacher or  
28 counselor ratings and observations; verified reports of  
29 serious or recurrent behavior patterns; and any other  
30 evidence, knowledge, or information recorded in any medium,  
31 including, but not limited to, handwriting, typewriting,

1 print, magnetic tapes, film, microfilm, and microfiche, and  
2 maintained and used by an educational agency or institution or  
3 by a person acting for such agency or institution. However,  
4 the terms "records" and "reports" do not include:

5       1. Records of instructional, supervisory, and  
6 administrative personnel, and educational personnel ancillary  
7 to those persons, that are kept in the sole possession of the  
8 maker of the record and are not accessible or revealed to any  
9 other person except a substitute for any of such persons. An  
10 example of records of this type is instructor's grade books.

11       2. Records of law enforcement units of the institution  
12 that are maintained solely for law enforcement purposes and  
13 that are not available to persons other than officials of the  
14 institution or law enforcement officials of the same  
15 jurisdiction in the exercise of that jurisdiction.

16       3. Records made and maintained by the institution in  
17 the normal course of business that relate exclusively to a  
18 student in his or her capacity as an employee and that are not  
19 available for use for any other purpose.

20       4. Records created or maintained by a physician,  
21 psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional  
22 or paraprofessional acting in his or her professional or  
23 paraprofessional capacity, or assisting in that capacity, that  
24 are created, maintained, or used only in connection with the  
25 provision of treatment to the student and that are not  
26 available to anyone other than persons providing such  
27 treatment. However, such records shall be open to a physician  
28 or other appropriate professional of the student's choice.

29       5. Directory information as defined in this section.

30       6. Other information, files, or data that do not  
31 permit the personal identification of a student.

1           7. Letters or statements of recommendation or  
2 evaluation that were confidential under Florida law and that  
3 were received and made a part of the student's educational  
4 records prior to July 1, 1977.

5           8. Copies of the student's fingerprints. No public  
6 educational institution shall maintain any report or record  
7 relative to a student that includes a copy of the student's  
8 fingerprints.

9           (d) "Student" means any child or adult who is enrolled  
10 or who has been enrolled in any instructional program or  
11 activity conducted under the authority and direction of an  
12 institution comprising a part of the state system of public  
13 education and with respect to whom an educational institution  
14 maintains educational records and reports or personally  
15 identifiable information, but does not include a person who  
16 has not been in attendance as an enrollee at such institution.

17           (3) RIGHTS OF PARENT OR STUDENT.--The parent of any  
18 student who attends or has attended any public school, area  
19 technical center, or public postsecondary educational  
20 institution shall have the following rights with respect to  
21 any records or reports created, maintained, and used by any  
22 public educational institution in the state. However,  
23 whenever a student has attained 18 years of age, or is  
24 attending a postsecondary educational institution, the  
25 permission or consent required of, and the rights accorded to,  
26 the parents of the student shall thereafter be required of and  
27 accorded to the student only, unless the student is a  
28 dependent student of such parents as defined in 26 U.S.C. s.  
29 152 (s. 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954). The State  
30 Board of Education shall adopt rules whereby parents or  
31 students may exercise these rights:

1           (a) Right of access.--  
2           1. Such parent or student shall have the right, upon  
3 request directed to the appropriate school official, to be  
4 provided with a list of the types of records and reports,  
5 directly related to students, as maintained by the institution  
6 that the student attends or has attended.  
7           2. Such parent or student shall have the right, upon  
8 request, to be shown any record or report relating to such  
9 student maintained by any public educational institution.  
10 When the record or report includes information on more than  
11 one student, the parent or student shall be entitled to  
12 receive, or be informed of, only that part of the record or  
13 report that pertains to the student who is the subject of the  
14 request. Upon a reasonable request therefor, the institution  
15 shall furnish such parent or student with an explanation or  
16 interpretation of any such record or report.  
17           3. Copies of any list, record, or report requested  
18 under the provisions of this paragraph shall be furnished to  
19 the parent or student upon request.  
20           4. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
21 be followed by all public educational institutions in granting  
22 requests for lists, or for access to reports and records or  
23 for copies or explanations thereof under this paragraph.  
24 However, access to any report or record requested under the  
25 provisions of subparagraph 2. shall be granted within 30 days  
26 after receipt of such request by the institution. Fees may be  
27 charged for furnishing any copies of reports or records  
28 requested under subparagraph 3., but such fees shall not  
29 exceed the actual cost to the institution of producing such  
30 copies.  
31

1           (b) Right of waiver of access to confidential letters  
2 or statements.--A parent or student shall have the right to  
3 waive the right of access to letters or statements of  
4 recommendation or evaluation, except that such waiver shall  
5 apply to recommendations or evaluations only if:

6           1. The parent or student is, upon request, notified of  
7 the names of all persons submitting confidential letters or  
8 statements.

9           2. Such recommendations or evaluations are used solely  
10 for the purpose for which they were specifically intended.

11  
12 Such waivers may not be required as a condition for admission  
13 to, receipt of financial aid from, or receipt of any other  
14 services or benefits from, any public agency or public  
15 educational institution in this state.

16           (c) Right to challenge and hearing.--A parent or  
17 student shall have the right to challenge the content of any  
18 record or report to which such person is granted access under  
19 paragraph (a), in order to ensure that the record or report is  
20 not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the  
21 privacy or other rights of the student and to provide an  
22 opportunity for the correction, deletion, or expunction of any  
23 inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise inappropriate data or  
24 material contained therein. Any challenge arising under the  
25 provisions of this paragraph may be settled through informal  
26 meetings or discussions between the parent or student and  
27 appropriate officials of the educational institution. If the  
28 parties at such a meeting agree to make corrections, to make  
29 deletions, to expunge material, or to add a statement of  
30 explanation or rebuttal to the file, such agreement shall be  
31 reduced to writing and signed by the parties; and the

1 appropriate school officials shall take the necessary actions  
2 to implement the agreement. If the parties cannot reach an  
3 agreement, upon the request of either party, a hearing shall  
4 be held on such challenge under rules adopted by the State  
5 Board of Education. Upon the request of the parent or student,  
6 the hearing shall be exempt from the requirements of s.  
7 286.011. Such rules shall include at least the following  
8 provisions:

9       1. The hearing shall be conducted within a reasonable  
10 period of time following the request for the hearing.

11       2. The hearing shall be conducted, and the decision  
12 rendered, by an official of the educational institution or  
13 other party who does not have a direct interest in the outcome  
14 of the hearing.

15       3. The parent or student shall be afforded a full and  
16 fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issues  
17 raised under this paragraph.

18       4. The decision shall be rendered in writing within a  
19 reasonable period of time after the conclusion of the hearing.

20       5. The appropriate school officials shall take the  
21 necessary actions to implement the decision.

22       (d) Right of privacy.--Every student shall have a  
23 right of privacy with respect to the educational records kept  
24 on him or her. Personally identifiable records or reports of a  
25 student, and any personal information contained therein, are  
26 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).  
27 No state or local educational agency, board, public school,  
28 technical center, or public postsecondary educational  
29 institution shall permit the release of such records, reports,  
30 or information without the written consent of the student's  
31 parent, or of the student himself or herself if he or she is

1 qualified as provided in this subsection, to any individual,  
2 agency, or organization. However, personally identifiable  
3 records or reports of a student may be released to the  
4 following persons or organizations without the consent of the  
5 student or the student's parent:

6 1. Officials of schools, school systems, technical  
7 centers, or public postsecondary educational institutions in  
8 which the student seeks or intends to enroll; and a copy of  
9 such records or reports shall be furnished to the parent or  
10 student upon request.

11 2. Other school officials, including teachers within  
12 the educational institution or agency, who have legitimate  
13 educational interests in the information contained in the  
14 records.

15 3. The United States Secretary of Education, the  
16 Director of the National Institute of Education, the Assistant  
17 Secretary for Education, the Comptroller General of the United  
18 States, or state or local educational authorities who are  
19 authorized to receive such information subject to the  
20 conditions set forth in applicable federal statutes and  
21 regulations of the United States Department of Education, or  
22 in applicable state statutes and rules of the State Board of  
23 Education.

24 4. Other school officials, in connection with a  
25 student's application for or receipt of financial aid.

26 5. Individuals or organizations conducting studies for  
27 or on behalf of an institution or a board of education for the  
28 purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive  
29 tests, administering student aid programs, or improving  
30 instruction, if such studies are conducted in such a manner as  
31 will not permit the personal identification of students and

1 their parents by persons other than representatives of such  
2 organizations and if such information will be destroyed when  
3 no longer needed for the purpose of conducting such studies.

4 6. Accrediting organizations, in order to carry out  
5 their accrediting functions.

6 7. School readiness coalitions and the Florida  
7 Partnership for School Readiness in order to carry out their  
8 assigned duties.

9 8. For use as evidence in student expulsion hearings  
10 conducted by a district school board pursuant to the  
11 provisions of chapter 120.

12 9. Appropriate parties in connection with an  
13 emergency, if knowledge of the information in the student's  
14 educational records is necessary to protect the health or  
15 safety of the student or other individuals.

16 10. The Auditor General and the Office of Program  
17 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability in connection  
18 with their official functions; however, except when the  
19 collection of personally identifiable information is  
20 specifically authorized by law, any data collected by the  
21 Auditor General and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
22 Government Accountability is confidential and exempt from the  
23 provisions of s. 119.07(1) and shall be protected in such a  
24 way as will not permit the personal identification of students  
25 and their parents by other than the Auditor General, the  
26 Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government  
27 Accountability, and their staff, and such personally  
28 identifiable data shall be destroyed when no longer needed for  
29 the Auditor General's and the Office of Program Policy  
30 Analysis and Government Accountability's official use.

31

1           11.a. A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance  
2 with an order of that court or the attorney of record pursuant  
3 to a lawfully issued subpoena, upon the condition that the  
4 student and the student's parent are notified of the order or  
5 subpoena in advance of compliance therewith by the educational  
6 institution or agency.

7           b. A person or entity pursuant to a court of competent  
8 jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the  
9 attorney of record pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena,  
10 upon the condition that the student, or his or her parent if  
11 the student is either a minor and not attending a  
12 postsecondary educational institution or a dependent of such  
13 parent as defined in 26 U.S.C. s. 152 (s. 152 of the Internal  
14 Revenue Code of 1954), is notified of the order or subpoena in  
15 advance of compliance therewith by the educational institution  
16 or agency.

17           12. Credit bureaus, in connection with an agreement  
18 for financial aid that the student has executed, provided that  
19 such information may be disclosed only to the extent necessary  
20 to enforce the terms or conditions of the financial aid  
21 agreement. Credit bureaus shall not release any information  
22 obtained pursuant to this paragraph to any person.

23           13. Parties to an interagency agreement among the  
24 Department of Juvenile Justice, school and law enforcement  
25 authorities, and other signatory agencies for the purpose of  
26 reducing juvenile crime and especially motor vehicle theft by  
27 promoting cooperation and collaboration, and the sharing of  
28 appropriate information in a joint effort to improve school  
29 safety, to reduce truancy and in-school and out-of-school  
30 suspensions, and to support alternatives to in-school and  
31 out-of-school suspensions and expulsions that provide

1 structured and well-supervised educational programs  
2 supplemented by a coordinated overlay of other appropriate  
3 services designed to correct behaviors that lead to truancy,  
4 suspensions, and expulsions, and that support students in  
5 successfully completing their education. Information provided  
6 in furtherance of such interagency agreements is intended  
7 solely for use in determining the appropriate programs and  
8 services for each juvenile or the juvenile's family, or for  
9 coordinating the delivery of such programs and services, and  
10 as such is inadmissible in any court proceedings prior to a  
11 dispositional hearing unless written consent is provided by a  
12 parent or other responsible adult on behalf of the juvenile.

13  
14 This paragraph does not prohibit any educational institution  
15 from publishing and releasing to the general public directory  
16 information relating to a student if the institution elects to  
17 do so. However, no educational institution shall release, to  
18 any individual, agency, or organization that is not listed in  
19 subparagraphs 1.-13., directory information relating to the  
20 student body in general or a portion thereof unless it is  
21 normally published for the purpose of release to the public in  
22 general. Any educational institution making directory  
23 information public shall give public notice of the categories  
24 of information that it has designated as directory information  
25 with respect to all students attending the institution and  
26 shall allow a reasonable period of time after such notice has  
27 been given for a parent or student to inform the institution  
28 in writing that any or all of the information designated  
29 should not be released.

30 (4) NOTIFICATION.--Every parent and student entitled  
31 to rights relating to student records and reports under the

1 provisions of subsection (3) shall be notified annually, in  
2 writing, of such rights and that the institution has a policy  
3 of supporting the law; the types of information and data  
4 generally entered in the student records as maintained by the  
5 institution; and the procedures to be followed in order to  
6 exercise such rights. The notification shall be general in  
7 form and in a manner to be determined by the State Board of  
8 Education and may be incorporated with other printed materials  
9 distributed to students, such as being printed on the back of  
10 school assignment forms or report cards for students attending  
11 kindergarten or grades 1 through 12 in the public school  
12 system and being printed in college catalogs or in other  
13 program announcement bulletins for students attending  
14 postsecondary educational institutions.

15 (5) PENALTY.--In the event that any public school  
16 official or employee, district school board official or  
17 employee, technical center official or employee, or public  
18 postsecondary educational institution official or employee  
19 refuses to comply with any of the provisions of this section,  
20 the aggrieved parent or student shall have an immediate right  
21 to bring an action in the circuit court to enforce the  
22 violated right by injunction. Any aggrieved parent or student  
23 who brings such an action and whose rights are vindicated may  
24 be awarded attorney's fees and court costs.

25 (6) APPLICABILITY TO RECORDS OF DEFUNCT  
26 INSTITUTIONS.--The provisions of this section also apply to  
27 student records that any nonpublic educational institution  
28 that is no longer operating has deposited with the district  
29 school superintendent in the county where the nonpublic  
30 educational institution was located.

31

1           Section 95. Part III of chapter 1002, Florida  
2 Statutes, shall be entitled "Educational Choice" and shall  
3 consist of ss. 1002.31-1002.39.

4           Section 96. Section 1002.31, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1002.31 Public school parental choice.--

7           (1) As used in this section, "controlled open  
8 enrollment" means a public education delivery system that  
9 allows school districts to make student school assignments  
10 using parents' indicated preferential school choice as a  
11 significant factor.

12           (2) Each district school board may offer controlled  
13 open enrollment within the public schools. The controlled open  
14 enrollment program shall be offered in addition to the  
15 existing choice programs such as magnet schools, alternative  
16 schools, special programs, advanced placement, and dual  
17 enrollment.

18           (3) Each district school board shall develop a  
19 controlled open enrollment plan which describes the  
20 implementation of subsection (2).

21           (4) School districts shall adhere to federal  
22 desegregation requirements. No controlled open enrollment  
23 plan that conflicts with federal desegregation orders shall be  
24 implemented.

25           (5) Each school district shall develop a system of  
26 priorities for its plan that includes consideration of the  
27 following:

28           (a) An application process required to participate in  
29 the controlled open enrollment program.

30           (b) A process that allows parents to declare school  
31 preferences.

- 1           (c) A process that encourages placement of siblings  
2 within the same school.
- 3           (d) A lottery procedure used by the school district to  
4 determine student assignment.
- 5           (e) An appeals process for hardship cases.
- 6           (f) The procedures to maintain socioeconomic,  
7 demographic, and racial balance.
- 8           (g) The availability of transportation.
- 9           (h) A process that promotes strong parental  
10 involvement, including the designation of a parent liaison.
- 11           (i) A strategy that establishes a clearinghouse of  
12 information designed to assist parents in making informed  
13 choices.
- 14           (6) Plans shall be submitted to the Commissioner of  
15 Education. The Commissioner of Education shall develop an  
16 annual report on the status of school choice and deliver the  
17 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
18 Speaker of the House of Representatives at least 90 days prior  
19 to the convening of the regular session of the Legislature.
- 20           (7) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a  
21 school district with schools operating on both multiple  
22 session schedules and single session schedules shall afford  
23 parents of students in multiple session schools preferred  
24 access to the controlled open enrollment program of the school  
25 district.
- 26           (8) Each district school board shall annually report  
27 the number of students applying for and attending the various  
28 types of public schools of choice in the district, including  
29 schools such as magnet schools and public charter schools,  
30 according to rules adopted by the State Board of Education.  
31

1           Section 97. Section 1002.32, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:  
3           1002.32 Developmental research (laboratory) schools.--  
4           (1) SHORT TITLE.--This section may be cited as the  
5 "Sidney Martin Developmental Research School Act."  
6           (2) ESTABLISHMENT.--There is established a category of  
7 public schools to be known as developmental research  
8 (laboratory) schools (lab schools). Each lab school shall  
9 provide sequential instruction and shall be affiliated with  
10 the college of education within the state university of  
11 closest geographic proximity. A lab school to which a charter  
12 has been issued under s. 1002.33(5)(b) must be affiliated with  
13 the college of education within the state university that  
14 issued the charter, but is not subject to the requirement that  
15 the state university be of closest geographic proximity. For  
16 the purpose of state funding, Florida Agricultural and  
17 Mechanical University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida  
18 State University, the University of Florida, and other  
19 universities approved by the State Board of Education and the  
20 Legislature are authorized to sponsor one or more lab schools.  
21           (3) MISSION.--The mission of a lab school shall be the  
22 provision of a vehicle for the conduct of research,  
23 demonstration, and evaluation regarding management, teaching,  
24 and learning. Programs to achieve the mission of a lab school  
25 shall embody the goals and standards established pursuant to  
26 ss. 1000.03(5) and 1001.23(2) and shall ensure an appropriate  
27 education for its students.  
28           (a) Each lab school shall emphasize mathematics,  
29 science, computer science, and foreign languages. The primary  
30 goal of a lab school is to enhance instruction and research in  
31 such specialized subjects by using the resources available on

1 a state university campus, while also providing an education  
2 in nonspecialized subjects. Each lab school shall provide  
3 sequential elementary and secondary instruction where  
4 appropriate. A lab school may not provide instruction at grade  
5 levels higher than grade 12 without authorization from the  
6 State Board of Education. Each developmental research school  
7 shall develop and implement a school improvement plan pursuant  
8 to s. 1003.02(3).

9 (b) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted  
10 at a lab school may be generated by the college of education  
11 and other colleges within the university with which the school  
12 is affiliated.

13 (c) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted  
14 at a lab school may be generated by the State Board of  
15 Education. Such research shall respond to the needs of the  
16 education community at large, rather than the specific needs  
17 of the affiliated college.

18 (d) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted  
19 at a lab school may consist of pilot projects to be generated  
20 by the affiliated college, the State Board of Education, or  
21 the Legislature.

22 (e) The exceptional education programs offered at a  
23 lab school shall be determined by the research and evaluation  
24 goals and the availability of students for efficiently sized  
25 programs. The fact that a lab school offers an exceptional  
26 education program in no way lessens the general responsibility  
27 of the local school district to provide exceptional education  
28 programs.

29 (4) STUDENT ADMISSIONS.--Each lab school may establish  
30 a primary research objective related to fundamental issues and  
31 problems that occur in the public elementary and secondary

1 schools of the state. A student population reflective of the  
2 student population of the public school environment in which  
3 the issues and problems are most prevalent shall be promoted  
4 and encouraged through the establishment and implementation of  
5 an admission process that is designed to result in a  
6 representative sample of public school enrollment based on  
7 gender, race, socioeconomic status, and academic ability,  
8 notwithstanding the provisions of s. 1000.05.

9 (5) STUDENT FEES.--Each lab school may charge a  
10 student activity and service fee. Any school that elects to  
11 charge such a fee shall provide information regarding the use  
12 of the fee as well as an annual report that documents the  
13 manner in which the moneys provided by such fee were expended.  
14 The annual report prescribed in this subsection shall be  
15 distributed to the parents of each student. No additional fees  
16 shall be charged.

17 (6) SUPPLEMENTAL-SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS.--Each lab  
18 school may accrue supplemental revenue from  
19 supplemental-support organizations, which include, but are not  
20 limited to, alumni associations, foundations, parent-teacher  
21 associations, and booster associations. The governing body of  
22 each supplemental-support organization shall recommend the  
23 expenditure of moneys collected by the organization for the  
24 benefit of the school. Such expenditures shall be contingent  
25 upon the recommendations of the school advisory council and  
26 review of the director. The director may override any proposed  
27 expenditure of the organization that would violate Florida  
28 Statutes or breach sound educational management.

29 (7) PERSONNEL.--  
30  
31

1           (a) Each lab school may employ either a director or a  
2 principal, or both, at the discretion of the university. The  
3 duties of such personnel shall be as follows:

4           1. Each director shall be the chief executive officer  
5 and shall oversee the education, research, and evaluation  
6 goals of the school. The director shall be responsible for  
7 recommending policy to the advisory board. The director shall  
8 be accountable for the financial resources of the school.

9           2. Each principal shall be the chief educational  
10 officer and shall oversee the educational program of the  
11 school. The principal shall be accountable for the daily  
12 operation and administration of the school.

13           (b) Faculty may serve simultaneously as instructional  
14 personnel for the lab school and the university with which the  
15 school is affiliated. Nothing in this section is intended to  
16 affect the collective bargaining rights of lab school  
17 employees, except as specifically provided in this section.

18           (c) Lab school faculty members shall meet the  
19 certification requirements of ss. 1012.32 and 1012.42.

20           (8) ADVISORY BOARDS.--Each public school in the state  
21 shall establish a school advisory council that is reflective  
22 of the population served by the school, pursuant to s.  
23 1001.452, and is responsible for the development and  
24 implementation of the school improvement plan pursuant to s.  
25 1003.02(3). Lab schools shall comply with the provisions of s.  
26 1001.452 in one of two ways:

27           (a) Each lab school may establish two advisory bodies  
28 as follows:

29           1. An advisory body pursuant to the provisions and  
30 requirements of s. 1001.452 to be responsible for the  
31

1 development and implementation of the school improvement plan,  
2 pursuant to s. 1003.02(3).

3 2. An advisory board to provide general oversight and  
4 guidance. The dean of the affiliated college of education  
5 shall be a standing member of the board, and the president of  
6 the university shall appoint four faculty members from the  
7 related university, at least two of whom are from the college  
8 of education, one layperson who resides in the county in which  
9 the school is located, two parents of students who attend the  
10 lab school, and one lab school student appointed by the  
11 principal to serve on the advisory board. The term of each  
12 member shall be for 2 years, and any vacancy shall be filled  
13 with a person of the same classification as his or her  
14 predecessor for the balance of the unexpired term. The  
15 president shall stagger the terms of the initial appointees in  
16 a manner that results in the expiration of terms of no more  
17 than two members in any year. The president shall call the  
18 organizational meeting of the board. The board shall annually  
19 elect a chair and a vice chair. There shall be no limitation  
20 on successive appointments to the board or successive terms  
21 that may be served by a chair or vice chair. The board shall  
22 adopt internal organizational procedures or bylaws necessary  
23 for efficient operation as provided in chapter 120. Board  
24 members shall not receive per diem or travel expenses for the  
25 performance of their duties. The board shall:

26 a. Meet at least quarterly.

27 b. Monitor the operations of the school and the  
28 distribution of moneys allocated for such operations.

29 c. Establish necessary policy, program, and  
30 administration modifications.

31

1 d. Evaluate biennially the performance of the director  
2 and principal and recommend corresponding action to the dean  
3 of the college of education.

4 e. Annually review evaluations of the school's  
5 operation and research findings.

6 (b) Each lab school may establish one advisory body  
7 responsible for the development and implementation of the  
8 school improvement plan, pursuant to s. 1003.02(3), in  
9 addition to general oversight and guidance responsibilities.  
10 The advisory body shall reflect the membership composition  
11 requirements established in s. 1001.452, but may also include  
12 membership by the dean of the college of education and  
13 additional members appointed by the president of the  
14 university that represent faculty members from the college of  
15 education, the university, or other bodies deemed appropriate  
16 for the mission of the school.

17 (9) FUNDING.--Funding for a lab school, including a  
18 charter lab school, shall be provided as follows:

19 (a) Each lab school shall be allocated its  
20 proportional share of operating funds from the Florida  
21 Education Finance Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and the  
22 General Appropriations Act. The nonvoted ad valorem millage  
23 that would otherwise be required for lab schools shall be  
24 allocated from state funds. The required local effort funds  
25 calculated pursuant to s. 1011.62 shall be allocated from  
26 state funds to the schools as a part of the allocation of  
27 operating funds pursuant to s. 1011.62. Each eligible lab  
28 school shall also receive a proportional share of the sparsity  
29 supplement as calculated pursuant to s. 1011.62. In addition,  
30 each lab school shall receive its proportional share of all  
31 categorical funds, with the exception of s. 1011.68, and new

1 category funds enacted after July 1, 1994, for the purpose  
2 of elementary or secondary academic program enhancement. The  
3 sum of funds available as provided in this paragraph shall be  
4 included annually in the Florida Education Finance Program and  
5 appropriate categorical programs funded in the General  
6 Appropriations Act.

7 (b) There is created a Lab School Educational Facility  
8 Trust Fund to be administered by the Commissioner of  
9 Education. Allocations from such fund shall be expended solely  
10 for the purpose of facility construction, repair, renovation,  
11 remodeling, site improvement, or maintenance. The commissioner  
12 shall administer the fund in accordance with ss. 1013.60,  
13 1013.64, 1013.65, and 1013.66.

14 (c) All operating funds provided under this section  
15 shall be deposited in a Lab School Trust Fund and shall be  
16 expended for the purposes of this section. The university  
17 assigned a lab school shall be the fiscal agent for these  
18 funds, and all rules of the university governing the budgeting  
19 and expenditure of state funds shall apply to these funds  
20 unless otherwise provided by law or rule of the State Board of  
21 Education. The university board of trustees shall be the  
22 public employer of lab school personnel for collective  
23 bargaining purposes.

24 (d) Each lab school shall receive funds for operating  
25 purposes in an amount determined as follows: multiply the  
26 maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary millage for  
27 operations pursuant to s. 1011.71(1) by the value of 95  
28 percent of the current year's taxable value for school  
29 purposes for the district in which each lab school is located;  
30 divide the result by the total full-time equivalent membership  
31 of the district; and multiply the result by the full-time

1 equivalent membership of the lab school. The amount thus  
2 obtained shall be discretionary operating funds and shall be  
3 appropriated from state funds in the General Appropriations  
4 Act to the Lab School Trust Fund.

5 (e) Each lab school shall receive funds for capital  
6 improvement purposes in an amount determined as follows:  
7 multiply the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary millage  
8 for capital improvements pursuant to s. 1011.71(2) by the  
9 value of 95 percent of the current year's taxable value for  
10 school purposes for the district in which each lab school is  
11 located; divide the result by the total full-time equivalent  
12 membership of the district; and multiply the result by the  
13 full-time equivalent membership of the lab school. The amount  
14 thus obtained shall be discretionary capital improvement funds  
15 and shall be appropriated from state funds in the General  
16 Appropriations Act to the Lab School Educational Facility  
17 Trust Fund.

18 (f) In addition to the funds appropriated for capital  
19 outlay budget needs, lab schools may receive specific funding  
20 as specified in the General Appropriations Act for upgrading,  
21 renovating, and remodeling science laboratories.

22 (g) Each lab school is designated a teacher education  
23 center and may provide inservice training to school district  
24 personnel. The Department of Education shall provide funds to  
25 the Lab School Trust Fund for this purpose from appropriations  
26 for inservice teacher education.

27 (h) A lab school to which a charter has been issued  
28 under s. 1002.33(5)(b) is eligible to receive funding for  
29 charter school capital outlay if it meets the eligibility  
30 requirements of s. 1013.62. If the lab school receives funds  
31 from charter school capital outlay, the school shall receive

1 capital outlay funds otherwise provided in this subsection  
 2 only to the extent that funds allocated pursuant to s. 1013.62  
 3 are insufficient to provide capital outlay funds to the lab  
 4 school at one-fifteenth of the cost per student station.

5 (10) IMPLEMENTATION.--The State Board of Education  
 6 shall adopt rules necessary to facilitate the implementation  
 7 of this section.

8 (11) EXCEPTIONS TO LAW.--To encourage innovative  
 9 practices and facilitate the mission of the lab schools, in  
 10 addition to the exceptions to law specified in s. 1001.23(2),  
 11 the following exceptions shall be permitted for lab schools:

12 (a) The methods and requirements of the following  
 13 statutes shall be held in abeyance: ss. 1001.30; 1001.31;  
 14 1001.32; 1001.33; 1001.34; 1001.35; 1001.36; 1001.361;  
 15 1001.362; 1001.363; 1001.37; 1001.371; 1001.372; 1001.38;  
 16 1001.39; 1001.395; 1001.40; 1001.41; 1001.44; 1001.46;  
 17 1001.461; 1001.462; 1001.463; 1001.464; 1001.47; 1001.48;  
 18 1001.49; 1001.50; 1001.51; 1006.12(1); 1006.21(3), (4);  
 19 1006.23; 1010.07(2); 1010.40; 1010.41; 1010.42; 1010.43;  
 20 1010.44; 1010.45; 1010.46; 1010.47; 1010.48; 1010.49; 1010.50;  
 21 1010.51; 1010.52; 1010.53; 1010.54; 1010.55; 1011.02(1)-(3),  
 22 (5); 1011.04; 1011.20; 1011.21; 1011.22; 1011.23; 1011.71;  
 23 1011.72; 1011.73; 1011.74; 1013.77; and 316.75.

24 (b) With the exception of s. 1001.42(16), s. 1001.42  
 25 shall be held in abeyance. Reference to district school boards  
 26 in s. 1001.42(16) shall mean the president of the university  
 27 or the president's designee.

28 Section 98. Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, is  
 29 created to read:

30 1002.33 Charter schools.--  
 31

1           (1) AUTHORIZATION.--Charter schools shall be part of  
 2 the state's program of public education. All charter schools  
 3 in Florida are public schools. A charter school may be formed  
 4 by creating a new school or converting an existing public  
 5 school to charter status. A public school may not use the term  
 6 charter in its name unless it has been approved under this  
 7 section.

8           (2) PURPOSE.--

9           (a) Charter schools shall fulfill the following  
 10 purposes:

11           1. Improve student learning and academic achievement.

12           2. Increase learning opportunities for all students,  
 13 with special emphasis on low-performing students.

14           3. Create new professional opportunities for teachers,  
 15 including ownership of the learning program at the school  
 16 site.

17           4. Encourage the use of innovative learning methods.

18           5. Require the measurement of learning outcomes.

19           (b) Charter schools may fulfill the following  
 20 purposes:

21           1. Create innovative measurement tools.

22           2. Provide rigorous competition within the public  
 23 school district to stimulate continual improvement in all  
 24 public schools.

25           3. Expand the capacity of the public school system.

26           (3) APPLICATION FOR CHARTER STATUS.--

27           (a) An application for a new charter school may be  
 28 made by an individual, teachers, parents, a group of  
 29 individuals, a municipality, or a legal entity organized under  
 30 the laws of this state.

31

1           (b) An application for a conversion charter school  
2 shall be made by the district school board, the principal,  
3 teachers, parents, and/or the school advisory council at an  
4 existing public school that has been in operation for at least  
5 2 years prior to the application to convert, including a  
6 public school-within-a-school that is designated as a school  
7 by the district school board. An application submitted  
8 proposing to convert an existing public school to a charter  
9 school shall demonstrate the support of at least 50 percent of  
10 the teachers employed at the school and 50 percent of the  
11 parents voting whose children are enrolled at the school,  
12 provided that a majority of the parents eligible to vote  
13 participate in the ballot process, according to rules adopted  
14 by the State Board of Education. A district school board  
15 denying an application for a conversion charter school shall  
16 provide notice of denial to the applicants in writing within  
17 30 days after the meeting at which the district school board  
18 denied the application. The notice must specify the exact  
19 reasons for denial and must provide documentation supporting  
20 those reasons. A private school, parochial school, or home  
21 education program shall not be eligible for charter school  
22 status.

23           (4) UNLAWFUL REPRISAL.--

24           (a) No district school board, or district school board  
25 employee who has control over personnel actions, shall take  
26 unlawful reprisal against another district school board  
27 employee because that employee is either directly or  
28 indirectly involved with an application to establish a charter  
29 school. As used in this subsection, the term "unlawful  
30 reprisal" means an action taken by a district school board or  
31 a school system employee against an employee who is directly

1 or indirectly involved in a lawful application to establish a  
2 charter school, which occurs as a direct result of that  
3 involvement, and which results in one or more of the  
4 following: disciplinary or corrective action; adverse transfer  
5 or reassignment, whether temporary or permanent; suspension,  
6 demotion, or dismissal; an unfavorable performance evaluation;  
7 a reduction in pay, benefits, or rewards; elimination of the  
8 employee's position absent of a reduction in workforce as a  
9 result of lack of moneys or work; or other adverse significant  
10 changes in duties or responsibilities that are inconsistent  
11 with the employee's salary or employment classification. The  
12 following procedures shall apply to an alleged unlawful  
13 reprisal that occurs as a consequence of an employee's direct  
14 or indirect involvement with an application to establish a  
15 charter school:

16 1. Within 60 days after the date upon which a reprisal  
17 prohibited by this subsection is alleged to have occurred, an  
18 employee may file a complaint with the Department of  
19 Education.

20 2. Within 3 working days after receiving a complaint  
21 under this section, the Department of Education shall  
22 acknowledge receipt of the complaint and provide copies of the  
23 complaint and any other relevant preliminary information  
24 available to each of the other parties named in the complaint,  
25 which parties shall each acknowledge receipt of such copies to  
26 the complainant.

27 3. If the Department of Education determines that the  
28 complaint demonstrates reasonable cause to suspect that an  
29 unlawful reprisal has occurred, the Department of Education  
30 shall conduct an investigation to produce a fact-finding  
31 report.

1           4. Within 90 days after receiving the complaint, the  
2 Department of Education shall provide the district school  
3 superintendent of the complainant's district and the  
4 complainant with a fact-finding report that may include  
5 recommendations to the parties or a proposed resolution of the  
6 complaint. The fact-finding report shall be presumed  
7 admissible in any subsequent or related administrative or  
8 judicial review.

9           5. If the Department of Education determines that  
10 reasonable grounds exist to believe that an unlawful reprisal  
11 has occurred, is occurring, or is to be taken, and is unable  
12 to conciliate a complaint within 60 days after receipt of the  
13 fact-finding report, the Department of Education shall  
14 terminate the investigation. Upon termination of any  
15 investigation, the Department of Education shall notify the  
16 complainant and the district school superintendent of the  
17 termination of the investigation, providing a summary of  
18 relevant facts found during the investigation and the reasons  
19 for terminating the investigation. A written statement under  
20 this paragraph is presumed admissible as evidence in any  
21 judicial or administrative proceeding.

22           6. The Department of Education shall either contract  
23 with the Division of Administrative Hearings under s. 120.65,  
24 or otherwise provide for a complaint for which the Department  
25 of Education determines reasonable grounds exist to believe  
26 that an unlawful reprisal has occurred, is occurring, or is to  
27 be taken, and is unable to conciliate, to be heard by a panel  
28 of impartial persons. Upon hearing the complaint, the panel  
29 shall make findings of fact and conclusions of law for a final  
30 decision by the Department of Education.

31

1 It shall be an affirmative defense to any action brought  
2 pursuant to this section that the adverse action was  
3 predicated upon grounds other than, and would have been taken  
4 absent, the employee's exercise of rights protected by this  
5 section.

6 (b) In any action brought under this section for which  
7 it is determined reasonable grounds exist to believe that an  
8 unlawful reprisal has occurred, is occurring, or is to be  
9 taken, the relief shall include the following:

10 1. Reinstatement of the employee to the same position  
11 held before the unlawful reprisal was commenced, or to an  
12 equivalent position, or payment of reasonable front pay as  
13 alternative relief.

14 2. Reinstatement of the employee's full fringe  
15 benefits and seniority rights, as appropriate.

16 3. Compensation, if appropriate, for lost wages,  
17 benefits, or other lost remuneration caused by the unlawful  
18 reprisal.

19 4. Payment of reasonable costs, including attorney's  
20 fees, to a substantially prevailing employee, or to the  
21 prevailing employer if the employee filed a frivolous action  
22 in bad faith.

23 5. Issuance of an injunction, if appropriate, by a  
24 court of competent jurisdiction.

25 6. Temporary reinstatement to the employee's former  
26 position or to an equivalent position, pending the final  
27 outcome of the complaint, if it is determined that the action  
28 was not made in bad faith or for a wrongful purpose, and did  
29 not occur after a district school board's initiation of a  
30 personnel action against the employee that includes  
31

1 documentation of the employee's violation of a disciplinary  
2 standard or performance deficiency.

3 (5) SPONSOR.--

4 (a) A district school board may sponsor a charter  
5 school in the county over which the district school board has  
6 jurisdiction.

7 (b) A state university may grant a charter to a lab  
8 school created under s. 1002.32 and shall be considered to be  
9 the school's sponsor. Such school shall be considered a  
10 charter lab school.

11 (c) The sponsor shall monitor and review the charter  
12 school in its progress towards the goals established in the  
13 charter.

14 (d) The sponsor shall monitor the revenues and  
15 expenditures of the charter school.

16 (e) The sponsor may approve a charter for a charter  
17 school before the applicant has secured space, equipment, or  
18 personnel, if the applicant indicates approval is necessary  
19 for it to raise working capital.

20 (f) The sponsor's policies shall not apply to a  
21 charter school.

22 (g) A sponsor shall ensure that the charter is  
23 innovative and consistent with the state education goals  
24 established by s. 1000.03(5).

25 (6) APPLICATION PROCESS AND REVIEW.--

26 (a) A district school board shall receive and review  
27 all applications for a charter school. A district school board  
28 shall receive and consider charter school applications  
29 received on or before October 1 of each calendar year for  
30 charter schools to be opened at the beginning of the school  
31 district's next school year, or to be opened at a time agreed

1 to by the applicant and the district school board. A district  
2 school board may receive applications later than this date if  
3 it chooses. A sponsor may not charge an applicant for a  
4 charter any fee for the processing or consideration of an  
5 application, and a sponsor may not base its consideration or  
6 approval of an application upon the promise of future payment  
7 of any kind.

8       1. In order to facilitate an accurate budget  
9 projection process, a district school board shall be held  
10 harmless for FTE students who are not included in the FTE  
11 projection due to approval of charter school applications  
12 after the FTE projection deadline. In a further effort to  
13 facilitate an accurate budget projection, within 15 calendar  
14 days after receipt of a charter school application, a district  
15 school board or other sponsor shall report to the Department  
16 of Education the name of the applicant entity, the proposed  
17 charter school location, and its projected FTE.

18       2. A district school board shall by a majority vote  
19 approve or deny an application no later than 60 calendar days  
20 after the application is received, unless the district school  
21 board and the applicant mutually agree to temporarily postpone  
22 the vote to a specific date, at which time the district school  
23 board shall by a majority vote approve or deny the  
24 application. If the district school board fails to act on the  
25 application, an applicant may appeal to the State Board of  
26 Education as provided in paragraph (b). If an application is  
27 denied, the district school board shall, within 10 calendar  
28 days, articulate in writing the specific reasons based upon  
29 good cause supporting its denial of the charter application.

30       3. For budget projection purposes, the district school  
31 board or other sponsor shall report to the Department of

1 Education the approval or denial of a charter application  
2 within 10 calendar days after such approval or denial. In the  
3 event of approval, the report to the Department of Education  
4 shall include the final projected FTE for the approved charter  
5 school.

6 4. Upon approval of a charter application, the initial  
7 startup shall commence with the beginning of the public school  
8 calendar for the district in which the charter is granted  
9 unless the district school board allows a waiver of this  
10 provision for good cause.

11 (b) An applicant may appeal any denial of that  
12 applicant's application or failure to act on an application to  
13 the State Board of Education no later than 30 calendar days  
14 after receipt of the district school board's decision or  
15 failure to act and shall notify the district school board of  
16 its appeal. Any response of the district school board shall  
17 be submitted to the State Board of Education within 30  
18 calendar days after notification of the appeal. Upon receipt  
19 of notification from the State Board of Education that a  
20 charter school applicant is filing an appeal, the Commissioner  
21 of Education shall convene a meeting of the Charter School  
22 Appeal Commission to study and make recommendations to the  
23 State Board of Education regarding its pending decision about  
24 the appeal. The commission shall forward its recommendation  
25 to the state board no later than 7 calendar days prior to the  
26 date on which the appeal is to be heard. The State Board of  
27 Education shall by majority vote accept or reject the decision  
28 of the district school board no later than 60 calendar days  
29 after an appeal is filed in accordance with State Board of  
30 Education rule. The Charter School Appeal Commission may  
31 reject an appeal submission for failure to comply with

1 procedural rules governing the appeals process. The rejection  
2 shall describe the submission errors. The appellant may have  
3 up to 15 calendar days from notice of rejection to resubmit an  
4 appeal that meets requirements of State Board of Education  
5 rule. An application for appeal submitted subsequent to such  
6 rejection shall be considered timely if the original appeal  
7 was filed within 30 calendar days after receipt of notice of  
8 the specific reasons for the district school board's denial of  
9 the charter application. The State Board of Education shall  
10 remand the application to the district school board with its  
11 written decision that the district school board approve or  
12 deny the application. The district school board shall  
13 implement the decision of the State Board of Education. The  
14 decision of the State Board of Education is not subject to the  
15 provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, chapter 120.

16 (c) The district school board shall act upon the  
17 decision of the State Board of Education within 30 calendar  
18 days after it is received. The State Board of Education's  
19 decision is a final action subject to judicial review.

20 (d)1. A Charter School Appeal Commission is  
21 established to assist the commissioner and the State Board of  
22 Education with a fair and impartial review of appeals by  
23 applicants whose charters have been denied or whose charter  
24 contracts have not been renewed by their sponsors.

25 2. The Charter School Appeal Commission may receive  
26 copies of the appeal documents forwarded to the State Board of  
27 Education, review the documents, gather other applicable  
28 information regarding the appeal, and make a written  
29 recommendation to the commissioner. The recommendation must  
30 state whether the appeal should be upheld or denied and  
31 include the reasons for the recommendation being offered. The

1 commissioner shall forward the recommendation to the State  
2 Board of Education no later than 7 calendar days prior to the  
3 date on which the appeal is to be heard. The state board must  
4 consider the commission's recommendation in making its  
5 decision, but is not bound by the recommendation. The  
6 decision of the Charter School Appeal Commission is not  
7 subject to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act,  
8 chapter 120.

9       3. The commissioner shall appoint the members of the  
10 Charter School Appeal Commission. Members shall serve without  
11 compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem  
12 expenses in conjunction with their service. One-half of the  
13 members must represent currently operating charter schools and  
14 one-half of the members must represent school districts. The  
15 commissioner or a named designee shall chair the Charter  
16 School Appeal Commission.

17       4. The chair shall convene meetings of the commission  
18 and shall ensure that the written recommendations are  
19 completed and forwarded in a timely manner. In cases where  
20 the commission cannot reach a decision, the chair shall make  
21 the written recommendation with justification, noting that the  
22 decision was rendered by the chair.

23       5. Commission members shall throughly review the  
24 materials presented to them from the appellant and the  
25 sponsor. The commission may request information to clarify  
26 the documentation presented to it. In the course of its  
27 review, the commission may facilitate the postponement of an  
28 appeal in those cases where additional time and communication  
29 may negate the need for a formal appeal and both parties  
30 agree, in writing, to postpone the appeal to the State Board  
31 of Education. A new date certain for the appeal shall then be

1 set based upon the rules and procedures of the State Board of  
2 Education. Commission members shall provide a written  
3 recommendation to the state board as to whether the appeal  
4 should be upheld or denied. A fact-based justification for  
5 the recommendation must be included. The chair must ensure  
6 that the written recommendation is submitted to the State  
7 Board of Education members no later than 7 calendar days prior  
8 to the date on which the appeal is to be heard. Both parties  
9 in the case shall also be provided a copy of the  
10 recommendation.

11 (e) The Department of Education may provide technical  
12 assistance to an applicant upon written request.

13 (f) In considering charter applications for a lab  
14 school, a state university shall consult with the district  
15 school board of the county in which the lab school is located.  
16 The decision of a state university may be appealed pursuant to  
17 the procedure established in this subsection.

18 (g) The terms and conditions for the operation of a  
19 charter school shall be set forth by the sponsor and the  
20 applicant in a written contractual agreement, called a  
21 charter. The sponsor shall not impose unreasonable rules or  
22 regulations that violate the intent of giving charter schools  
23 greater flexibility to meet educational goals. The applicant  
24 and sponsor shall have 6 months in which to mutually agree to  
25 the provisions of the charter. The Department of Education  
26 shall provide mediation services for any dispute regarding  
27 this section subsequent to the approval of a charter  
28 application and for any dispute relating to the approved  
29 charter, except disputes regarding charter school application  
30 denials. If the Commissioner of Education determines that the  
31 dispute cannot be settled through mediation, the dispute may

1 be appealed to an administrative law judge appointed by the  
2 Division of Administrative Hearings. The administrative law  
3 judge may rule on issues of equitable treatment of the charter  
4 school as a public school, whether proposed provisions of the  
5 charter violate the intended flexibility granted charter  
6 schools by statute, or on any other matter regarding this  
7 section except a charter school application denial, and shall  
8 award the prevailing party reasonable attorney's fees and  
9 costs incurred to be paid by the losing party. The costs of  
10 the administrative hearing shall be paid by the party whom the  
11 administrative law judge rules against.

12 (7) CHARTER.--The major issues involving the operation  
13 of a charter school shall be considered in advance and written  
14 into the charter. The charter shall be signed by the governing  
15 body of the charter school and the sponsor, following a public  
16 hearing to ensure community input.

17 (a) The charter shall address, and criteria for  
18 approval of the charter shall be based on:

19 1. The school's mission, the students to be served,  
20 and the ages and grades to be included.

21 2. The focus of the curriculum, the instructional  
22 methods to be used, any distinctive instructional techniques  
23 to be employed, and identification and acquisition of  
24 appropriate technologies needed to improve educational and  
25 administrative performance which include a means for promoting  
26 safe, ethical, and appropriate uses of technology which comply  
27 with legal and professional standards.

28 3. The current incoming baseline standard of student  
29 academic achievement, the outcomes to be achieved, and the  
30 method of measurement that will be used. The criteria listed  
31

1 in this subparagraph shall include a detailed description for  
2 each of the following:

3 a. How the baseline student academic achievement  
4 levels and prior rates of academic progress will be  
5 established.

6 b. How these baseline rates will be compared to rates  
7 of academic progress achieved by these same students while  
8 attending the charter school.

9 c. To the extent possible, how these rates of progress  
10 will be evaluated and compared with rates of progress of other  
11 closely comparable student populations.

12

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

18 4. The methods used to identify the educational  
19 strengths and needs of students and how well educational goals  
20 and performance standards are met by students attending the  
21 charter school. Included in the methods is a means for the  
22 charter school to ensure accountability to its constituents by  
23 analyzing student performance data and by evaluating the  
24 effectiveness and efficiency of its major educational  
25 programs. Students in charter schools shall, at a minimum,  
26 participate in the statewide assessment program created under  
27 s. 1008.22.

28 5. In secondary charter schools, a method for  
29 determining that a student has satisfied the requirements for  
30 graduation in s. 1003.43.

31

1           6. A method for resolving conflicts between the  
2 governing body of the charter school and the sponsor.

3           7. The admissions procedures and dismissal procedures,  
4 including the school's code of student conduct.

5           8. The ways by which the school will achieve a  
6 racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or  
7 within the racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the  
8 same school district.

9           9. The financial and administrative management of the  
10 school, including a reasonable demonstration of the  
11 professional experience or competence of those individuals or  
12 organizations applying to operate the charter school or those  
13 hired or retained to perform such professional services and  
14 the description of clearly delineated responsibilities and the  
15 policies and practices needed to effectively manage the  
16 charter school. A description of internal audit procedures and  
17 establishment of controls to ensure that financial resources  
18 are properly managed must be included. Both public sector and  
19 private sector professional experience shall be equally valid  
20 in such a consideration.

21           10. A description of procedures that identify various  
22 risks and provide for a comprehensive approach to reduce the  
23 impact of losses; plans to ensure the safety and security of  
24 students and staff; plans to identify, minimize, and protect  
25 others from violent or disruptive student behavior; and the  
26 manner in which the school will be insured, including whether  
27 or not the school will be required to have liability  
28 insurance, and, if so, the terms and conditions thereof and  
29 the amounts of coverage.

30           11. The term of the charter which shall provide for  
31 cancellation of the charter if insufficient progress has been

1 made in attaining the student achievement objectives of the  
2 charter and if it is not likely that such objectives can be  
3 achieved before expiration of the charter. The initial term of  
4 a charter shall be for 3, 4, or 5 years. In order to  
5 facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter  
6 school construction, charter schools that are operated by a  
7 municipality or other public entity as provided by law are  
8 eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by  
9 the district school board. A charter lab school is eligible  
10 for a charter for a term of up to 15 years. In addition, to  
11 facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter  
12 school construction, charter schools that are operated by a  
13 private, not-for-profit, s. 501(c)(3) status corporation are  
14 eligible for up to a 10-year charter, subject to approval by  
15 the district school board. Such long-term charters remain  
16 subject to annual review and may be terminated during the term  
17 of the charter, but only for specific good cause according to  
18 the provisions set forth in subsection (8).

19 12. The facilities to be used and their location.

20 13. The qualifications to be required of the teachers  
21 and the potential strategies used to recruit, hire, train, and  
22 retain qualified staff to achieve best value.

23 14. The governance structure of the school, including  
24 the status of the charter school as a public or private  
25 employer as required in paragraph (12)(i).

26 15. A timetable for implementing the charter which  
27 addresses the implementation of each element thereof and the  
28 date by which the charter shall be awarded in order to meet  
29 this timetable.

30 16. In the case of an existing public school being  
31 converted to charter status, alternative arrangements for

1 current students who choose not to attend the charter school  
2 and for current teachers who choose not to teach in the  
3 charter school after conversion in accordance with the  
4 existing collective bargaining agreement or district school  
5 board rule in the absence of a collective bargaining  
6 agreement. However, alternative arrangements shall not be  
7 required for current teachers who choose not to teach in a  
8 charter lab school, except as authorized by the employment  
9 policies of the state university which grants the charter to  
10 the lab school.

11 (b) A charter may be renewed every 5 school years,  
12 provided that a program review demonstrates that the criteria  
13 in paragraph (a) have been successfully accomplished and that  
14 none of the grounds for nonrenewal established by paragraph  
15 (8)(a) have been documented. In order to facilitate long-term  
16 financing for charter school construction, charter schools  
17 operating for a minimum of 2 years and demonstrating exemplary  
18 academic programming and fiscal management are eligible for a  
19 15-year charter renewal. Such long-term charter is subject to  
20 annual review and may be terminated during the term of the  
21 charter.

22 (c) A charter may be modified during its initial term  
23 or any renewal term upon the recommendation of the sponsor or  
24 the charter school governing board and the approval of both  
25 parties to the agreement.

26 (8) CAUSES FOR NONRENEWAL OR TERMINATION OF CHARTER.--

27 (a) At the end of the term of a charter, the sponsor  
28 may choose not to renew the charter for any of the following  
29 grounds:

30 1. Failure to meet the requirements for student  
31 performance stated in the charter.

1           2. Failure to meet generally accepted standards of  
2 fiscal management.

3           3. Violation of law.

4           4. Other good cause shown.

5           (b) During the term of a charter, the sponsor may  
6 terminate the charter for any of the grounds listed in  
7 paragraph (a).

8           (c) At least 90 days prior to renewing or terminating  
9 a charter, the sponsor shall notify the governing body of the  
10 school of the proposed action in writing. The notice shall  
11 state in reasonable detail the grounds for the proposed action  
12 and stipulate that the school's governing body may, within 14  
13 calendar days after receiving the notice, request an informal  
14 hearing before the sponsor. The sponsor shall conduct the  
15 informal hearing within 30 calendar days after receiving a  
16 written request. The charter school's governing body may,  
17 within 14 calendar days after receiving the sponsor's decision  
18 to terminate or refuse to renew the charter, appeal the  
19 decision pursuant to the procedure established in subsection  
20 (6).

21           (d) A charter may be terminated immediately if the  
22 sponsor determines that good cause has been shown or if the  
23 health, safety, or welfare of the students is threatened. The  
24 school district in which the charter school is located shall  
25 assume operation of the school under these circumstances. The  
26 charter school's governing board may, within 14 days after  
27 receiving the sponsor's decision to terminate the charter,  
28 appeal the decision pursuant to the procedure established in  
29 subsection (6).

30           (e) When a charter is not renewed or is terminated,  
31 the school shall be dissolved under the provisions of law

1 under which the school was organized, and any unencumbered  
2 public funds from the charter school shall revert to the  
3 district school board. In the event a charter school is  
4 dissolved or is otherwise terminated, all district school  
5 board property and improvements, furnishings, and equipment  
6 purchased with public funds shall automatically revert to full  
7 ownership by the district school board, subject to complete  
8 satisfaction of any lawful liens or encumbrances. Any  
9 unencumbered public funds from the charter school, district  
10 school board property and improvements, furnishings, and  
11 equipment purchased with public funds, or financial or other  
12 records pertaining to the charter school, in the possession of  
13 any person, entity, or holding company, other than the charter  
14 school, shall be held in trust upon the district school  
15 board's request, until any appeal status is resolved.

16 (f) If a charter is not renewed or is terminated, the  
17 charter school is responsible for all debts of the charter  
18 school. The district may not assume the debt from any contract  
19 for services made between the governing body of the school and  
20 a third party, except for a debt that is previously detailed  
21 and agreed upon in writing by both the district and the  
22 governing body of the school and that may not reasonably be  
23 assumed to have been satisfied by the district.

24 (g) If a charter is not renewed or is terminated, a  
25 student who attended the school may apply to, and shall be  
26 enrolled in, another public school. Normal application  
27 deadlines shall be disregarded under such circumstances.

28 (9) CHARTER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS.--

29 (a) A charter school shall be nonsectarian in its  
30 programs, admission policies, employment practices, and  
31 operations.

1        (b) A charter school shall admit students as provided  
2 in subsection (10).

3        (c) A charter school shall be accountable to its  
4 sponsor for performance as provided in subsection (7).

5        (d) A charter school shall not charge tuition or  
6 registration fees, except those fees normally charged by other  
7 public schools. However, a charter lab school may charge a  
8 student activity and service fee as authorized by s.  
9 1002.32(5).

10       (e) A charter school shall meet all applicable state  
11 and local health, safety, and civil rights requirements.

12       (f) A charter school shall not violate the  
13 antidiscrimination provisions of s. 1000.05.

14       (g) A charter school shall provide for an annual  
15 financial audit in accordance with s. 218.39.

16       (h) No organization shall hold more than 15 charters  
17 statewide.

18       (i) In order to provide financial information that is  
19 comparable to that reported for other public schools, charter  
20 schools are to maintain all financial records which constitute  
21 their accounting system:

22           1. In accordance with the accounts and codes  
23 prescribed in the most recent issuance of the publication  
24 titled "Financial and Program Cost Accounting and Reporting  
25 for Florida Schools"; or

26           2. At the discretion of the charter school governing  
27 board, a charter school may elect to follow generally accepted  
28 accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, but  
29 must reformat this information for reporting according to this  
30 paragraph.

31

1 Charter schools are to provide annual financial report and  
2 program cost report information in the state-required formats  
3 for inclusion in district reporting in compliance with s.  
4 1011.60(1). Charter schools that are operated by a  
5 municipality or are a component unit of a parent nonprofit  
6 organization may use the accounting system of the municipality  
7 or the parent, but must reformat this information for  
8 reporting according to this paragraph.

9 (j) The governing board of the charter school shall  
10 annually adopt and maintain an operating budget.

11 (k) The governing body of the charter school shall  
12 exercise continuing oversight over charter school operations  
13 and make annual progress reports to its sponsor, which upon  
14 verification shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of  
15 Education at the same time as other annual school  
16 accountability reports. The report shall contain at least the  
17 following information:

18 1. The charter school's progress towards achieving the  
19 goals outlined in its charter.

20 2. The information required in the annual school  
21 report pursuant to s. 1008.345.

22 3. Financial records of the charter school, including  
23 revenues and expenditures.

24 4. Salary and benefit levels of charter school  
25 employees.

26 (l) A charter school shall not levy taxes or issue  
27 bonds secured by tax revenues.

28 (m) A charter school shall provide instruction for at  
29 least the number of days required by law for other public  
30 schools, and may provide instruction for additional days.

31 (10) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.--

1           (a) A charter school shall be open to any student  
2 covered in an interdistrict agreement or residing in the  
3 school district in which the charter school is located;  
4 however, in the case of a charter lab school, the charter lab  
5 school shall be open to any student eligible to attend the lab  
6 school as provided in s. 1002.32 or who resides in the school  
7 district in which the charter lab school is located. Any  
8 eligible student shall be allowed interdistrict transfer to  
9 attend a charter school when based on good cause.

10           (b) The charter school shall enroll an eligible  
11 student who submits a timely application, unless the number of  
12 applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade  
13 level, or building. In such case, all applicants shall have an  
14 equal chance of being admitted through a random selection  
15 process.

16           (c) When a public school converts to charter status,  
17 enrollment preference shall be given to students who would  
18 have otherwise attended that public school.

19           (d) A charter school may give enrollment preference to  
20 the following student populations:

21           1. Students who are siblings of a student enrolled in  
22 the charter school.

23           2. Students who are the children of a member of the  
24 governing board of the charter school.

25           3. Students who are the children of an employee of the  
26 charter school.

27           (e) A charter school may limit the enrollment process  
28 only to target the following student populations:

29           1. Students within specific age groups or grade  
30 levels.

31

- 1           2. Students considered at risk of dropping out of  
2 school or academic failure. Such students shall include  
3 exceptional education students.
- 4           3. Students enrolling in a charter  
5 school-in-the-workplace or charter school-in-a-municipality  
6 established pursuant to subsection (16).
- 7           4. Students residing within a reasonable distance of  
8 the charter school, as described in paragraph (21)(c). Such  
9 students shall be subject to a random lottery and to the  
10 racial/ethnic balance provisions described in subparagraph  
11 (7)(a)8. or any federal provisions that require a school to  
12 achieve a racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it  
13 serves or within the racial/ethnic range of other public  
14 schools in the same school district.
- 15           5. Students who meet reasonable academic, artistic, or  
16 other eligibility standards established by the charter school  
17 and included in the charter school application and charter or,  
18 in the case of existing charter schools, standards that are  
19 consistent with the school's mission and purpose. Such  
20 standards shall be in accordance with current state law and  
21 practice in public schools and may not discriminate against  
22 otherwise qualified individuals.
- 23           6. Students articulating from one charter school to  
24 another pursuant to an articulation agreement between the  
25 charter schools that has been approved by the sponsor.
- 26           (f) Students with handicapping conditions and students  
27 served in English for Speakers of Other Languages programs  
28 shall have an equal opportunity of being selected for  
29 enrollment in a charter school.  
30  
31

1           (g) A student may withdraw from a charter school at  
2 any time and enroll in another public school as determined by  
3 district school board rule.

4           (h) The capacity of the charter school shall be  
5 determined annually by the governing board, in conjunction  
6 with the sponsor, of the charter school in consideration of  
7 the factors identified in this subsection.

8           (11) PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR  
9 ACTIVITIES.--A charter school student is eligible to  
10 participate in an interscholastic extracurricular activity at  
11 the public school to which the student would be otherwise  
12 assigned to attend pursuant to s. 1006.15(3)(d).

13           (12) EMPLOYEES OF CHARTER SCHOOLS.--

14           (a) A charter school shall select its own employees. A  
15 charter school may contract with its sponsor for the services  
16 of personnel employed by the sponsor.

17           (b) Charter school employees shall have the option to  
18 bargain collectively. Employees may collectively bargain as a  
19 separate unit or as part of the existing district collective  
20 bargaining unit as determined by the structure of the charter  
21 school.

22           (c) The employees of a conversion charter school shall  
23 remain public employees for all purposes, unless such  
24 employees choose not to do so.

25           (d) The teachers at a charter school may choose to be  
26 part of a professional group that subcontracts with the  
27 charter school to operate the instructional program under the  
28 auspices of a partnership or cooperative that they  
29 collectively own. Under this arrangement, the teachers would  
30 not be public employees.

31

1           (e) Employees of a school district may take leave to  
2 accept employment in a charter school upon the approval of the  
3 district school board. While employed by the charter school  
4 and on leave that is approved by the district school board,  
5 the employee may retain seniority accrued in that school  
6 district and may continue to be covered by the benefit  
7 programs of that school district, if the charter school and  
8 the district school board agree to this arrangement and its  
9 financing. School districts shall not require resignations of  
10 teachers desiring to teach in a charter school. This paragraph  
11 shall not prohibit a district school board from approving  
12 alternative leave arrangements consistent with chapter 1012.

13           (f) Teachers employed by or under contract to a  
14 charter school shall be certified as required by chapter 1012.  
15 A charter school governing board may employ or contract with  
16 skilled selected noncertified personnel to provide  
17 instructional services or to assist instructional staff  
18 members as education paraprofessionals in the same manner as  
19 defined in chapter 1012, and as provided by State Board of  
20 Education rule for charter school governing boards. A charter  
21 school may not knowingly employ an individual to provide  
22 instructional services or to serve as an education  
23 paraprofessional if the individual's certification or  
24 licensure as an educator is suspended or revoked by this or  
25 any other state. A charter school may not knowingly employ an  
26 individual who has resigned from a school district in lieu of  
27 disciplinary action with respect to child welfare or safety,  
28 or who has been dismissed for just cause by any school  
29 district with respect to child welfare or safety. The  
30 qualifications of teachers shall be disclosed to parents.  
31

1           (g) A charter school shall employ or contract with  
2 employees who have been fingerprinted as provided in s.  
3 1012.32. Members of the governing board of the charter school  
4 shall also be fingerprinted in a manner similar to that  
5 provided in s. 1012.32.

6           (h) For the purposes of tort liability, the governing  
7 body and employees of a charter school shall be governed by s.  
8 768.28.

9           (i) A charter school shall organize as, or be operated  
10 by, a nonprofit organization. A charter school may be operated  
11 by a municipality or other public entity as provided for by  
12 law. As such, the charter school may be either a private or a  
13 public employer. As a public employer, a charter school may  
14 participate in the Florida Retirement System upon application  
15 and approval as a "covered group" under s. 121.021(34). If a  
16 charter school participates in the Florida Retirement System,  
17 the charter school employees shall be compulsory members of  
18 the Florida Retirement System. As either a private or a public  
19 employer, a charter school may contract for services with an  
20 individual or group of individuals who are organized as a  
21 partnership or a cooperative. Individuals or groups of  
22 individuals who contract their services to the charter school  
23 are not public employees.

24           (13) NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.--

25           (a) The number of newly created charter schools is  
26 limited to no more than 28 in each school district that has  
27 100,000 or more students, no more than 20 in each school  
28 district that has 50,000 to 99,999 students, and no more than  
29 12 in each school district with fewer than 50,000 students.

30  
31

1           **(b) An existing public school which converts to a**  
2 **charter school shall not be counted towards the limit**  
3 **established by paragraph (a).**

4           **(c) Notwithstanding any limit established by this**  
5 **subsection, a district school board or a charter school**  
6 **applicant shall have the right to request an increase of the**  
7 **limit on the number of charter schools authorized to be**  
8 **established within the district from the State Board of**  
9 **Education.**

10           **(d) Whenever a municipality has submitted charter**  
11 **applications for the establishment of a charter school feeder**  
12 **pattern (elementary, middle, and senior high schools), and**  
13 **upon approval of each individual charter application by the**  
14 **district school board, such applications shall then be**  
15 **designated as one charter school for all purposes listed**  
16 **pursuant to this section.**

17           **(14) CHARTER SCHOOL COOPERATIVES.--Charter schools may**  
18 **enter into cooperative agreements to form charter school**  
19 **cooperative organizations that may provide the following**  
20 **services: charter school planning and development, direct**  
21 **instructional services, and contracts with charter school**  
22 **governing boards to provide personnel administrative services,**  
23 **payroll services, human resource management, evaluation and**  
24 **assessment services, teacher preparation, and professional**  
25 **development.**

26           **(15) CHARTER SCHOOL FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS;**  
27 **INDEMNIFICATION OF THE STATE AND SCHOOL DISTRICT; CREDIT OR**  
28 **TAXING POWER NOT TO BE PLEDGED.--Any arrangement entered into**  
29 **to borrow or otherwise secure funds for a charter school**  
30 **authorized in this section from a source other than the state**  
31 **or a school district shall indemnify the state and the school**

1 district from any and all liability, including, but not  
2 limited to, financial responsibility for the payment of the  
3 principal or interest. Any loans, bonds, or other financial  
4 agreements are not obligations of the state or the school  
5 district but are obligations of the charter school authority  
6 and are payable solely from the sources of funds pledged by  
7 such agreement. The credit or taxing power of the state or the  
8 school district shall not be pledged and no debts shall be  
9 payable out of any moneys except those of the legal entity in  
10 possession of a valid charter approved by a district school  
11 board pursuant to this section.

12 (16) CHARTER SCHOOLS-IN-THE-WORKPLACE; CHARTER  
13 SCHOOLS-IN-A-MUNICIPALITY.--

14 (a) In order to increase business partnerships in  
15 education, to reduce school and classroom overcrowding  
16 throughout the state, and to offset the high costs for  
17 educational facilities construction, the Legislature intends  
18 to encourage the formation of business partnership schools or  
19 satellite learning centers and municipal-operated schools  
20 through charter school status.

21 (b) A charter school-in-the-workplace may be  
22 established when a business partner provides the school  
23 facility to be used; enrolls students based upon a random  
24 lottery that involves all of the children of employees of that  
25 business or corporation who are seeking enrollment, as  
26 provided for in subsection (10); and enrolls students  
27 according to the racial/ethnic balance provisions described in  
28 subparagraph (7)(a)8. Any portion of a facility used for a  
29 public charter school shall be exempt from ad valorem taxes,  
30 as provided for in s. 1013.54, for the duration of its use as  
31 a public school.

1           (c) A charter school-in-a-municipality designation may  
2 be granted to a municipality that possesses a charter; enrolls  
3 students based upon a random lottery that involves all of the  
4 children of the residents of that municipality who are seeking  
5 enrollment, as provided for in subsection (10); and enrolls  
6 students according to the racial/ethnic balance provisions  
7 described in subparagraph (7)(a)8. Any portion of the land and  
8 facility used for a public charter school shall be exempt from  
9 ad valorem taxes, as provided for in s. 1013.54, for the  
10 duration of its use as a public school.

11           (d) As used in this subsection, the terms "business  
12 partner" or "municipality" may include more than one business  
13 or municipality to form a charter school-in-the-workplace or  
14 charter school-in-a-municipality.

15           (17) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.--

16           (a) A charter school shall operate in accordance with  
17 its charter and shall be exempt from all statutes in chapters  
18 1000-1013. However, a charter school shall be in compliance  
19 with the following statutes in chapters 1000-1013:

20           1. Those statutes specifically applying to charter  
21 schools, including this section.

22           2. Those statutes pertaining to the student assessment  
23 program and school grading system.

24           3. Those statutes pertaining to the provision of  
25 services to students with disabilities.

26           4. Those statutes pertaining to civil rights,  
27 including s. 1000.05, relating to discrimination.

28           5. Those statutes pertaining to student health,  
29 safety, and welfare.

30           (b) Additionally, a charter school shall be in  
31 compliance with the following statutes:

1           1. Section 286.011, relating to public meetings and  
2 records, public inspection, and criminal and civil penalties.

3           2. Chapter 119, relating to public records.

4           (18) FUNDING.--Students enrolled in a charter school,  
5 regardless of the sponsorship, shall be funded as if they are  
6 in a basic program or a special program, the same as students  
7 enrolled in other public schools in the school district.  
8 Funding for a charter lab school shall be as provided in s.  
9 1002.32.

10           (a) Each charter school shall report its student  
11 enrollment to the district school board as required in s.  
12 1011.62, and in accordance with the definitions in s. 1011.61.  
13 The district school board shall include each charter school's  
14 enrollment in the district's report of student enrollment. All  
15 charter schools submitting student record information required  
16 by the Department of Education shall comply with the  
17 Department of Education's guidelines for electronic data  
18 formats for such data, and all districts shall accept  
19 electronic data that complies with the Department of  
20 Education's electronic format.

21           (b) The basis for the agreement for funding students  
22 enrolled in a charter school shall be the sum of the school  
23 district's operating funds from the Florida Education Finance  
24 Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General  
25 Appropriations Act, including gross state and local funds,  
26 discretionary lottery funds, and funds from the school  
27 district's current operating discretionary millage levy;  
28 divided by total funded weighted full-time equivalent students  
29 in the school district; multiplied by the weighted full-time  
30 equivalent students for the charter school. Charter schools  
31 whose students or programs meet the eligibility criteria in

1 law shall be entitled to their proportionate share of  
2 categorical program funds included in the total funds  
3 available in the Florida Education Finance Program by the  
4 Legislature, including transportation. Total funding for each  
5 charter school shall be recalculated during the year to  
6 reflect the revised calculations under the Florida Education  
7 Finance Program by the state and the actual weighted full-time  
8 equivalent students reported by the charter school during the  
9 full-time equivalent student survey periods designated by the  
10 Commissioner of Education.

11 (c) If the district school board is providing programs  
12 or services to students funded by federal funds, any eligible  
13 students enrolled in charter schools in the school district  
14 shall be provided federal funds for the same level of service  
15 provided students in the schools operated by the district  
16 school board. Pursuant to provisions of 20 U.S.C. 8061 s.  
17 10306, all charter schools shall receive all federal funding  
18 for which the school is otherwise eligible, including Title I  
19 funding, not later than 5 months after the charter school  
20 first opens and within 5 months after any subsequent expansion  
21 of enrollment.

22 (d) District school boards shall make every effort to  
23 ensure that charter schools receive timely and efficient  
24 reimbursement, including processing paperwork required to  
25 access special state and federal funding for which they may be  
26 eligible. The district school board may distribute funds to a  
27 charter school for up to 3 months based on the projected  
28 full-time equivalent student membership of the charter school.  
29 Thereafter, the results of full-time equivalent student  
30 membership surveys shall be used in adjusting the amount of  
31 funds distributed monthly to the charter school for the

1 remainder of the fiscal year. The payment shall be issued no  
2 later than 10 working days after the district school board  
3 receives a distribution of state or federal funds. If a  
4 warrant for payment is not issued within 30 working days after  
5 receipt of funding by the district school board, the school  
6 district shall pay to the charter school, in addition to the  
7 amount of the scheduled disbursement, interest at a rate of 1  
8 percent per month calculated on a daily basis on the unpaid  
9 balance from the expiration of the 30-day period until such  
10 time as the warrant is issued.

11 (19) FACILITIES.--

12 (a) A charter school shall utilize facilities which  
13 comply with the State Uniform Building Code for Public  
14 Educational Facilities Construction adopted pursuant to s.  
15 1013.37 or with applicable state minimum building codes  
16 pursuant to chapter 553 and state minimum fire protection  
17 codes pursuant to s. 633.025, as adopted by the authority in  
18 whose jurisdiction the facility is located.

19 (b) Any facility, or portion thereof, used to house a  
20 charter school whose charter has been approved by the sponsor  
21 and the governing board, pursuant to subsection (7), shall be  
22 exempt from ad valorem taxes pursuant to s. 196.1983.

23 (c) Charter school facilities shall utilize facilities  
24 which comply with the Florida Building Code, pursuant to  
25 chapter 553, and the Florida Fire Prevention Code, pursuant to  
26 chapter 633.

27 (d) Charter school facilities are exempt from  
28 assessments of fees for building permits, except as provided  
29 in s. 553.80, and from assessments of impact fees or service  
30 availability fees.

31

1        (e) If a district school board facility or property is  
2 available because it is surplus, marked for disposal, or  
3 otherwise unused, it shall be provided for a charter school's  
4 use on the same basis as it is made available to other public  
5 schools in the district. A charter school receiving property  
6 from the school district may not sell or dispose of such  
7 property without written permission of the school district.  
8 Similarly, for an existing public school converting to charter  
9 status, no rental or leasing fee for the existing facility or  
10 for the property normally inventoried to the conversion school  
11 may be charged by the district school board to the parents and  
12 teachers organizing the charter school. The charter organizers  
13 shall agree to reasonable maintenance provisions in order to  
14 maintain the facility in a manner similar to district school  
15 board standards. The Public Education Capital Outlay  
16 maintenance funds or any other maintenance funds generated by  
17 the facility operated as a conversion school shall remain with  
18 the conversion school.

19        (20) CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDING.--Charter schools are  
20 eligible for capital outlay funds pursuant to s. 1013.62.

21        (21) SERVICES.--

22        (a) A sponsor shall provide certain administrative and  
23 educational services to charter schools. These services shall  
24 include contract management services, full-time equivalent and  
25 data reporting services, exceptional student education  
26 administration services, test administration services,  
27 processing of teacher certificate data services, and  
28 information services. Any administrative fee charged by the  
29 sponsor for the provision of services shall be limited to 5  
30 percent of the available funds defined in paragraph (18)(b).  
31

1           (b) If goods and services are made available to the  
2 charter school through the contract with the school district,  
3 they shall be provided to the charter school at a rate no  
4 greater than the district's actual cost. To maximize the use  
5 of state funds, school districts shall allow charter schools  
6 to participate in the sponsor's bulk purchasing program if  
7 applicable.

8           (c) Transportation of charter school students shall be  
9 provided by the charter school consistent with the  
10 requirements of part I.e. of chapter 1006. The governing body  
11 of the charter school may provide transportation through an  
12 agreement or contract with the district school board, a  
13 private provider, or parents. The charter school and the  
14 sponsor shall cooperate in making arrangements that ensure  
15 that transportation is not a barrier to equal access for all  
16 students residing within a reasonable distance of the charter  
17 school as determined in its charter.

18           (22) PUBLIC INFORMATION ON CHARTER SCHOOLS.--The  
19 Department of Education shall provide information to the  
20 public, directly and through sponsors, both on how to form and  
21 operate a charter school and on how to enroll in charter  
22 schools once they are created. This information shall include  
23 a standard application format which shall include the  
24 information specified in subsection (7). This application  
25 format may be used by chartering entities.

26           (23) CHARTER SCHOOL REVIEW PANEL AND LEGISLATIVE  
27 REVIEW.--

28           (a) The Department of Education shall regularly  
29 convene a Charter School Review Panel in order to review  
30 issues, practices, and policies regarding charter schools. The  
31 composition of the review panel shall include individuals with

1 experience in finance, administration, law, education, and  
2 school governance, and individuals familiar with charter  
3 school construction and operation. The panel shall include two  
4 appointees each from the Commissioner of Education, the  
5 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
6 Representatives. The Governor shall appoint three members of  
7 the panel and shall designate the chair. Each member of the  
8 panel shall serve a 1-year term, unless renewed by the office  
9 making the appointment. The panel shall make recommendations  
10 to the Legislature, to the Department of Education, to charter  
11 schools, and to school districts for improving charter school  
12 operations and oversight and for ensuring best business  
13 practices at and fair business relationships with charter  
14 schools.

15 (b) The Legislature shall review the operation of  
16 charter schools during the 2005 Regular Session of the  
17 Legislature.

18 (24) ANALYSIS OF CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE.--Upon  
19 receipt of the annual report required by paragraph (9)(k), the  
20 Department of Education shall provide to the State Board of  
21 Education, the Commissioner of Education, the President of the  
22 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives an  
23 analysis and comparison of the overall performance of charter  
24 school students, to include all students whose scores are  
25 counted as part of the statewide assessment program, versus  
26 comparable public school students in the district as  
27 determined by the statewide assessment program currently  
28 administered in the school district, and other assessments  
29 administered pursuant to s. 1008.22(3).

30 (25) CONVERSION CHARTER SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM.--  
31

- 1        (a) The conversion charter school pilot program is  
2 hereby established with the intent to provide incentives for  
3 local school districts to approve conversion charter schools.
- 4        (b) The conversion charter school pilot program shall  
5 be a statewide pilot program in which 10 schools shall be  
6 selected based on a competitive application process in  
7 accordance with this section.
- 8        (c) The purpose of the pilot program is to produce  
9 significant improvements in student achievement and school  
10 management, to encourage and measure the use of innovative  
11 learning methods, and to make the school the unit for  
12 improvement.
- 13        (d) Each school principal or a majority of the parents  
14 of students attending the school, a majority of the school's  
15 teachers, or a majority of the members of the school advisory  
16 council may apply to the school district to participate in  
17 this pilot program on forms which shall be provided by the  
18 Department of Education. The forms shall include  
19 acknowledgment by the school principal of applicable  
20 provisions of this section and s. 1013.62. For purposes of  
21 this paragraph, "a majority of the parents of students  
22 attending the school" means more than 50 percent of the  
23 parents voting whose children are enrolled at the school,  
24 provided that a majority of the parents eligible to vote  
25 participate in the ballot process; and "a majority of the  
26 school's teachers" means more than 50 percent of the teachers  
27 employed at the school, according to procedures established by  
28 rule of the State Board of Education pursuant to subsections  
29 (3) and (4).
- 30        (e) A person or group who has applied to participate  
31 in the pilot program created by this section, pursuant to

1 paragraph (d), shall not be subject to an unlawful reprisal,  
2 as defined by paragraph (4)(a), as a consequence of such  
3 application. The procedures established by subsections (3) and  
4 (4) shall apply to any alleged unlawful reprisal which occurs  
5 as a consequence of such application.

6 (f) A district school board shall receive and review  
7 all applications by school principals, parents, teachers, or  
8 school advisory council members to participate in the pilot  
9 project; shall select the best applications; and shall submit  
10 these applications, together with the district school board's  
11 letter of endorsement and commitment of support and  
12 cooperation toward the success of program implementation, for  
13 review by the statewide selection panel established pursuant  
14 to paragraph (g).

15 (g) A conversion charter school pilot program  
16 statewide selection panel is established. The panel shall be  
17 comprised of the following nine members who are not elected  
18 public officials:

- 19 1. Three members shall be appointed by the Governor.  
20 2. Two members shall be appointed by the Commissioner  
21 of Education.  
22 3. Two members shall be appointed by the President of  
23 the Senate.  
24 4. Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of  
25 the House of Representatives.

26  
27 The panel shall review the conversion charter school pilot  
28 program applications submitted by the district school boards  
29 and shall select the 10 applications which the panel deems  
30 best comply with the purpose of the program pursuant to  
31 paragraph (c).

1        (h) Each district school board in which there is a  
2 school selected by the statewide panel for participation in  
3 the pilot program shall receive a grant as provided in the  
4 General Appropriations Act:

5            1. One hundred thousand dollars for planning and  
6 development for each conversion charter school selected; and

7            2.a. Eighty thousand dollars for each conversion  
8 charter school selected with 500 or fewer students;

9            b. One hundred thousand dollars for each conversion  
10 charter school selected with more than 500 but fewer than  
11 1,001 students; or

12           c. One hundred twenty thousand dollars for each  
13 conversion charter school selected with more than 1,000  
14 students.

15  
16 The Commissioner of Education may reduce the district's FEFP  
17 funding entitlement by the amount of the grant awarded under  
18 this subsection if he or she determines that the district has  
19 failed to comply with its letter of endorsement and commitment  
20 of support and cooperation submitted under paragraph (f).

21           (i) Each conversion charter school selected for  
22 participation in the pilot program shall make annual progress  
23 reports to the district school board and the Commissioner of  
24 Education detailing the school's progress in achieving the  
25 purpose of the program as described in paragraph (c).

26           (26) RULEMAKING.--The Department of Education, after  
27 consultation with school districts and charter school  
28 directors, shall recommend that the State Board of Education  
29 adopt rules to implement specific subsections of this section.  
30 Such rules shall require minimum paperwork and shall not limit  
31 charter school flexibility authorized by statute.

1           Section 99. Section 1002.34, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1002.34 Charter technical career centers.--

4           (1) AUTHORIZATION.--The Legislature finds that the  
5 establishment of charter technical career centers can assist  
6 in promoting advances and innovations in workforce preparation  
7 and economic development. A charter technical career center  
8 may provide a learning environment that better serves the  
9 needs of a specific population group or a group of  
10 occupations, thus promoting diversity and choices within the  
11 public education and public postsecondary technical education  
12 community in this state. Therefore, the creation of such  
13 centers is authorized as part of the state's program of public  
14 education. A charter technical career center may be formed by  
15 creating a new school or converting an existing school  
16 district or community college program to charter technical  
17 status.

18           (2) PURPOSE.--The purpose of a charter technical  
19 career center is to:

20           (a) Develop a competitive workforce to support local  
21 business and industry and economic development.

22           (b) Create a training and education model that is  
23 reflective of marketplace realities.

24           (c) Offer a continuum of career educational  
25 opportunities using a school-to-work, tech-prep, technical,  
26 academy, and magnet school model.

27           (d) Provide career pathways for lifelong learning and  
28 career mobility.

29           (e) Enhance career and technical training.

30           (3) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

31

1           (a) "Charter technical career center" or "center"  
2 means a public school or a public technical center operated  
3 under a charter granted by a district school board or  
4 community college board of trustees or a consortium, including  
5 one or more district school boards and community college  
6 boards of trustees, that includes the district in which the  
7 facility is located, that is nonsectarian in its programs,  
8 admission policies, employment practices, and operations, and  
9 is managed by a board of directors.

10           (b) "Sponsor" means a district school board, a  
11 community college board of trustees, or a consortium of one or  
12 more of each.

13           (4) CHARTER.--A sponsor may designate centers as  
14 provided in this section. An application to establish a  
15 center may be submitted by a sponsor or another organization  
16 that is determined, by rule of the State Board of Education,  
17 to be appropriate. However, an independent school is not  
18 eligible for status as a center. The charter must be signed  
19 by the governing body of the center and the sponsor, and must  
20 be approved by the district school board and community college  
21 board of trustees in whose geographic region the facility is  
22 located. If a charter technical career center is established  
23 by the conversion to charter status of a public technical  
24 center formerly governed by a district school board, the  
25 charter status of that center takes precedence in any question  
26 of governance. The governance of the center or of any program  
27 within the center remains with its board of directors unless  
28 the board agrees to a change in governance or its charter is  
29 revoked as provided in subsection (15). Such a conversion  
30 charter technical career center is not affected by a change in  
31 the governance of public technical centers or of programs

- 1 within other centers that are or have been governed by  
2 district school boards. A charter technical career center, or  
3 any program within such a center, that was governed by a  
4 district school board and transferred to a community college  
5 prior to the effective date of this act is not affected by  
6 this provision. An applicant who wishes to establish a center  
7 must submit to the district school board or community college  
8 board of trustees, or a consortium of one or more of each, an  
9 application that includes:
- 10       (a) The name of the proposed center.
- 11       (b) The proposed structure of the center, including a  
12 list of proposed members of the board of directors or a  
13 description of the qualifications for and method of their  
14 appointment or election.
- 15       (c) The workforce development goals of the center, the  
16 curriculum to be offered, and the outcomes and the methods of  
17 assessing the extent to which the outcomes are met.
- 18       (d) The admissions policy and criteria for evaluating  
19 the admission of students.
- 20       (e) A description of the staff responsibilities and  
21 the proposed qualifications of the teaching staff.
- 22       (f) A description of the procedures to be implemented  
23 to ensure significant involvement of representatives of  
24 business and industry in the operation of the center.
- 25       (g) A method for determining whether a student has  
26 satisfied the requirements for graduation specified in s.  
27 1003.43 and for completion of a postsecondary certificate or  
28 degree.
- 29       (h) A method for granting secondary and postsecondary  
30 diplomas, certificates, and degrees.
- 31

1           (i) A description of and address for the physical  
2 facility in which the center will be located.

3           (j) A method of resolving conflicts between the  
4 governing body of the center and the sponsor and between  
5 consortium members, if applicable.

6           (k) A method for reporting student data as required by  
7 law and rule.

8           (l) Other information required by the district school  
9 board or community college board of trustees.

10

11 Students at a center must meet the same testing and academic  
12 performance standards as those established by law and rule for  
13 students at public schools and public technical centers. The  
14 students must also meet any additional assessment indicators  
15 that are included within the charter approved by the district  
16 school board or community college board of trustees.

17

18           (5) APPLICATION.--An application to establish a center  
19 must be submitted by February 1 of the year preceding the  
20 school year in which the center will begin operation. The  
21 sponsor must review the application and make a final decision  
22 on whether to approve the application and grant the charter by  
23 March 1, and may condition the granting of a charter on the  
24 center's taking certain actions or maintaining certain  
25 conditions. Such actions and conditions must be provided to  
26 the applicant in writing. The district school board or  
27 community college board of trustees is not required to issue a  
28 charter to any person.

29

30           (6) SPONSOR.--A district school board or community  
31 college board of trustees or a consortium of one or more of  
each may sponsor a center in the county in which the board has  
jurisdiction.

1           (a) A sponsor must review all applications for centers  
2 received through at least February 1 of each calendar year for  
3 centers to be opened at the beginning of the sponsor's next  
4 school year. A sponsor may receive applications later than  
5 this date if it so chooses. To facilitate an accurate budget  
6 projection process, a sponsor shall be held harmless for FTE  
7 students who are not included in the FTE projection due to  
8 approval of applications after the FTE projection deadline. A  
9 sponsor must, by a majority vote, approve or deny an  
10 application no later than 60 days after the application is  
11 received. If an application is denied, the sponsor must,  
12 within 10 days, notify the applicant in writing of the  
13 specific reasons for denial, which must be based upon good  
14 cause. Upon approval of a charter application, the initial  
15 startup must be consistent with the beginning of the public  
16 school or community college calendar for the district in which  
17 the charter is granted, unless the sponsor allows a waiver of  
18 this provision for good cause.

19           (b) An applicant may appeal any denial of its  
20 application to the State Board of Education within 30 days  
21 after the sponsor's denial and shall notify the sponsor of its  
22 appeal. Any response of the sponsor must be submitted to the  
23 state board within 30 days after notification of the appeal.  
24 The State Board of Education must, by majority vote, accept or  
25 reject the decision of the sponsor no later than 60 days after  
26 an appeal is filed, pursuant to State Board of Education rule.  
27 The State Board of Education may reject an appeal for failure  
28 to comply with procedural rules governing the appeals process,  
29 and the rejection must describe the submission errors. The  
30 appellant may have up to 15 days after notice of rejection to  
31 resubmit an appeal. An application for appeal submitted after

1 a rejection is timely if the original appeal was filed within  
2 30 days after the sponsor's denial. The State Board of  
3 Education shall remand the application to the sponsor with a  
4 written recommendation that the sponsor approve or deny the  
5 application, consistent with the state board's decision. The  
6 decision of the State Board of Education is not subject to the  
7 provisions of chapter 120.

8 (c) The sponsor must act upon the recommendation of  
9 the State Board of Education within 30 days after it is  
10 received, unless the sponsor determines by competent  
11 substantial evidence that approving the state board's  
12 recommendation would be contrary to law or the best interests  
13 of the students or the community. The sponsor must notify the  
14 applicant in writing concerning the specific reasons for its  
15 failure to follow the state board's recommendation. The  
16 sponsor's action on the state board's recommendation is a  
17 final action, subject to judicial review.

18 (d) The Department of Education may provide technical  
19 assistance to an applicant upon written request.

20 (e) The terms and conditions for the operation of a  
21 center must be agreed to by the sponsor and the applicant in a  
22 written contract. The sponsor may not impose unreasonable  
23 requirements that violate the intent of giving centers greater  
24 flexibility to meet educational goals. The applicant and  
25 sponsor must reach an agreement on the provisions of the  
26 contract or the application is deemed denied.

27 (f) The sponsor shall monitor and review the center's  
28 progress towards charter goals and shall monitor the center's  
29 revenues and expenditures.

30 (7) LEGAL ENTITY.--A center must organize as a  
31 nonprofit organization and adopt a name and corporate seal. A

1 center is a body corporate and politic, with all powers to  
2 implement its charter program. The center may:  
3 (a) Be a private or a public employer.  
4 (b) Sue and be sued, but only to the same extent and  
5 upon the same conditions that a public entity can be sued.  
6 (c) Acquire real property by purchase, lease, lease  
7 with an option to purchase, or gift, to use as a center  
8 facility.  
9 (d) Receive and disburse funds.  
10 (e) Enter into contracts or leases for services,  
11 equipment, or supplies.  
12 (f) Incur temporary debts in anticipation of the  
13 receipt of funds.  
14 (g) Solicit and accept gifts or grants for career  
15 center purposes.  
16 (h) Take any other action that is not inconsistent  
17 with this section and rules adopted under this section.  
18 (8) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.--A center must be open to all  
19 students as space is available and may not discriminate in  
20 admissions policies or practices on the basis of an  
21 individual's physical disability or proficiency in English or  
22 on any other basis that would be unlawful if practiced by a  
23 public school or a community college. A center may establish  
24 reasonable criteria by which to evaluate prospective students,  
25 which criteria must be outlined in the charter.  
26 (9) FACILITIES.--A center may be located in any  
27 suitable location, including part of an existing public school  
28 or community college building, space provided on a public  
29 worksite, or a public building. A center's facilities must  
30 comply with the State Uniform Building Code for Public  
31 Educational Facilities Construction adopted pursuant to s.

1 1013.37, or with applicable state minimum building codes  
2 pursuant to chapter 553, and state minimum fire protection  
3 codes pursuant to s. 633.025, adopted by the authority in  
4 whose jurisdiction the facility is located. If K-12 public  
5 school funds are used for construction, the facility must  
6 remain on the local school district's Florida Inventory of  
7 School Houses (FISH) school building inventory of the district  
8 school board and must revert to the district school board if  
9 the consortium dissolves and the program is discontinued. If  
10 community college public school funds are used for  
11 construction, the facility must remain on the local community  
12 college's facilities inventory and must revert to the local  
13 community college board of trustees if the consortium  
14 dissolves and the program is discontinued. The additional  
15 student capacity created by the addition of the center to the  
16 local school district's FISH may not be calculated in the  
17 permanent student capacity for the purpose of determining need  
18 or eligibility for state capital outlay funds while the  
19 facility is used as a center. If the construction of the  
20 center is funded jointly by K-12 public school funds and  
21 community college funds, the sponsoring entities must agree,  
22 before granting the charter, on the appropriate owner and  
23 terms of transfer of the facility if the charter is dissolved.

24 (10) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.--

25 (a) A center must operate pursuant to its charter and  
26 is exempt from all statutes of the Florida School Code except  
27 provisions pertaining to civil rights and to student health,  
28 safety, and welfare, or as otherwise required by law.

29 (b) A center must comply with the Florida K-20  
30 Education Code with respect to providing services to students  
31 with disabilities.

- 1        (c) A center must comply with the antidiscrimination  
 2 provisions of s. 1000.05.
- 3        (11) FUNDING.--
- 4        (a) Each district school board and community college  
 5 that sponsors a charter technical career center shall pay  
 6 directly to the center an amount stated in the charter. State  
 7 funding shall be generated for the center for its student  
 8 enrollment and program outcomes as provided in law. A center  
 9 is eligible for funding from the Florida Workforce Development  
 10 Education Fund, the Florida Education Finance Program, and the  
 11 Community College Program Fund, depending upon the programs  
 12 conducted by the center.
- 13        (b) A center may receive other state and federal aid,  
 14 grants, and revenue through the district school board or  
 15 community college board of trustees.
- 16        (c) A center may receive gifts and grants from private  
 17 sources.
- 18        (d) A center may not levy taxes or issue bonds, but it  
 19 may charge a student tuition fee consistent with authority  
 20 granted in its charter and permitted by law.
- 21        (e) A center shall provide for an annual financial  
 22 audit in accordance with s. 218.39.
- 23        (f) A center must provide instruction for at least the  
 24 number of days required by law for other public schools or  
 25 community colleges, as appropriate, and may provide  
 26 instruction for additional days.
- 27        (12) EMPLOYEES OF A CENTER.--
- 28        (a) A center may select its own employees.
- 29        (b) A center may contract for services with an  
 30 individual, partnership, or a cooperative. Such persons  
 31 contracted with are not public employees.

1       (c) If a center contracts with a public educational  
2 agency for services, the terms of employment must follow  
3 existing state law and rule and local policies and procedures.

4       (d) The employees of a center may bargain  
5 collectively, as a separate unit or as part of the existing  
6 district collective bargaining unit, as determined by the  
7 structure of the center.

8       (e) As a public employer, a center may participate in:

9           1. The Florida Retirement System upon application and  
10 approval as a "covered group" under s. 121.021(34). If a  
11 center participates in the Florida Retirement System, its  
12 employees are compulsory members of the Florida Retirement  
13 System.

14           2. The State Community College System Optional  
15 Retirement Program pursuant to s. 1012.875(2), if the charter  
16 is granted by a community college that participates in the  
17 optional retirement program and meets the eligibility criteria  
18 of s. 121.051(2)(c).

19       (f) Teachers who are considered qualified by the  
20 career center are exempt from state certification  
21 requirements.

22       (g) A public school or community college teacher or  
23 administrator may take a leave of absence to accept employment  
24 in a charter technical career center upon the approval of the  
25 school district or community college.

26       (h) An employee who is on a leave of absence under  
27 this section may retain seniority accrued in that school  
28 district or community college and may continue to be covered  
29 by the benefit programs of that district or community college  
30 if the center and the district school board or community  
31

1 college board of trustees agree to this arrangement and its  
2 financing.

3 (13) BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORITY.--The board of  
4 directors of a center may decide matters relating to the  
5 operation of the school, including budgeting, curriculum, and  
6 operating procedures, subject to the center's charter.

7 (14) ACCOUNTABILITY.--Each center must submit a report  
8 to the participating district school board or community  
9 college board of trustees by August 1 of each year. The  
10 report must be in such form as the sponsor prescribes and must  
11 include:

12 (a) A discussion of progress made toward the  
13 achievement of the goals outlined in the center's charter.

14 (b) A financial statement setting forth by appropriate  
15 categories the revenue and expenditures for the previous  
16 school year.

17 (15) TERMS OF THE CHARTER.--The term of an initial  
18 charter may not exceed 5 years. Thereafter, the sponsor may  
19 renew a charter for a period up to 5 years. The sponsor may  
20 refuse to renew a charter or may revoke a charter if the  
21 center has not fulfilled a condition imposed under the charter  
22 or if the center has violated any provision of the charter.  
23 The sponsor may place the center on probationary status to  
24 allow the implementation of a remedial plan, after which, if  
25 the plan is unsuccessful, the charter may be summarily  
26 revoked. The sponsor shall develop procedures and guidelines  
27 for the revocation and renewal of a center's charter. The  
28 sponsor must give written notice of its intent not to renew  
29 the charter at least 12 months before the charter expires. If  
30 the sponsor revokes a charter before the scheduled expiration  
31 date, the sponsor must provide written notice to the governing

1 board of the center at least 60 days before the date of  
2 termination, stating the grounds for the proposed revocation.  
3 The governing board of the center may request in writing an  
4 informal hearing before the sponsor within 14 days after  
5 receiving the notice of revocation. A revocation takes effect  
6 at the conclusion of a school year, unless the sponsor  
7 determines that earlier revocation is necessary to protect the  
8 health, safety, and welfare of students. The sponsor shall  
9 monitor and review the center in its progress towards the  
10 goals established in the charter and shall monitor the  
11 revenues and expenditures of the center.

12 (16) TRANSPORTATION.--The center may provide  
13 transportation, pursuant to chapter 1006, through a contract  
14 with the district school board or the community college board  
15 of trustees, a private provider, or parents of students. The  
16 center must ensure that transportation is not a barrier to  
17 equal access for all students in grades K-12 residing within a  
18 reasonable distance of the facility.

19 (17) IMMUNITY.--For the purposes of tort liability,  
20 the governing body and employees of a center are governed by  
21 s. 768.28.

22 (18) RULES.--The State Board of Education shall adopt  
23 rules, pursuant to chapter 120, relating to the implementation  
24 of charter technical career centers.

25 (19) EVALUATION; REPORT.--The Commissioner of  
26 Education shall provide for an annual comparative evaluation  
27 of charter technical career centers and public technical  
28 centers. The evaluation may be conducted in cooperation with  
29 the sponsor, through private contracts, or by department  
30 staff. At a minimum, the comparative evaluation must address  
31 the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the

1 students served, the types and costs of services provided, and  
2 the outcomes achieved. By December 30 of each year, the  
3 Commissioner of Education shall submit to the Governor, the  
4 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
5 Representatives, and the Senate and House committees that have  
6 responsibility for secondary and postsecondary career and  
7 technical education a report of the comparative evaluation  
8 completed for the previous school year.

9           Section 100. Section 1002.35, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11           1002.35 New World School of the Arts.--

12           (1) The New World School of the Arts is created as a  
13 center of excellence for the performing and visual arts, to  
14 serve all of the State of Florida. The school shall offer a  
15 program of academic and artistic studies in the visual and  
16 performing arts which shall be available to talented high  
17 school and college students.

18           (2)(a) For purposes of governance, the New World  
19 School of the Arts is assigned to Miami-Dade Community  
20 College, the Dade County School District, and one or more  
21 universities designated by the State Board of Education. The  
22 State Board of Education shall assign to the New World School  
23 of the Arts a university partner or partners. In this  
24 selection, the State Board of Education shall consider the  
25 accreditation status of the core programs. Florida  
26 International University, in its capacity as the provider of  
27 university services to Dade County, shall be a partner to  
28 serve the New World School of the Arts, upon meeting the  
29 accreditation criteria. The respective boards shall appoint  
30 members to an executive board for administration of the  
31 school. The executive board may include community members and

1 shall reflect proportionately the participating institutions.  
2 Miami-Dade Community College shall serve as fiscal agent for  
3 the school.

4 (b) The New World School of the Arts Foundation is  
5 created for the purpose of providing auxiliary financial  
6 support for the school's programs, including, but not limited  
7 to, the promotion and sponsorship of special events and  
8 scholarships. Foundation membership shall be determined by the  
9 executive board.

10 (c) The school may affiliate with other public or  
11 private educational or arts institutions. The school shall  
12 serve as a professional school for all qualified students  
13 within appropriations and limitations established by the  
14 Legislature and the respective educational institutions.

15 (3) The school shall submit annually a formula-driven  
16 budget request to the commissioner and the Legislature. This  
17 formula shall be developed in consultation with the Department  
18 of Education and staff of the Legislature. However, the actual  
19 funding for the school shall be determined by the Legislature  
20 in the General Appropriations Act.

21 (4) The State Board of Education shall utilize  
22 resources, programs, and faculty from the various state  
23 universities in planning and providing the curriculum and  
24 courses at the New World School of the Arts, drawing on  
25 program strengths at each state university.

26 Section 101. Section 1002.36, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1002.36 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.--

29 (1) RESPONSIBILITIES.--The Florida School for the Deaf  
30 and the Blind is a state-supported residential school for  
31 hearing-impaired and visually impaired students in preschool

1 through 12th grade. The school is a part of the state system  
2 of public education and shall be funded through the Department  
3 of Education. The school shall provide educational programs  
4 and support services appropriate to meet the education and  
5 related evaluation and counseling needs of hearing-impaired  
6 and visually impaired students in the state who meet  
7 enrollment criteria. Education services may be provided on an  
8 outreach basis for sensory-impaired children ages 0 through 5  
9 years and their parents. Graduates of the Florida School for  
10 the Deaf and the Blind shall be eligible for the William L.  
11 Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program as provided in  
12 s. 1009.89.

13 (2) MISSION.--The mission of the Florida School for  
14 the Deaf and the Blind is to utilize all available talent,  
15 energy, and resources to provide free appropriate public  
16 education for eligible sensory-impaired students of Florida.  
17 As a school of academic excellence, the school shall strive to  
18 provide students an opportunity to maximize their individual  
19 potential in a caring, safe, unique learning environment to  
20 prepare them to be literate, employable, and independent  
21 lifelong learners. The school shall provide outreach services  
22 that include collaboration with district school boards and  
23 shall encourage input from students, staff, parents, and the  
24 community. As a diverse organization, the school shall foster  
25 respect and understanding for each individual.

26 (3) AUDITS.--The Auditor General shall audit the  
27 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind as provided in  
28 chapter 11.

29 (4) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.--

30 (a) There is hereby created a Board of Trustees for  
31 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind which shall

1 consist of seven members. Of these seven members, one  
2 appointee shall be a blind person and one appointee shall be a  
3 deaf person. Each member shall have been a resident of the  
4 state for a period of at least 10 years. Their terms of office  
5 shall be 4 years. The appointment of the trustees shall be by  
6 the Governor with the confirmation of the Senate. The Governor  
7 may remove any member for cause and shall fill all vacancies  
8 that occur.

9       (b) The board of trustees shall elect a chair  
10 annually. The trustees shall be reimbursed for travel expenses  
11 as provided in s. 112.061, the accounts of which shall be paid  
12 by the Treasurer upon itemized vouchers duly approved by the  
13 chair.

14       (c) The board of trustees has authority to adopt rules  
15 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement provisions  
16 of law relating to operation of the Florida School for the  
17 Deaf and the Blind. Such rules shall be submitted to the State  
18 Board of Education for approval or disapproval. If any rule is  
19 not disapproved by the State Board of Education within 60 days  
20 of its receipt by the State Board of Education, the rule shall  
21 be filed immediately with the Department of State. The board  
22 of trustees shall act at all times in conjunction with the  
23 rules of the State Board of Education.

24       (d) The board of trustees is a body corporate and  
25 shall have a corporate seal. Title to any gift, donation, or  
26 bequest received by the board of trustees pursuant to  
27 subsection (5) shall vest in the board of trustees. Title to  
28 all other property and other assets of the Florida School for  
29 the Deaf and the Blind shall vest in the State Board of  
30 Education, but the board of trustees shall have complete  
31 jurisdiction over the management of the school and is invested

1 with full power and authority to appoint a president, faculty,  
2 teachers, and other employees and remove the same as in its  
3 judgment may be best and fix their compensation; to procure  
4 professional services, such as medical, mental health,  
5 architectural, engineering, and legal services; to determine  
6 eligibility of students and procedure for admission; to  
7 provide for the students of the school necessary bedding,  
8 clothing, food, and medical attendance and such other things  
9 as may be proper for the health and comfort of the students  
10 without cost to their parents, except that the board of  
11 trustees may set tuition and other fees for nonresidents; to  
12 provide for the proper keeping of accounts and records and for  
13 budgeting of funds; to enter into contracts; to sue and be  
14 sued; to secure public liability insurance; and to do and  
15 perform every other matter or thing requisite to the proper  
16 management, maintenance, support, and control of the school at  
17 the highest efficiency economically possible, the board of  
18 trustees taking into consideration the purposes of the  
19 establishment.

20 (e)1. The board of trustees is authorized to receive  
21 gifts, donations, and bequests of money or property, real or  
22 personal, tangible or intangible, from any person, firm,  
23 corporation, or other legal entity. However, the board of  
24 trustees may not obligate the state to any expenditure or  
25 policy that is not specifically authorized by law.

26 2. If the bill of sale, will, trust indenture, deed,  
27 or other legal conveyance specifies terms and conditions  
28 concerning the use of such money or property, the board of  
29 trustees shall observe such terms and conditions.

30 3. The board of trustees may deposit outside the State  
31 Treasury such moneys as are received as gifts, donations, or

1 bequests and may disburse and expend such moneys, upon its own  
2 warrant, for the use and benefit of the Florida School for the  
3 Deaf and the Blind and its students, as the board of trustees  
4 deems to be in the best interest of the school and its  
5 students. Such money or property shall not constitute or be  
6 considered a part of any legislative appropriation, and such  
7 money shall not be used to compensate any person for engaging  
8 in lobbying activities before the House of Representatives or  
9 Senate or any committee thereof.

10 4. The board of trustees may sell or convey by bill of  
11 sale, deed, or other legal instrument any property, real or  
12 personal, received as a gift, donation, or bequest, upon such  
13 terms and conditions as the board of trustees deems to be in  
14 the best interest of the school and its students.

15 5. The board of trustees may invest such moneys in  
16 securities enumerated under s. 215.47, and in The Common Fund,  
17 an Investment Management Fund exclusively for nonprofit  
18 educational institutions.

19 (f) The board of trustees shall:

20 1. Prepare and submit legislative budget requests,  
21 including fixed capital outlay requests, in accordance with  
22 chapter 216 and s. 1013.60.

23 2. Administer and maintain personnel programs for all  
24 employees of the board of trustees and the Florida School for  
25 the Deaf and the Blind who shall be state employees, including  
26 the personnel classification and pay plan established in  
27 accordance with ss. 110.205(2)(d) and 216.251(2)(a)2. for  
28 academic and academic administrative personnel, the provisions  
29 of chapter 110, and the provisions of law that grant authority  
30 to the Department of Management Services over such programs  
31 for state employees.

1           3. Adopt a master plan which specifies the mission and  
2 objectives of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.  
3 The plan shall include, but not be limited to, procedures for  
4 systematically measuring the school's progress toward meeting  
5 its objectives, analyzing changes in the student population,  
6 and modifying school programs and services to respond to such  
7 changes. The plan shall be for a period of 5 years and shall  
8 be reviewed for needed modifications every 2 years. The board  
9 of trustees shall submit the initial plan and subsequent  
10 modifications to the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
11 and the President of the Senate.

12           4. Seek the advice of the Division of Public Schools  
13 within the Department of Education.

14           (g) The Board of Trustees for the Florida School for  
15 the Deaf and the Blind, located in St. Johns County, shall  
16 designate a portion of the school as "The Verle Allyn Pope  
17 Complex for the Deaf," in tribute to the late Senator Verle  
18 Allyn Pope.

19           (5) STUDENT AND EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL RECORDS.--The Board  
20 of Trustees for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind  
21 shall provide for the content and custody of student and  
22 employee personnel records. Student records shall be subject  
23 to the provisions of s. 1002.22. Employee personnel records  
24 shall be subject to the provisions of s. 1012.31.

25           (6) LEGAL SERVICES.--The Board of Trustees for the  
26 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind may provide legal  
27 services for officers and employees of the board of trustees  
28 who are charged with civil or criminal actions arising out of  
29 and in the course of the performance of assigned duties and  
30 responsibilities. The board of trustees may provide for  
31 reimbursement of reasonable expenses for legal services for

1 officers and employees of said board of trustees who are  
2 charged with civil or criminal actions arising out of and in  
3 the course of the performance of assigned duties and  
4 responsibilities upon successful defense by the officer or  
5 employee. However, in any case in which the officer or  
6 employee pleads guilty or nolo contendere or is found guilty  
7 of any such action, the officer or employee shall reimburse  
8 the board of trustees for any legal services that the board of  
9 trustees may have supplied pursuant to this section. The  
10 board of trustees may also reimburse an officer or employee  
11 thereof for any judgment that may be entered against him or  
12 her in a civil action arising out of and in the course of the  
13 performance of his or her assigned duties and  
14 responsibilities. Each expenditure by the board of trustees  
15 for legal defense of an officer or employee, or for  
16 reimbursement pursuant to this section, shall be made at a  
17 public meeting with notice pursuant to s. 120.525(1). The  
18 providing of such legal services or reimbursement under the  
19 conditions described in this subsection is declared to be a  
20 school purpose for which school funds may be expended.

21 (7) PERSONNEL SCREENING.--

22 (a) The Board of Trustees of the Florida School for  
23 the Deaf and the Blind shall, because of the special trust or  
24 responsibility of employees of the school, require all  
25 employees and applicants for employment to undergo personnel  
26 screening and security background investigations as provided  
27 in chapter 435, using the level 2 standards for screening set  
28 forth in that chapter, as a condition of employment and  
29 continued employment. The cost of a personnel screening and  
30 security background investigation for an employee of the  
31 school shall be paid by the school. The cost of such a

1 screening and investigation for an applicant for employment  
2 may be paid by the school.

3 (b) As a prerequisite for initial and continuing  
4 employment at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind:

5 1. The applicant or employee shall submit to the  
6 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind a complete set of  
7 fingerprints taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or  
8 an employee of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind  
9 who is trained to take fingerprints. The Florida School for  
10 the Deaf and the Blind shall submit the fingerprints to the  
11 Department of Law Enforcement for state processing and the  
12 Federal Bureau of Investigation for federal processing.

13 2.a. The applicant or employee shall attest to the  
14 minimum standards for good moral character as contained in  
15 chapter 435, using the level 2 standards set forth in that  
16 chapter under penalty of perjury.

17 b. New personnel shall be on a probationary status  
18 pending a determination of compliance with such minimum  
19 standards for good moral character. This paragraph is in  
20 addition to any probationary status provided for by Florida  
21 law or Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind rules or  
22 collective bargaining contracts.

23 3. The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind shall  
24 review the record of the applicant or employee with respect to  
25 the crimes contained in s. 435.04 and shall notify the  
26 applicant or employee of its findings. When disposition  
27 information is missing on a criminal record, it shall be the  
28 responsibility of the applicant or employee, upon request of  
29 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, to obtain and  
30 supply within 30 days the missing disposition information to  
31 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. Failure to

1 supply missing information within 30 days or to show  
2 reasonable efforts to obtain such information shall result in  
3 automatic disqualification of an applicant and automatic  
4 termination of an employee.

5         4. After an initial personnel screening and security  
6 background investigation, written notification shall be given  
7 to the affected employee within a reasonable time prior to any  
8 subsequent screening and investigation.

9         (c) The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind may  
10 grant exemptions from disqualification as provided in s.  
11 435.07.

12         (d) The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind may  
13 not use the criminal records, private investigator findings,  
14 or information reference checks obtained by the school  
15 pursuant to this section for any purpose other than  
16 determining if a person meets the minimum standards for good  
17 moral character for personnel employed by the school. The  
18 criminal records, private investigator findings, and  
19 information from reference checks obtained by the Florida  
20 School for the Deaf and the Blind for determining the moral  
21 character of employees of the school are confidential and  
22 exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art.  
23 I of the State Constitution.

24         (e) It is a misdemeanor of the first degree,  
25 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for any  
26 person willfully, knowingly, or intentionally to:

27             1. Fail, by false statement, misrepresentation,  
28 impersonation, or other fraudulent means, to disclose in any  
29 application for voluntary or paid employment a material fact  
30 used in making a determination as to such person's  
31 qualifications for a position of special trust.

1           2. Use the criminal records, private investigator  
2 findings, or information from reference checks obtained under  
3 this section or information obtained from such records or  
4 findings for purposes other than screening for employment or  
5 release such information or records to persons for purposes  
6 other than screening for employment.

7           (f) For the purpose of teacher certification, the  
8 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be considered  
9 a school district.

10           (8) CAMPUS POLICE.--

11           (a) The Board of Trustees for the Florida School for  
12 the Deaf and the Blind is permitted and empowered to employ  
13 police officers for the school, who must be designated Florida  
14 School for the Deaf and the Blind campus police.

15           (b) Each Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind  
16 campus police officer is a law enforcement officer of the  
17 state and a conservator of the peace who has the authority to  
18 arrest, in accordance with the laws of this state, any person  
19 for a violation of state law or applicable county or municipal  
20 ordinance if that violation occurs on or in any property or  
21 facilities of the school. A campus police officer may also  
22 arrest a person off campus for a violation committed on campus  
23 after a hot pursuit of that person which began on campus. A  
24 campus police officer shall have full authority to bear arms  
25 in the performance of the officer's duties and carry out a  
26 search pursuant to a search warrant on the campus. Florida  
27 School for the Deaf and the Blind campus police, upon request  
28 of the sheriff or local police authority, may serve subpoenas  
29 or other legal process and may make arrests of persons against  
30 whom arrest warrants have been issued or against whom charges  
31

1 have been made for violations of federal or state laws or  
2 county or municipal ordinances.

3 (c) The campus police shall promptly deliver all  
4 persons arrested and charged with felonies to the sheriff of  
5 the county within which the school is located and all persons  
6 arrested and charged with misdemeanors to the applicable  
7 authority as provided by law, but otherwise to the sheriff of  
8 the county in which the school is located.

9 (d) The campus police must meet the minimum standards  
10 established by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training  
11 Commission of the Department of Law Enforcement and chapter  
12 943 for law enforcement officers. Each campus police officer  
13 must, before entering into the performance of the officer's  
14 duties, take the oath of office established by the board of  
15 trustees. The board of trustees may obtain and approve a bond  
16 on each campus police officer, conditioned upon the officer's  
17 faithful performance of the officer's duties, which bond must  
18 be payable to the Governor. The board of trustees may  
19 determine the amount of the bond. In determining the amount of  
20 the bond, the board may consider the amount of money or  
21 property likely to be in the custody of the officer at any one  
22 time. The board of trustees must provide a uniform set of  
23 identifying credentials to each campus police officer it  
24 employs.

25 (e) In performance of any of the powers, duties, and  
26 functions authorized by law, campus police have the same  
27 rights, protections, and immunities afforded other law  
28 enforcement officers.

29 (f) The board of trustees shall adopt rules,  
30 including, without limitation, rules for the appointment,  
31 employment, and removal of campus police in accordance with

1 the State Career Service System and shall establish in writing  
2 a policy manual, that includes, without limitation, procedures  
3 for managing routine law enforcement situations and emergency  
4 law enforcement situations. The board of trustees shall  
5 furnish a copy of the policy manual to each of the campus  
6 police officers it employs. A campus police officer appointed  
7 by the board of trustees must have completed the training  
8 required by the school in the special needs and proper  
9 procedures for dealing with students served by the school.

10 (9) REPORT OF CAMPUS CRIME STATISTICS.--

11 (a) The school shall prepare an annual report of  
12 statistics of crimes committed on its campus and shall submit  
13 the report to the board of trustees and the Commissioner of  
14 Education. The data for these reports may be taken from the  
15 annual report of the Department of Law Enforcement. The board  
16 of trustees shall prescribe the form for submission of these  
17 reports.

18 (b) The school shall prepare annually a report of  
19 statistics of crimes committed on its campus for the preceding  
20 3 years. The school shall give students and prospective  
21 students notice that this report is available upon request.

22 Section 102. Section 1002.37, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1002.37 The Florida Virtual School.--

25 (1)(a) The Florida Virtual School is established for  
26 the development and delivery of on-line and distance learning  
27 education and shall be administratively housed within the  
28 Commissioner of Education's Office of Technology and  
29 Information Services. The Commissioner of Education shall  
30 monitor the school's performance and report its performance to  
31 the State Board of Education and the Legislature.

1           **(b) The mission of the Florida Virtual School is to**  
2 **provide students with technology-based educational**  
3 **opportunities to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to**  
4 **succeed. The school shall serve any student in the state who**  
5 **meets the profile for success in this educational delivery**  
6 **context and shall give priority to:**

7           **1. Students who need expanded access to courses in**  
8 **order to meet their educational goals, such as home education**  
9 **students and students in inner-city and rural high schools who**  
10 **do not have access to higher-level courses.**

11           **2. Students seeking accelerated access in order to**  
12 **obtain a high school diploma at least one semester early.**

13           **(c) To ensure students are informed of the**  
14 **opportunities offered by the Florida Virtual School, the**  
15 **commissioner shall provide the board of trustees of the**  
16 **Florida Virtual School access to the records of public school**  
17 **students in a format prescribed by the board of trustees.**

18  
19 **The board of trustees of the Florida Virtual School shall**  
20 **identify appropriate performance measures and standards based**  
21 **on student achievement that reflect the school's statutory**  
22 **mission and priorities, and shall implement an accountability**  
23 **system for the school that includes assessment of its**  
24 **effectiveness and efficiency in providing quality services**  
25 **that encourage high student achievement, seamless**  
26 **articulation, and maximum access.**

27           **(2) The Florida Virtual School shall be governed by a**  
28 **board of trustees comprised of seven members appointed by the**  
29 **Governor to 4-year staggered terms. The board of trustees**  
30 **shall be a public agency entitled to sovereign immunity**  
31 **pursuant to s. 768.28, and board members shall be public**

1 officers who shall bear fiduciary responsibility for the  
2 Florida Virtual School. The board of trustees shall have the  
3 following powers and duties:

4 (a)1. The board of trustees shall meet at least 4  
5 times each year, upon the call of the chair, or at the request  
6 of a majority of the membership.

7 2. The fiscal year for the Florida Virtual School  
8 shall be the state fiscal year as provided in s.  
9 216.011(1)(o).

10 (b) The board of trustees shall be responsible for the  
11 Florida Virtual School's development of a state-of-the-art  
12 technology-based education delivery system that is  
13 cost-effective, educationally sound, marketable, and capable  
14 of sustaining a self-sufficient delivery system through the  
15 Florida Education Finance Program, by fiscal year 2003-2004.  
16 The school shall collect and report data for all students  
17 served and credit awarded. This data shall be segregated by  
18 private, public, and home education students by program.  
19 Information shall also be collected that reflects any other  
20 school in which a virtual school student is enrolled.

21 (c) The board of trustees shall aggressively seek  
22 avenues to generate revenue to support its future endeavors,  
23 and shall enter into agreements with distance learning  
24 providers. The board of trustees may acquire, enjoy, use, and  
25 dispose of patents, copyrights, and trademarks and any  
26 licenses and other rights or interests thereunder or therein.  
27 Ownership of all such patents, copyrights, trademarks,  
28 licenses, and rights or interests thereunder or therein shall  
29 vest in the state, with the board of trustees having full  
30 right of use and full right to retain the revenues derived  
31 therefrom. Any funds realized from patents, copyrights,

1 trademarks, or licenses shall be used to support the school's  
2 marketing and research and development activities in order to  
3 improve courseware and services to its students.

4 (d) The board of trustees shall annually prepare and  
5 submit to the State Board of Education a legislative budget  
6 request, including funding requests for computers for public  
7 school students who do not have access to public school  
8 computers, in accordance with chapter 216 and s. 1013.60. The  
9 legislative budget request of the Florida Virtual School shall  
10 be prepared using the same format, procedures, and timelines  
11 required for the submission of the legislative budget of the  
12 Department of Education. Nothing in this section shall be  
13 construed to guarantee a computer to any individual student.

14 (e) In accordance with law and rules of the State  
15 Board of Education, the board of trustees shall administer and  
16 maintain personnel programs for all employees of the board of  
17 trustees and the Florida Virtual School. The board of trustees  
18 may adopt rules, policies, and procedures related to the  
19 appointment, employment, and removal of personnel.

20 1. The board of trustees shall determine the  
21 compensation, including salaries and fringe benefits, and  
22 other conditions of employment for such personnel.

23 2. The board of trustees may establish and maintain a  
24 personnel loan or exchange program by which persons employed  
25 by the board of trustees for the Florida Virtual School as  
26 academic administrative and instructional staff may be loaned  
27 to, or exchanged with persons employed in like capacities by,  
28 public agencies either within or without this state, or by  
29 private industry. With respect to public agency employees, the  
30 program authorized by this subparagraph shall be consistent  
31 with the requirements of part II of chapter 112. The salary

1 and benefits of board of trustees personnel participating in  
2 the loan or exchange program shall be continued during the  
3 period of time they participate in a loan or exchange program,  
4 and such personnel shall be deemed to have no break in  
5 creditable or continuous service or employment during such  
6 time. The salary and benefits of persons participating in the  
7 personnel loan or exchange program who are employed by public  
8 agencies or private industry shall be paid by the originating  
9 employers of those participants, and such personnel shall be  
10 deemed to have no break in creditable or continuous service or  
11 employment during such time.

12 3. The employment of all Florida Virtual School  
13 academic administrative and instructional personnel shall be  
14 subject to rejection for cause by the board of trustees, and  
15 shall be subject to policies of the board of trustees relative  
16 to certification, tenure, leaves of absence, sabbaticals,  
17 remuneration, and such other conditions of employment as the  
18 board of trustees deems necessary and proper, not inconsistent  
19 with law.

20 4. Each person employed by the board of trustees in an  
21 academic administrative or instructional capacity with the  
22 Florida Virtual School shall be entitled to a contract as  
23 provided by rules of the board of trustees.

24 5. All employees except temporary, seasonal, and  
25 student employees may be state employees for the purpose of  
26 being eligible to participate in the Florida Retirement System  
27 and receive benefits. The classification and pay plan,  
28 including terminal leave and other benefits, and any  
29 amendments thereto, shall be subject to review and approval by  
30 the Department of Management Services and the Executive Office  
31 of the Governor prior to adoption. In the event that the board

1 of trustees assumes responsibility for governance pursuant to  
2 this section before approval is obtained, employees shall be  
3 compensated pursuant to the system in effect for the employees  
4 of the fiscal agent.

5 (f) The board of trustees shall establish priorities  
6 for admission of students in accordance with paragraph (1)(b).

7 (g) The board of trustees shall establish and  
8 distribute to all school districts and high schools in the  
9 state procedures for enrollment of students in courses offered  
10 by the Florida Virtual School. Such procedures shall be  
11 designed to minimize paperwork and fairly resolve the issue of  
12 double funding students taking courses online.

13 (h) The board of trustees shall annually submit to the  
14 State Board of Education both forecasted and actual  
15 enrollments for the Florida Virtual School, according to  
16 procedures established by the State Board of Education. At a  
17 minimum, such procedures must include the number of public,  
18 private, and home education students served by district.

19 (i) The board of trustees shall provide for the  
20 content and custody of student and employee personnel records.  
21 Student records shall be subject to the provisions of s.  
22 1002.22. Employee records shall be subject to the provisions  
23 of s. 1012.31.

24 (j) The financial records and accounts of the Florida  
25 Virtual School shall be maintained under the direction of the  
26 board of trustees and under rules adopted by the State Board  
27 of Education for the uniform system of financial records and  
28 accounts for the schools of the state.

29  
30 The Governor shall designate the initial chair of the board of  
31 trustees to serve a term of 4 years. Members of the board of

1 trustees shall serve without compensation, but may be  
2 reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.  
3 112.061. The board of trustees shall be a body corporate with  
4 all the powers of a body corporate and such authority as is  
5 needed for the proper operation and improvement of the Florida  
6 Virtual School. The board of trustees is specifically  
7 authorized to adopt rules, policies, and procedures,  
8 consistent with law and rules of the State Board of Education  
9 related to governance, personnel, budget and finance,  
10 administration, programs, curriculum and instruction, travel  
11 and purchasing, technology, students, contracts and grants,  
12 and property as necessary for optimal, efficient operation of  
13 the Florida Virtual School. Tangible personal property owned  
14 by the board of trustees shall be subject to the provisions of  
15 chapter 273.

16 (3)(a) Until fiscal year 2003-2004, the Commissioner  
17 of Education shall include the Florida Virtual School as a  
18 grant-in-aid appropriation in the department's legislative  
19 budget request to the State Board of Education, the Governor,  
20 and the Legislature, subject to any guidelines imposed in the  
21 General Appropriations Act.

22 (b) The Orange County District School Board shall be  
23 the temporary fiscal agent of the Florida Virtual School.

24 (4) Under no circumstance may the credit of the state  
25 be pledged on behalf of the Florida Virtual School.

26 (5) The board of trustees shall annually submit to the  
27 Governor, the Legislature, the Commissioner of Education, and  
28 the State Board of Education a complete and detailed report  
29 setting forth:

30 (a) The operations and accomplishments of the Florida  
31 Virtual School.

1           (b) The marketing and operational plan for the Florida  
2 Virtual School, including recommendations regarding methods  
3 for improving the delivery of education through the Internet  
4 and other distance learning technology.

5           (c) The assets and liabilities of the Florida Virtual  
6 School at the end of the fiscal year.

7           (d) A copy of an annual financial audit of the  
8 accounts and records of the Florida Virtual School, conducted  
9 by an independent certified public accountant and performed in  
10 accordance with rules adopted by the Auditor General.

11           (e) Recommendations regarding the unit cost of  
12 providing services to students. In order to most effectively  
13 develop public policy regarding any future funding of the  
14 Florida Virtual School, it is imperative that the cost of the  
15 program is accurately identified. The identified cost of the  
16 program must be based on reliable data.

17           (f) Recommendations regarding an accountability  
18 mechanism to assess the effectiveness of the services provided  
19 by the Florida Virtual School.

20           (6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules it  
21 deems necessary to implement reporting requirements for the  
22 Florida Virtual School.

23           Section 103. Section 1002.38, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25           1002.38 Opportunity Scholarship Program.--

26           (1) FINDINGS AND INTENT.--The purpose of this section  
27 is to provide enhanced opportunity for students in this state  
28 to gain the knowledge and skills necessary for postsecondary  
29 education, a technical education, or the world of work. The  
30 Legislature recognizes that the voters of the State of  
31 Florida, in the November 1998 general election, amended s. 1,

1 Art. IX of the Florida Constitution so as to make education a  
2 paramount duty of the state. The Legislature finds that the  
3 State Constitution requires the state to provide a uniform,  
4 safe, secure, efficient, and high-quality system which allows  
5 the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. The  
6 Legislature further finds that a student should not be  
7 compelled, against the wishes of the student's parent, to  
8 remain in a school found by the state to be failing for 2  
9 years in a 4-year period. The Legislature shall make available  
10 opportunity scholarships in order to give parents the  
11 opportunity for their children to attend a public school that  
12 is performing satisfactorily or to attend an eligible private  
13 school when the parent chooses to apply the equivalent of the  
14 public education funds generated by his or her child to the  
15 cost of tuition in the eligible private school as provided in  
16 paragraph (6)(a). Eligibility of a private school shall  
17 include the control and accountability requirements that,  
18 coupled with the exercise of parental choice, are reasonably  
19 necessary to secure the educational public purpose, as  
20 delineated in subsection (4).

21 (2) OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.--A public  
22 school student's parent may request and receive from the state  
23 an opportunity scholarship for the student to enroll in and  
24 attend a private school in accordance with the provisions of  
25 this section if:

26 (a)1. By assigned school attendance area or by special  
27 assignment, the student has spent the prior school year in  
28 attendance at a public school that has been designated  
29 pursuant to s. 1008.34 as performance grade category "F,"  
30 failing to make adequate progress, and that has had two school  
31 years in a 4-year period of such low performance, and the

1 student's attendance occurred during a school year in which  
2 such designation was in effect;

3 2. The student has been in attendance elsewhere in the  
4 public school system and has been assigned to such school for  
5 the next school year; or

6 3. The student is entering kindergarten or first grade  
7 and has been notified that the student has been assigned to  
8 such school for the next school year.

9 (b) The parent has obtained acceptance for admission  
10 of the student to a private school eligible for the program  
11 pursuant to subsection (4), and has notified the Department of  
12 Education and the school district of the request for an  
13 opportunity scholarship no later than July 1 of the first year  
14 in which the student intends to use the scholarship.

15

16 The provisions of this section shall not apply to a student  
17 who is enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of  
18 providing educational services to youth in Department of  
19 Juvenile Justice commitment programs. For purposes of  
20 continuity of educational choice, the opportunity scholarship  
21 shall remain in force until the student returns to a public  
22 school or, if the student chooses to attend a private school  
23 the highest grade of which is grade 8, until the student  
24 matriculates to high school and the public high school to  
25 which the student is assigned is an accredited school with a  
26 performance grade category designation of "C" or better.  
27 However, at any time upon reasonable notice to the Department  
28 of Education and the school district, the student's parent may  
29 remove the student from the private school and place the  
30 student in a public school, as provided in subparagraph  
31 (3)(a)2.

1           (3) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS.--

2           (a) A school district shall, for each student enrolled  
3 in or assigned to a school that has been designated as  
4 performance grade category "F" for 2 school years in a 4-year  
5 period:

6           1. Timely notify the parent of the student as soon as  
7 such designation is made of all options available pursuant to  
8 this section.

9           2. Offer that student's parent an opportunity to  
10 enroll the student in the public school within the district  
11 that has been designated by the state pursuant to s. 1008.34  
12 as a school performing higher than that in which the student  
13 is currently enrolled or to which the student has been  
14 assigned, but not less than performance grade category "C."  
15 The parent is not required to accept this offer in lieu of  
16 requesting a state opportunity scholarship to a private  
17 school. The opportunity to continue attending the higher  
18 performing public school shall remain in force until the  
19 student graduates from high school.

20           (b) The parent of a student enrolled in or assigned to  
21 a school that has been designated performance grade category  
22 "F" for 2 school years in a 4-year period may choose as an  
23 alternative to enroll the student in and transport the student  
24 to a higher-performing public school that has available space  
25 in an adjacent school district, and that school district shall  
26 accept the student and report the student for purposes of the  
27 district's funding pursuant to the Florida Education Finance  
28 Program.

29           (c) For students in the school district who are  
30 participating in the state Opportunity Scholarship Program,  
31

1 the school district shall provide locations and times to take  
2 all statewide assessments required pursuant to s. 1008.22.

3 (d) Students with disabilities who are eligible to  
4 receive services from the school district under federal or  
5 state law, and who participate in this program, remain  
6 eligible to receive services from the school district as  
7 provided by federal or state law.

8 (e) If for any reason a qualified private school is  
9 not available for the student or if the parent chooses to  
10 request that the student be enrolled in the higher performing  
11 public school, rather than choosing to request the state  
12 opportunity scholarship, transportation costs to the higher  
13 performing public school shall be the responsibility of the  
14 school district. The district may utilize state categorical  
15 transportation funds or state-appropriated public school  
16 choice incentive funds for this purpose.

17 (4) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY.--To be eligible to  
18 participate in the Opportunity Scholarship Program, a private  
19 school must be a Florida private school, may be sectarian or  
20 nonsectarian, and must:

21 (a) Demonstrate fiscal soundness by being in operation  
22 for 1 school year or provide the Department of Education with  
23 a statement by a certified public accountant confirming that  
24 the private school desiring to participate is insured and the  
25 owner or owners have sufficient capital or credit to operate  
26 the school for the upcoming year serving the number of  
27 students anticipated with expected revenues from tuition and  
28 other sources that may be reasonably expected. In lieu of such  
29 a statement, a surety bond or letter of credit for the amount  
30 equal to the opportunity scholarship funds for any quarter may  
31 be filed with the department.

1        (b) Notify the Department of Education and the school  
2 district in whose service area the school is located of its  
3 intent to participate in the program under this section by May  
4 1 of the school year preceding the school year in which it  
5 intends to participate. The notice shall specify the grade  
6 levels and services that the private school has available for  
7 the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

8        (c) Comply with the antidiscrimination provisions of  
9 42 U.S.C. s. 2000d.

10       (d) Meet state and local health and safety laws and  
11 codes.

12       (e) Accept scholarship students on an entirely random  
13 and religious-neutral basis without regard to the student's  
14 past academic history; however, the private school may give  
15 preference in accepting applications to siblings of students  
16 who have already been accepted on a random and  
17 religious-neutral basis.

18       (f) Be subject to the instruction, curriculum, and  
19 attendance criteria adopted by an appropriate nonpublic school  
20 accrediting body and be academically accountable to the parent  
21 for meeting the educational needs of the student. The private  
22 school must furnish a school profile which includes student  
23 performance.

24       (g) Employ or contract with teachers who hold a  
25 baccalaureate or higher degree, or have at least 3 years of  
26 teaching experience in public or private schools, or have  
27 special skills, knowledge, or expertise that qualifies them to  
28 provide instruction in subjects taught.

29       (h) Comply with all state statutes relating to private  
30 schools.

31

- 1           (i) Accept as full tuition and fees the amount  
2 provided by the state for each student.
- 3           (j) Agree not to compel any student attending the  
4 private school on an opportunity scholarship to profess a  
5 specific ideological belief, to pray, or to worship.
- 6           (k) Adhere to the tenets of its published disciplinary  
7 procedures prior to the expulsion of any opportunity  
8 scholarship student.
- 9           (5) OBLIGATION OF PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.--
- 10           (a) Any student participating in the Opportunity  
11 Scholarship Program must remain in attendance throughout the  
12 school year, unless excused by the school for illness or other  
13 good cause, and must comply fully with the school's code of  
14 conduct.
- 15           (b) The parent of each student participating in the  
16 Opportunity Scholarship Program must comply fully with the  
17 private school's parental involvement requirements, unless  
18 excused by the school for illness or other good cause.
- 19           (c) The parent shall ensure that the student  
20 participating in the Opportunity Scholarship Program takes all  
21 statewide assessments required pursuant to s. 1008.22.
- 22           (d) A participant who fails to comply with this  
23 subsection shall forfeit the opportunity scholarship.
- 24           (6) OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.--
- 25           (a) The maximum opportunity scholarship granted for an  
26 eligible student shall be a calculated amount equivalent to  
27 the base student allocation in the Florida Education Finance  
28 Program multiplied by the appropriate cost factor for the  
29 educational program that would have been provided for the  
30 student in the district school to which he or she was  
31 assigned, multiplied by the district cost differential. In

1 addition, the calculated amount shall include the per-student  
2 share of instructional materials funds, technology funds, and  
3 other categorical funds as provided for this purpose in the  
4 General Appropriations Act.

5 (b) The amount of the opportunity scholarship shall be  
6 the calculated amount or the amount of the private school's  
7 tuition and fees, whichever is less. Fees eligible shall  
8 include textbook fees, lab fees, and other fees related to  
9 instruction, including transportation.

10 (c) The school district shall report all students who  
11 are attending a private school under this program. The  
12 students attending private schools on opportunity scholarships  
13 shall be reported separately from those students reported for  
14 purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program.

15 (d) The public or private school that provides  
16 services to students with disabilities shall receive the  
17 weighted funding for such services at the appropriate funding  
18 level consistent with the provisions of s. 1011.62(1)(e).

19 (e) For purposes of calculating the opportunity  
20 scholarship, a student will be eligible for the amount of the  
21 appropriate basic cost factor if:

22 1. The student currently participates in a Group I  
23 program funded at the basic cost factor and is not  
24 subsequently identified as having a disability; or

25 2. The student currently participates in a Group II  
26 program and the parent has chosen a private school that does  
27 not provide the additional services funded by the Group II  
28 program.

29 (f) Following annual notification on July 1 of the  
30 number of participants, the Department of Education shall  
31 transfer from each school district's appropriated funds the

1 calculated amount from the Florida Education Finance Program  
2 and authorized categorical accounts to a separate account for  
3 the Opportunity Scholarship Program for quarterly disbursement  
4 to the parents of participating students.

5 (g) Upon proper documentation reviewed and approved by  
6 the Department of Education, the Comptroller shall make  
7 opportunity scholarship payments in four equal amounts no  
8 later than September 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1 of  
9 each academic year in which the opportunity scholarship is in  
10 force. The initial payment shall be made after Department of  
11 Education verification of admission acceptance, and subsequent  
12 payments shall be made upon verification of continued  
13 enrollment and attendance at the private school. Payment must  
14 be by individual warrant made payable to the student's parent  
15 and mailed by the Department of Education to the private  
16 school of the parent's choice, and the parent shall  
17 restrictively endorse the warrant to the private school.

18 (7) LIABILITY.--No liability shall arise on the part  
19 of the state based on any grant or use of an opportunity  
20 scholarship.

21 (8) RULES.--The State Board of Education may adopt  
22 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the  
23 provisions of this section. Rules shall include penalties for  
24 noncompliance with subsections (3) and (5). However, the  
25 inclusion of eligible private schools within options available  
26 to Florida public school students does not expand the  
27 regulatory authority of the state, its officers, or any school  
28 district to impose any additional regulation of private  
29 schools beyond those reasonably necessary to enforce  
30 requirements expressly set forth in this section.

31

1 Section 104. Section 1002.39, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1002.39 The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students  
4 with Disabilities Program.--There is established a program  
5 that is separate and distinct from the Opportunity Scholarship  
6 Program and is named the John M. McKay Scholarships for  
7 Students with Disabilities Program, pursuant to this section.

8 (1) THE JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH  
9 DISABILITIES PROGRAM.--The John M. McKay Scholarships for  
10 Students with Disabilities Program is established to provide  
11 the option to attend a public school other than the one to  
12 which assigned, or to provide a scholarship to a private  
13 school of choice, for students with disabilities for whom an  
14 individual education plan has been written in accordance with  
15 rules of the State Board of Education. Students with  
16 disabilities include K-12 students who are mentally  
17 handicapped, speech and language impaired, deaf or hard of  
18 hearing, visually impaired, dual sensory impaired, physically  
19 impaired, emotionally handicapped, specific learning disabled,  
20 hospitalized or homebound, or autistic.

21 (2) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.--The parent of a public  
22 school student with a disability who is dissatisfied with the  
23 student's progress may request and receive from the state a  
24 John M. McKay Scholarship for the child to enroll in and  
25 attend a private school in accordance with this section if:

26 (a) By assigned school attendance area or by special  
27 assignment, the student has spent the prior school year in  
28 attendance at a Florida public school. Prior school year in  
29 attendance means that the student was enrolled and reported by  
30 a school district for funding during the preceding October and  
31

1 February Florida Education Finance Program surveys in  
2 kindergarten through grade 12.

3 (b) The parent has obtained acceptance for admission  
4 of the student to a private school that is eligible for the  
5 program under subsection (4) and has notified the school  
6 district of the request for a scholarship at least 60 days  
7 prior to the date of the first scholarship payment. The  
8 parental notification must be through a communication directly  
9 to the district or through the Department of Education to the  
10 district in a manner that creates a written or electronic  
11 record of the notification and the date of receipt of the  
12 notification.

13  
14 This section does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a  
15 school operating for the purpose of providing educational  
16 services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice commitment  
17 programs. For purposes of continuity of educational choice,  
18 the scholarship shall remain in force until the student  
19 returns to a public school or graduates from high school.  
20 However, at any time, the student's parent may remove the  
21 student from the private school and place the student in  
22 another private school that is eligible for the program under  
23 subsection (4) or in a public school as provided in subsection  
24 (3).

25 (3) SCHOOL DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
26 OBLIGATIONS.--

27 (a) A school district shall timely notify the parent  
28 of the student of all options available pursuant to this  
29 section and offer that student's parent an opportunity to  
30 enroll the student in another public school within the  
31 district. The parent is not required to accept this offer in

1 lieu of requesting a John M. McKay Scholarship to a private  
2 school. However, if the parent chooses the public school  
3 option, the student may continue attending a public school  
4 chosen by the parent until the student graduates from high  
5 school. If the parent chooses a public school consistent with  
6 the district school board's choice plan under s. 1002.31, the  
7 school district shall provide transportation to the public  
8 school selected by the parent. The parent is responsible to  
9 provide transportation to a public school chosen that is not  
10 consistent with the district school board's choice plan under  
11 s. 1002.31.

12 (b) For a student with disabilities who does not have  
13 a matrix of services under s. 1011.62(1)(e), the school  
14 district must complete a matrix that assigns the student to  
15 one of the levels of service as they existed prior to the  
16 2000-2001 school year. The school district must complete the  
17 matrix of services for any student who is participating in the  
18 John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities  
19 Program and must notify the Department of Education of the  
20 student's matrix level within 30 days after receiving  
21 notification by the student's parent of intent to participate  
22 in the scholarship program. The Department of Education shall  
23 notify the private school of the amount of the scholarship  
24 within 10 days after receiving the school district's  
25 notification of the student's matrix level. Within 10 school  
26 days after it receives notification of a parent's intent to  
27 apply for a McKay Scholarship, a district school board must  
28 notify the student's parent if the matrix has not been  
29 completed and provide the parent with the date for completion  
30 of the matrix required in this paragraph.

31

1        (c) If the parent chooses the private school option  
2 and the student is accepted by the private school pending the  
3 availability of a space for the student, the parent of the  
4 student must notify the school district 60 days prior to the  
5 first scholarship payment and before entering the private  
6 school in order to be eligible for the scholarship when a  
7 space becomes available for the student in the private school.

8        (d) The parent of a student may choose, as an  
9 alternative, to enroll the student in and transport the  
10 student to a public school in an adjacent school district  
11 which has available space and has a program with the services  
12 agreed to in the student's individual education plan already  
13 in place, and that school district shall accept the student  
14 and report the student for purposes of the district's funding  
15 pursuant to the Florida Education Finance Program.

16        (e) For a student in the district who participates in  
17 the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities  
18 Program whose parent requests that the student take the  
19 statewide assessments under s. 1008.22, the district shall  
20 provide locations and times to take all statewide assessments.

21        (f) A school district must notify the Department of  
22 Education within 10 days after it receives notification of a  
23 parent's intent to apply for a scholarship for a student with  
24 a disability. A school district must provide the student's  
25 parent with the student's matrix level within 10 school days  
26 after its completion.

27        (4) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY.--To be eligible to  
28 participate in the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students  
29 with Disabilities Program, a private school must be a Florida  
30 private school, may be sectarian or nonsectarian, and must:  
31

1       (a) Demonstrate fiscal soundness by being in operation  
2 for 1 school year or provide the Department of Education with  
3 a statement by a certified public accountant confirming that  
4 the private school desiring to participate is insured and the  
5 owner or owners have sufficient capital or credit to operate  
6 the school for the upcoming year serving the number of  
7 students anticipated with expected revenues from tuition and  
8 other sources that may be reasonably expected. In lieu of such  
9 a statement, a surety bond or letter of credit for the amount  
10 equal to the scholarship funds for any quarter may be filed  
11 with the department.

12       (b) Notify the Department of Education of its intent  
13 to participate in the program under this section. The notice  
14 must specify the grade levels and services that the private  
15 school has available for students with disabilities who are  
16 participating in the scholarship program.

17       (c) Comply with the antidiscrimination provisions of  
18 42 U.S.C. s. 2000d.

19       (d) Meet state and local health and safety laws and  
20 codes.

21       (e) Be academically accountable to the parent for  
22 meeting the educational needs of the student.

23       (f) Employ or contract with teachers who hold  
24 baccalaureate or higher degrees, or have at least 3 years of  
25 teaching experience in public or private schools, or have  
26 special skills, knowledge, or expertise that qualifies them to  
27 provide instruction in subjects taught.

28       (g) Comply with all state laws relating to general  
29 regulation of private schools.

30       (h) Adhere to the tenets of its published disciplinary  
31 procedures prior to the expulsion of a scholarship student.

1           (5) OBLIGATION OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.--

2           (a) A parent who applies for a John M. McKay  
3 Scholarship is exercising his or her parental option to place  
4 his or her child in a private school. The parent must select  
5 the private school and apply for the admission of his or her  
6 child.

7           (b) The parent must have requested the scholarship at  
8 least 60 days prior to the date of the first scholarship  
9 payment.

10           (c) Any student participating in the scholarship  
11 program must remain in attendance throughout the school year,  
12 unless excused by the school for illness or other good cause,  
13 and must comply fully with the school's code of conduct.

14           (d) The parent of each student participating in the  
15 scholarship program must comply fully with the private  
16 school's parental involvement requirements, unless excused by  
17 the school for illness or other good cause.

18           (e) If the parent requests that the student  
19 participating in the scholarship program take all statewide  
20 assessments required pursuant to s. 1008.22, the parent is  
21 responsible for transporting the student to the assessment  
22 site designated by the school district.

23           (f) Upon receipt of a scholarship warrant, the parent  
24 to whom the warrant is made must restrictively endorse the  
25 warrant to the private school for deposit into the account of  
26 the private school.

27           (g) A participant who fails to comply with this  
28 subsection forfeits the scholarship.

29           (6) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.--

30           (a)1. The maximum scholarship granted for an eligible  
31 student with disabilities shall be a calculated amount

1 equivalent to the base student allocation in the Florida  
2 Education Finance Program multiplied by the appropriate cost  
3 factor for the educational program that would have been  
4 provided for the student in the district school to which he or  
5 she was assigned, multiplied by the district cost  
6 differential.

7       2. In addition, a share of the guaranteed allocation  
8 for exceptional students shall be determined and added to the  
9 calculated amount. The calculation shall be based on the  
10 methodology and the data used to calculate the guaranteed  
11 allocation for exceptional students for each district in  
12 chapter 2000-166, Laws of Florida. Except as provided in  
13 subparagraph 3., the calculation shall be based on the  
14 student's grade, matrix level of services, and the difference  
15 between the 2000-2001 basic program and the appropriate level  
16 of services cost factor, multiplied by the 2000-2001 base  
17 student allocation and the 2000-2001 district cost  
18 differential for the sending district. Also, the calculated  
19 amount shall include the per-student share of supplemental  
20 academic instruction funds, instructional materials funds,  
21 technology funds, and other categorical funds as provided for  
22 such purposes in the General Appropriations Act.

23       3. Until the school district completes the matrix  
24 required by paragraph (3)(b), the calculation shall be based  
25 on the matrix that assigns the student to support level I of  
26 service as it existed prior to the 2000-2001 school year.  
27 When the school district completes the matrix, the amount of  
28 the payment shall be adjusted as needed.

29       (b) The amount of the John M. McKay Scholarship shall  
30 be the calculated amount or the amount of the private school's  
31 tuition and fees, whichever is less. The amount of any

1 assessment fee required by the participating private school  
2 may be paid from the total amount of the scholarship.

3 (c) If the participating private school requires  
4 partial payment of tuition prior to the start of the academic  
5 year to reserve space for students admitted to the school,  
6 that partial payment may be paid by the Department of  
7 Education prior to the first quarterly payment of the year in  
8 which the John M. McKay Scholarship is awarded, up to a  
9 maximum of \$1,000, and deducted from subsequent scholarship  
10 payments. If a student decides not to attend the participating  
11 private school, the partial reservation payment must be  
12 returned to the Department of Education by the participating  
13 private school. There is a limit of one reservation payment  
14 per student per year.

15 (d) The school district shall report all students who  
16 are attending a private school under this program. The  
17 students with disabilities attending private schools on John  
18 M. McKay Scholarships shall be reported separately from other  
19 students reported for purposes of the Florida Education  
20 Finance Program.

21 (e) Following notification on July 1, September 1,  
22 December 1, or February 1 of the number of program  
23 participants, the Department of Education shall transfer, from  
24 General Revenue funds only, the amount calculated under  
25 paragraph (b) from the school district's total funding  
26 entitlement under the Florida Education Finance Program and  
27 from authorized categorical accounts to a separate account for  
28 the scholarship program for quarterly disbursement to the  
29 parents of participating students. When a student enters the  
30 scholarship program, the Department of Education must receive  
31 all documentation required for the student's participation,

1 including the private school's and student's fee schedules, at  
2 least 30 days before the first quarterly scholarship payment  
3 is made for the student. The Department of Education may not  
4 make any retroactive payments.

5 (f) Upon proper documentation reviewed and approved by  
6 the Department of Education, the Comptroller shall make  
7 scholarship payments in four equal amounts no later than  
8 September 1, November 1, February 1, and April 15 of each  
9 academic year in which the scholarship is in force. The  
10 initial payment shall be made after Department of Education  
11 verification of admission acceptance, and subsequent payments  
12 shall be made upon verification of continued enrollment and  
13 attendance at the private school. Payment must be by  
14 individual warrant made payable to the student's parent and  
15 mailed by the Department of Education to the private school of  
16 the parent's choice, and the parent shall restrictively  
17 endorse the warrant to the private school for deposit into the  
18 account of the private school.

19 (7) LIABILITY.--No liability shall arise on the part  
20 of the state based on the award or use of a John M. McKay  
21 Scholarship.

22 (8) RULES.--The State Board of Education may adopt  
23 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this  
24 section. However, the inclusion of eligible private schools  
25 within options available to Florida public school students  
26 does not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its  
27 officers, or any school district to impose any additional  
28 regulation of private schools beyond those reasonably  
29 necessary to enforce requirements expressly set forth in this  
30 section.

31

1           Section 105. Part IV of chapter 1002, Florida  
2 Statutes, shall be entitled "Home Education, Private Schools,  
3 Other Education Options" and shall consist of ss.  
4 1002.41-1002.43.

5           Section 106. Section 1002.41, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7           1002.41 Home education programs.--

8           (1) A "home education program" is defined in s.  
9 1002.01. The parent is not required to hold a valid regular  
10 Florida teaching certificate.

11           (a) The parent shall notify the district school  
12 superintendent of the county in which the parent resides of  
13 her or his intent to establish and maintain a home education  
14 program. The notice shall be in writing, signed by the parent,  
15 and shall include the names, addresses, and birthdates of all  
16 children who shall be enrolled as students in the home  
17 education program. The notice shall be filed in the district  
18 school superintendent's office within 30 days of the  
19 establishment of the home education program. A written notice  
20 of termination of the home education program shall be filed in  
21 the district school superintendent's office within 30 days  
22 after said termination.

23           (b) The parent shall maintain a portfolio of records  
24 and materials. The portfolio shall consist of the following:

25           1. A log of educational activities that is made  
26 contemporaneously with the instruction and that designates by  
27 title any reading materials used.

28           2. Samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks, or  
29 creative materials used or developed by the student.

30  
31

1 The portfolio shall be preserved by the parent for 2 years and  
2 shall be made available for inspection by the district school  
3 superintendent, or the district school superintendent's agent,  
4 upon 15 days' written notice. Nothing in this section shall  
5 require the district school superintendent to inspect the  
6 portfolio.

7 (c) The parent shall provide for an annual educational  
8 evaluation in which is documented the student's demonstration  
9 of educational progress at a level commensurate with her or  
10 his ability. The parent shall select the method of evaluation  
11 and shall file a copy of the evaluation annually with the  
12 district school superintendent's office in the county in which  
13 the student resides. The annual educational evaluation shall  
14 consist of one of the following:

15 1. A teacher selected by the parent shall evaluate the  
16 student's educational progress upon review of the portfolio  
17 and discussion with the student. Such teacher shall hold a  
18 valid regular Florida certificate to teach academic subjects  
19 at the elementary or secondary level;

20 2. The student shall take any nationally normed  
21 student achievement test administered by a certified teacher;

22 3. The student shall take a state student assessment  
23 test used by the school district and administered by a  
24 certified teacher, at a location and under testing conditions  
25 approved by the school district;

26 4. The student shall be evaluated by an individual  
27 holding a valid, active license pursuant to the provisions of  
28 s. 490.003(7) or (8); or

29 5. The student shall be evaluated with any other valid  
30 measurement tool as mutually agreed upon by the district  
31

1 school superintendent of the district in which the student  
2 resides and the student's parent.

3 (2) The district school superintendent shall review  
4 and accept the results of the annual educational evaluation of  
5 the student in a home education program. If the student does  
6 not demonstrate educational progress at a level commensurate  
7 with her or his ability, the district school superintendent  
8 shall notify the parent, in writing, that such progress has  
9 not been achieved. The parent shall have 1 year from the date  
10 of receipt of the written notification to provide remedial  
11 instruction to the student. At the end of the 1-year  
12 probationary period, the student shall be reevaluated as  
13 specified in paragraph (1)(c). Continuation in a home  
14 education program shall be contingent upon the student  
15 demonstrating educational progress commensurate with her or  
16 his ability at the end of the probationary period.

17 (3) A home education program shall be excluded from  
18 meeting the requirements of a school day.

19 (4) Home education students may participate in  
20 interscholastic extracurricular student activities in  
21 accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.15.

22 (5) Home education students may participate in the  
23 Bright Futures Scholarship Program in accordance with the  
24 provisions of ss. 1009.53-1009.539.

25 (6) Home education students may participate in dual  
26 enrollment programs in accordance with the provisions of s.  
27 1007.27(4) and 1007.271(10).

28 (7) Home education students are eligible for admission  
29 to community colleges in accordance with the provisions of s.  
30 1007.263.  
31

1           (8) Home education students are eligible for admission  
2 to state universities in accordance with the provisions of s.  
3 1007.261.

4           (9) Home education program students may receive  
5 testing and evaluation services at diagnostic and resource  
6 centers, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.03.

7           Section 107. Section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9           1002.42 Private schools.--

10           (1) DEFINITION.--A "private school" is defined in s.  
11 1002.01.

12           (2) ANNUAL PRIVATE SCHOOL SURVEY.--

13           (a) The Department of Education shall organize,  
14 maintain, and annually update a database of educational  
15 institutions within the state coming within the provisions of  
16 this section. There shall be included in the database of each  
17 institution the name, address, and telephone number of the  
18 institution; the type of institution; the names of  
19 administrative officers; the enrollment by grade or special  
20 group (e.g., career and technical education and exceptional  
21 child education); the number of graduates; the number of  
22 instructional and administrative personnel; the number of days  
23 the school is in session; and such data as may be needed to  
24 meet the provisions of this section and s. 1003.23(2).

25           (b) For the purpose of organizing, maintaining, and  
26 updating this database, each private school shall annually  
27 execute and file a database survey form on a date designated  
28 by the Department of Education which shall include a notarized  
29 statement ascertaining that the owner of the private school  
30 has complied with the provisions of paragraph (c). For the  
31

1 purpose of this section, "owner" means any individual who is  
2 the chief administrative officer of a private school.

3 (c)1. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (h),  
4 each person who is an owner or who establishes, purchases, or  
5 otherwise becomes an owner of a private school shall, within 5  
6 days of assuming ownership of a school, file with the  
7 Department of Law Enforcement a complete set of fingerprints  
8 for state processing and checking for criminal background. The  
9 fingerprints shall be taken by an authorized law enforcement  
10 officer or an employee of the school who is trained to take  
11 fingerprints. The costs of fingerprinting, criminal records  
12 checking, and processing shall be borne by the applicant or  
13 private school. The result of the criminal records checking  
14 by the Department of Law Enforcement shall be forwarded to the  
15 owner of the private school and shall be made available for  
16 public inspection in the private school office as soon as it  
17 is received.

18 2. It shall be unlawful for a person who has been  
19 convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude to own or  
20 operate a private school.

21 3. An owner of a private school may require school  
22 employees to file a complete set of fingerprints with the  
23 Department of Law Enforcement for processing and criminal  
24 records checking. Findings from such processing and checking  
25 shall be reported to the owner for use in employment  
26 decisions.

27 4. Owners or employees of private schools who have  
28 been fingerprinted pursuant to this paragraph, s. 1012.32, or  
29 s. 402.3055 shall not be required to be refingerprinted if  
30 they have not been unemployed or unassociated with a private  
31 school or child care facility for more than 90 days.

1           5. Persons holding a valid Florida teaching  
2 certificate who have been fingerprinted pursuant to s. 1012.35  
3 shall not be required to comply with the provisions of this  
4 paragraph.

5           (d) The data inquiries to be included and answered in  
6 the survey required in paragraph (b) shall be limited to  
7 matters set forth in paragraph (a). The department shall  
8 furnish annually to each school sufficient copies of this  
9 form.

10           (e) To ensure completeness and accuracy of the  
11 database, each existing private educational institution  
12 falling within the provisions of this section shall notify the  
13 Department of Education of any change in the name of the  
14 institution, the address, or the chief administrative officer.  
15 Each new institution shall notify the department of its  
16 establishment.

17           (f) Annually, the department shall make accessible to  
18 the public data on private education in this state. Such data  
19 shall include that collected pursuant to paragraph (a) and  
20 from other sources.

21           (g) The failure of any institution to submit the  
22 annual database survey form and notarized statement of  
23 compliance with the provisions of paragraph (c), as required  
24 by this section, shall be judged a misdemeanor and, upon  
25 conviction, proper authorities of such institution shall be  
26 subject to a fine not exceeding \$500. Submission of data for  
27 a nonexistent school or an institution providing no  
28 instruction or training, the purpose of which is to defraud  
29 the public, is unlawful and the person or persons responsible  
30 commit a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as  
31 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Persons found to be in

1 violation of subparagraph (c)2. commit a misdemeanor of the  
2 first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
3 775.083.

4 (h) It is the intent of the Legislature not to  
5 regulate, control, approve, or accredit private educational  
6 institutions, but to create a database where current  
7 information may be obtained relative to the educational  
8 institutions in this state coming within the provisions of  
9 this section as a service to the public, to governmental  
10 agencies, and to other interested parties. It is not the  
11 intent of the Legislature to regulate, control, or monitor,  
12 expressly or implicitly, churches, their ministries, or  
13 religious instruction, freedoms, or rites. It is the intent  
14 of the Legislature that the annual submission of the database  
15 survey by a school shall not be used by that school to imply  
16 approval or accreditation by the Department of Education.

17 (3) RETENTION OF RECORDS.--

18 (a) As used in this subsection:

19 1. "Defunct private school" means any private school  
20 that has terminated the operation of an education or training  
21 program, or that has no students in attendance, or that has  
22 dissolved as a business entity.

23 2. "Student records" means those records, files,  
24 documents, and other materials that contain information  
25 directly related to students that are maintained by a private  
26 school or by a person acting for such institution and that are  
27 accessible to other professional personnel to facilitate the  
28 instruction, guidance, and educational progress of students.  
29 Information contained in student records shall be classified  
30 as follows:

31

1           a. Permanent information, which includes verified  
2 information of clear educational importance, containing the  
3 following: student's full name and any known changes thereto  
4 due to marriage or adoption; authenticated birthdate, place of  
5 birth, race, and sex; last known address of student; names of  
6 student's parents; name and location of last school attended;  
7 number of days present and absent; date enrolled; date  
8 withdrawn; courses taken and record of achievement; and date  
9 of graduation or program achievement.

10           b. Temporary information, which includes verified  
11 information subject to change, containing, but not limited to,  
12 the following: health information, standardized test scores,  
13 honors and activities, personal attributes, work experience,  
14 teacher and counselor comments, and special reports.

15           (b) All private schools that become defunct shall  
16 transfer all permanent information contained in student  
17 records to the district school superintendent of the public  
18 school district in which the private school was located; or,  
19 if the private school is a member of a private school system  
20 or association, such school may transfer such records to the  
21 principal office of such system or association, which shall  
22 constitute full compliance with this subsection. In the event  
23 that such private school system or association becomes  
24 defunct, it shall transfer all the permanent information  
25 contained in its files to the district school superintendent  
26 of the public school district in which the private school was  
27 located.

28           (c) All private schools that become defunct shall  
29 notify the Department of Education Office of Private Schools  
30 and Home Education Programs of the date of transfer of student  
31 records, the location of storage, the custodian of such

1 records, and the number of records to be stored. The  
2 department shall act as a clearinghouse and maintain a  
3 registry of such transfers of student records.

4 (d) It is not the intent of the Legislature to limit  
5 or restrict the use or possession of any student records while  
6 a school is operational, but to facilitate access to academic  
7 records by former students seeking to continue their education  
8 or training after a private school has become defunct.

9 (4) ATTENDANCE RECORDS AND REPORTS.--All officials,  
10 teachers, and other employees in parochial, religious,  
11 denominational, and private schools shall keep and prepare  
12 records in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.23(2).

13 (5) SCHOOL-ENTRY HEALTH EXAMINATIONS.--The governing  
14 authority of each private school shall require students to  
15 present a certification of a school-entry health examination  
16 in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.22(1) and (2).

17 (6) IMMUNIZATIONS.--The governing authority of each  
18 private school shall require students to present a  
19 certification of immunization in accordance with the  
20 provisions of s. 1003.22(3)-(11).

21 (7) ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS.--Attendance of a student  
22 at a private, parochial, religious, or denominational school  
23 satisfies the attendance requirements of ss. 1003.01(14) and  
24 1003.21(1).

25 (8) ATHLETIC COMPETITION.--A private school may  
26 participate in athletic competition with a public high school  
27 in accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.20(1).

28 (9) RECEIPT OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS.--The Department  
29 of Education may disseminate educational materials and sell  
30 copies for educational use to private schools pursuant to s.  
31 1006.39.

1           (10) INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.--District school boards  
2 may dispose of instructional materials when they become  
3 unserviceable or surplus or are no longer on state contract by  
4 giving them to a private school in accordance with the  
5 provisions of s. 1006.41.

6           (11) DIAGNOSTIC AND RESOURCE CENTERS.--Diagnostic and  
7 resource centers may provide testing and evaluation services  
8 to private school students in accordance with the provisions  
9 of s. 1006.03(3).

10           (12) EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION SERVICES.--District school  
11 boards may provide instruction for an appropriate program of  
12 special instruction, facilities, and services for exceptional  
13 students through contractual arrangements with approved  
14 private schools in accordance with the provisions of s.  
15 1003.57.

16           (13) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.--An organization  
17 of private schools that has no fewer than 10 member schools in  
18 this state may develop a professional development system to be  
19 filed with the Department of Education in accordance with the  
20 provisions of s. 1012.98(7).

21           (14) BUS DRIVER TRAINING.--Private school bus drivers  
22 may participate in a district school board's bus driver  
23 training program, if the district school board makes the  
24 program available pursuant to s. 1006.26.

25           (15) POOL PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUSES.--

26           (a) Florida private schools that demonstrate a  
27 racially nondiscriminatory student admission policy may  
28 purchase school buses from the state pool purchase program as  
29 authorized in s. 1006.27(1), if the private school meets the  
30 following conditions:  
31

- 1           1. Students in one or more grades, kindergarten  
2 through grade 12, are provided an education program by the  
3 school and the school has submitted the information required  
4 pursuant to this section and the most recent school survey  
5 required in subsection (2).
- 6           2. All conditions of the contracts for purchasing  
7 school buses between the Department of Education and the  
8 companies involved, including bus specifications, ordering  
9 deadlines, delivery period and procedures, and payment  
10 requirements, shall be met.
- 11           3. Purchase orders shall be made out to the  
12 appropriate company or companies involved and shall be  
13 accompanied by a certified check in the amount of 25 percent  
14 of the total cost of the bus or buses as a good faith deposit  
15 that the bus or buses will be purchased.
- 16           4. The remainder of the total cost shall be paid upon  
17 delivery of the bus or buses to the representative of the  
18 private school receiving the bus or buses, or shall be paid  
19 when the company informs the purchaser that the buses are  
20 ready for delivery if the purchaser has specified that buses  
21 are to be picked up at the company's location. If the chassis  
22 and the body are purchased from different companies, the  
23 remainder of the chassis' total cost shall be payable upon  
24 delivery of the chassis to the body manufacturer.
- 25           5. If the private school does not meet the obligation  
26 stated in subparagraph 4. within 30 calendar days after notice  
27 that the bus is ready for delivery or that the chassis has  
28 been delivered to the body manufacturer, the selling company  
29 may retain 15 percent of the amount being held by the company  
30 as a good faith deposit, and all obligations to the private  
31 school may be canceled. When the 15 percent is retained, the

1 company shall return 10 percent of the good faith deposit to  
2 the nonpublic school within 15 days of cancellation of the  
3 companies' objection.

4 (b) Any bus purchased under this section may not be  
5 sold, if still titled as a motor vehicle, within 5 calendar  
6 years of the date of the initial Florida title being issued,  
7 unless the following conditions are met:

8 1. The bus or buses may be sold only to a Florida  
9 public school district or Florida private school. Any such  
10 sale during the first 5 years shall be documented to the  
11 Department of Education within 15 days after the sale.

12 2. The bus or buses shall be advertised by the private  
13 school in one major newspaper located in each of the five  
14 regions of the state for 3 consecutive days and a copy of the  
15 advertisement and the name of each newspaper shall be sent to  
16 the Department of Education before the first day of  
17 advertising the bus or buses for sale.

18 3. The bus may not be sold at a profit. The bus shall  
19 be depreciated at a rate of 10 percent per calendar year, with  
20 the first year starting on the date of issue of the initial  
21 title in this state.

22 4. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law and  
23 rule regarding purchase of used school buses, the bus may be  
24 sold to a public school district if the conditions of  
25 subparagraph 3. are met.

26 5. Any public school district or private school  
27 purchasing a bus under the conditions of this subsection must  
28 accept the obligations of this subsection, and such shall be  
29 entered in the sales contract.

30 (c) Any private school, including the owner or  
31 corporation purchasing a bus or buses under the conditions of

1 this section, that does not comply with all the conditions of  
 2 this section shall not be eligible for future purchases of a  
 3 school bus under this section.

4 (d) Any private school interested in purchasing a bus  
 5 under this section shall notify, in writing, the Department of  
 6 Education. The Department of Education shall send the school  
 7 the appropriate forms, instructions, and price quotations.

8 (e) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this  
 9 section, no school bus manufacturer, distributor, or dealer  
 10 shall be required to violate any dealer contract or franchise  
 11 agreement entered into before the effective date of this  
 12 section regarding the sale of its buses.

13 (f) The State Board of Education may adopt rules  
 14 pursuant to ss. 120.536 and 120.54 necessary to implement this  
 15 section, maintain the integrity of the school bus pool  
 16 purchase program, and ensure the best and lowest price for  
 17 purchasing school buses by the public school districts.

18 Section 108. Section 1002.43, Florida Statutes, is  
 19 created to read:

20 1002.43 Private tutoring programs.--

21 (1) Regular attendance as defined in s. 1003.01(14)  
 22 may be achieved by attendance in a private tutoring program if  
 23 the person tutoring the student meets the following  
 24 requirements:

25 (a) Holds a valid Florida certificate to teach the  
 26 subjects or grades in which instruction is given.

27 (b) Keeps all records and makes all reports required  
 28 by the state and district school board and makes regular  
 29 reports on the attendance of students in accordance with the  
 30 provisions of s. 1003.23(2).

31

1           (c) Requires students to be in actual attendance for  
2 the minimum length of time prescribed by s. 1011.60(2).

3           (2) Private tutors shall keep and prepare records in  
4 accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.23(2).

5           Section 109. Chapter 1003, Florida Statutes, shall be  
6 entitled "Public K-12 Education" and shall consist of ss.  
7 1003.01-1003.63.

8           Section 110. Part I of chapter 1003, Florida Statutes,  
9 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of  
10 ss. 1003.01-1003.04.

11           Section 111. Section 1003.01, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13           1003.01 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, the  
14 term:

15           (1) "District school board" means the members who are  
16 elected by the voters of a school district created and  
17 existing pursuant to s. 4, Art. IX of the State Constitution  
18 to operate and control public K-12 education within the school  
19 district.

20           (2) "School" means an organization of students for  
21 instructional purposes on an elementary, middle or junior high  
22 school, secondary or high school, or other public school level  
23 authorized under rules of the State Board of Education.

24           (3)(a) "Exceptional student" means any student who has  
25 been determined eligible for a special program in accordance  
26 with rules of the State Board of Education. The term includes  
27 students who are gifted and students with disabilities who are  
28 mentally handicapped, speech and language impaired, deaf or  
29 hard of hearing, visually impaired, dual sensory impaired,  
30 physically impaired, emotionally handicapped, specific  
31 learning disabled, hospital and homebound, autistic,

1 developmentally delayed children, ages birth through 5 years,  
2 or children, ages birth through 2 years, with established  
3 conditions that are identified in State Board of Education  
4 rules pursuant to s. 1003.21(1)(e).

5 (b) "Special education services" means specially  
6 designed instruction and such related services as are  
7 necessary for an exceptional student to benefit from  
8 education. Such services may include: transportation;  
9 diagnostic and evaluation services; social services; physical  
10 and occupational therapy; job placement; orientation and  
11 mobility training; braillists, typists, and readers for the  
12 blind; interpreters and auditory amplification; rehabilitation  
13 counseling; transition services; mental health services;  
14 guidance and career counseling; specified materials, assistive  
15 technology devices, and other specialized equipment; and other  
16 such services as approved by rules of the state board.

17 (4) "Career and technical education" means education  
18 that provides instruction for the following purposes:

19 (a) At the elementary, middle, and secondary school  
20 levels, exploratory courses designed to give students initial  
21 exposure to a broad range of occupations to assist them in  
22 preparing their academic and occupational plans, and practical  
23 arts courses that provide generic skills that may apply to  
24 many occupations but are not designed to prepare students for  
25 entry into a specific occupation. Career and technical  
26 education provided before high school completion must be  
27 designed to enhance both occupational and academic skills  
28 through integration with academic instruction.

29 (b) At the secondary school level, job-preparatory  
30 instruction in the competencies that prepare students for  
31 effective entry into an occupation, including diversified

1 cooperative education, work experience, and job-entry programs  
2 that coordinate directed study and on-the-job training.

3 (c) At the postsecondary education level, courses of  
4 study that provide competencies needed for entry into specific  
5 occupations or for advancement within an occupation.

6 (5)(a) "Suspension," also referred to as out-of-school  
7 suspension, means the temporary removal of a student from all  
8 classes of instruction on public school grounds and all other  
9 school-sponsored activities, except as authorized by the  
10 principal or the principal's designee, for a period not to  
11 exceed 10 school days and remanding of the student to the  
12 custody of the student's parent with specific homework  
13 assignments for the student to complete.

14 (b) "In-school suspension" means the temporary removal  
15 of a student from the student's regular school program and  
16 placement in an alternative program, such as that provided in  
17 s. 1003.53, under the supervision of district school board  
18 personnel, for a period not to exceed 10 school days.

19 (6) "Expulsion" means the removal of the right and  
20 obligation of a student to attend a public school under  
21 conditions set by the district school board, and for a period  
22 of time not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year  
23 and 1 additional year of attendance. Expulsions may be imposed  
24 with or without continuing educational services and shall be  
25 reported accordingly.

26 (7) "Corporal punishment" means the moderate use of  
27 physical force or physical contact by a teacher or principal  
28 as may be necessary to maintain discipline or to enforce  
29 school rule. However, the term "corporal punishment" does not  
30 include the use of such reasonable force by a teacher or  
31

1 principal as may be necessary for self-protection or to  
2 protect other students from disruptive students.

3 (8) "Habitual truant" means a student who has 15  
4 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days with or without the  
5 knowledge or consent of the student's parent, is subject to  
6 compulsory school attendance under s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a),  
7 and is not exempt under s. 1003.21(3) or s. 1003.24, or by  
8 meeting the criteria for any other exemption specified by law  
9 or rules of the State Board of Education. Such a student must  
10 have been the subject of the activities specified in ss.  
11 1003.26 and 1003.27(3), without resultant successful  
12 remediation of the truancy problem before being dealt with as  
13 a child in need of services according to the provisions of  
14 chapter 984.

15 (9) "Dropout" means a student who meets any one or  
16 more of the following criteria:

17 (a) The student has voluntarily removed himself or  
18 herself from the school system before graduation for reasons  
19 that include, but are not limited to, marriage, or the student  
20 has withdrawn from school because he or she has failed the  
21 statewide student assessment test and thereby does not receive  
22 any of the certificates of completion;

23 (b) The student has not met the relevant attendance  
24 requirements of the school district pursuant to State Board of  
25 Education rules, or the student was expected to attend a  
26 school but did not enter as expected for unknown reasons, or  
27 the student's whereabouts are unknown;

28 (c) The student has withdrawn from school, but has not  
29 transferred to another public or private school or enrolled in  
30 any career and technical, adult, home education, or  
31 alternative educational program;

1           (d) The student has withdrawn from school due to  
2 hardship, unless such withdrawal has been granted under the  
3 provisions of s. 322.091, court action, expulsion, medical  
4 reasons, or pregnancy; or

5           (e) The student is not eligible to attend school  
6 because of reaching the maximum age for an exceptional student  
7 program in accordance with the district's policy.

8  
9 The State Board of Education may adopt rules to implement the  
10 provisions of this subsection.

11           (10) "Alternative measures for students with special  
12 needs" or "special programs" means measures designed to meet  
13 the special needs of a student that cannot be met by regular  
14 school curricula.

15           (11)(a) "Juvenile justice education programs or  
16 schools" means programs or schools operating for the purpose  
17 of providing educational services to youth in Department of  
18 Juvenile Justice programs, for a school year comprised of 250  
19 days of instruction distributed over 12 months. At the request  
20 of the provider, a district school board may decrease the  
21 minimum number of days of instruction by up to 10 days for  
22 teacher planning for residential programs and up to 20 days  
23 for teacher planning for nonresidential programs, subject to  
24 the approval of the Department of Juvenile Justice and the  
25 Department of Education.

26           (b) "Juvenile justice provider" means the Department  
27 of Juvenile Justice or a private, public, or other  
28 governmental organization under contract with the Department  
29 of Juvenile Justice that provides treatment, care and custody,  
30 or educational programs for youth in juvenile justice  
31 intervention, detention, or commitment programs.

- 1           (12) "Homeless child" means:  
2           (a) One who lacks a fixed, regular nighttime  
3 residence;  
4           (b) One who has a primary nighttime residence that is:  
5           1. A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter  
6 designed to provide temporary living accommodations, including  
7 welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing  
8 for the mentally ill;  
9           2. An institution that provides a temporary residence  
10 for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or  
11           3. A public or private place not designed for, or  
12 ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human  
13 beings; or  
14           (c) One who temporarily resides with an adult other  
15 than his or her parent because the parent is suffering  
16 financial hardship.  
17  
18 A child who is imprisoned, detained, or in the custody of the  
19 state pursuant to a state or federal law is not a homeless  
20 child.  
21           (13) "Regular school attendance" means the actual  
22 attendance of a student during the school day as defined by  
23 law and rules of the State Board of Education. Regular  
24 attendance within the intent of s. 1003.21 may be achieved by  
25 attendance in:  
26           (a) A public school supported by public funds;  
27           (b) A parochial, religious, or denominational school;  
28           (c) A private school supported in whole or in part by  
29 tuition charges or by endowments or gifts;  
30           (d) A home education program that meets the  
31 requirements of chapter 1002; or

1           (e) A private tutoring program that meets the  
2 requirements of chapter 1002.

3           Section 112. Section 1003.02, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5           1003.02 District school board operation and control of  
6 public K-12 education within the school district.--As provided  
7 in part II of chapter 1001, district school boards are  
8 constitutionally and statutorily charged with the operation  
9 and control of public K-12 education within their school  
10 district. The district school boards must establish, organize,  
11 and operate their public K-12 schools and educational  
12 programs, employees, and facilities. Their responsibilities  
13 include staff development, public K-12 school student  
14 education including education for exceptional students and  
15 students in juvenile justice programs, special programs, adult  
16 education programs, and career and technical education  
17 programs. Additionally, district school boards must:

18           (1) Provide for the proper accounting for all students  
19 of school age, for the attendance and control of students at  
20 school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other  
21 matters relating to the welfare of students in the following  
22 fields:

23           (a) Admission, classification, promotion, and  
24 graduation of students.--Adopt rules for admitting,  
25 classifying, promoting, and graduating students to or from the  
26 various schools of the district.

27           (b) Enforcement of attendance laws.--Provide for the  
28 enforcement of all laws and rules relating to the attendance  
29 of students at school.

30           (c) Control of students.--  
31

- 1           1. Adopt rules for the control, attendance,  
2 discipline, in-school suspension, suspension, and expulsion of  
3 students and decide all cases recommended for expulsion.
- 4           2. Maintain a code of student conduct as provided in  
5 chapter 1006.
- 6           (d) Courses of study and instructional materials.--
- 7           1. Provide adequate instructional materials for all  
8 students as follows and in accordance with the requirements of  
9 chapter 1006, in the core courses of mathematics, language  
10 arts, social studies, science, reading, and literature, except  
11 for instruction for which the school advisory council approves  
12 the use of a program that does not include a textbook as a  
13 major tool of instruction.
- 14           2. Adopt courses of study for use in the schools of  
15 the district.
- 16           3. Provide for proper requisitioning, distribution,  
17 accounting, storage, care, and use of all instructional  
18 materials as may be needed, and ensure that instructional  
19 materials used in the district are consistent with the  
20 district goals and objectives and the curriculum frameworks  
21 approved by the State Board of Education, as well as with the  
22 state and school district performance standards required by  
23 law and state board rule.
- 24           (e) Transportation.--Make provision for the  
25 transportation of students to the public schools or school  
26 activities they are required or expected to attend,  
27 efficiently and economically, in accordance with the  
28 requirements of chapter 1006.
- 29           (f) Facilities and school plant.--
- 30           1. Approve and adopt a districtwide school facilities  
31 program, in accordance with the requirements of chapter 1013.

- 1           2. Approve plans for locating, planning, constructing,  
2 sanitating, insuring, maintaining, protecting, and condemning  
3 school property as prescribed in chapter 1013.
- 4           3. Approve and adopt a districtwide school building  
5 program.
- 6           4. Select and purchase school sites, playgrounds, and  
7 recreational areas located at centers at which schools are to  
8 be constructed, of adequate size to meet the needs of  
9 projected students to be accommodated.
- 10           5. Approve the proposed purchase of any site,  
11 playground, or recreational area for which school district  
12 funds are to be used.
- 13           6. Expand existing sites.
- 14           7. Rent buildings when necessary.
- 15           8. Enter into leases or lease-purchase arrangements,  
16 in accordance with the requirements and conditions provided in  
17 s. 1013.15(2).
- 18           9. Provide for the proper supervision of construction.
- 19           10. Make or contract for additions, alterations, and  
20 repairs on buildings and other school properties.
- 21           11. Ensure that all plans and specifications for  
22 buildings provide adequately for the safety and well-being of  
23 students, as well as for economy of construction.
- 24           12. Provide adequately for the proper maintenance and  
25 upkeep of school plants.
- 26           13. Carry insurance on every school building in all  
27 school plants including contents, boilers, and machinery,  
28 except buildings of three classrooms or less which are of  
29 frame construction and located in a tenth class public  
30 protection zone as defined by the Florida Inspection and  
31 Rating Bureau, and on all school buses and other property

1 under the control of the district school board or title to  
2 which is vested in the district school board, except as  
3 exceptions may be authorized under rules of the State Board of  
4 Education.

5 14. Condemn and prohibit the use for public school  
6 purposes of any building under the control of the district  
7 school board.

8 (g) School operation.--

9 1. Provide for the operation of all public schools as  
10 free schools for a term of at least 180 days or the equivalent  
11 on an hourly basis as specified by rules of the State Board of  
12 Education; determine district school funds necessary in  
13 addition to state funds to operate all schools for the minimum  
14 term; and arrange for the levying of district school taxes  
15 necessary to provide the amount needed from district sources.

16 2. Prepare, adopt, and timely submit to the Department  
17 of Education, as required by law and by rules of the State  
18 Board of Education, the annual school budget, so as to promote  
19 the improvement of the district school system.

20 (h) Records and reports.--

21 1. Keep all necessary records and make all needed and  
22 required reports, as required by law or by rules of the State  
23 Board of Education.

24 2. At regular intervals require reports to be made by  
25 principals or teachers in all public schools to the parents of  
26 the students enrolled and in attendance at their schools,  
27 apprising them of the academic and other progress being made  
28 by the student and giving other useful information.

29 (2) Require that all laws, all rules of the State  
30 Board of Education, and all rules of the district school board  
31 are properly enforced.

1           (3) Maintain a system of school improvement and  
2 education accountability as required by law and State Board of  
3 Education rule, including but not limited to the requirements  
4 of chapter 1008.

5           (4) For any school within the district that is not in  
6 compliance with the small school size requirements of chapter  
7 1013, in order to reduce the anonymity of students in large  
8 schools, adopt policies that encourage subdivision of the  
9 school into schools-within-a-school, which shall operate  
10 within existing resources. A "school-within-a-school" means an  
11 operational program that uses flexible scheduling, team  
12 planning, and curricular and instructional innovation to  
13 organize groups of students with groups of teachers as smaller  
14 units, so as to functionally operate as a smaller school.  
15 Examples of this include, but are not limited to:

16           (a) An organizational arrangement assigning both  
17 students and teachers to smaller units in which the students  
18 take some or all of their coursework with their fellow grouped  
19 students and from the teachers assigned to the smaller unit. A  
20 unit may be grouped together for 1 year or on a vertical,  
21 multiyear basis.

22           (b) An organizational arrangement similar to that  
23 described in paragraph (a) with additional variations in  
24 instruction and curriculum. The smaller unit usually seeks to  
25 maintain a program different from that of the larger school,  
26 or of other smaller units. It may be vertically organized, but  
27 is dependent upon the school principal for its existence,  
28 budget, and staff.

29           (c) A separate and autonomous smaller unit formally  
30 authorized by the district school board or district school  
31 superintendent. The smaller unit plans and runs its own

1 program, has its own staff and students, and receives its own  
2 separate budget. The smaller unit must negotiate the use of  
3 common space with the larger school and defer to the building  
4 principal on matters of safety and building operation.

5 Section 113. Section 1003.03, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1003.03 Maximum class size goals.--It is the goal of  
8 the Legislature and each district school board that each  
9 elementary school in the school district beginning with  
10 kindergarten through grade three class sizes not exceed 20  
11 students, with a ratio of one full-time equivalent teacher per  
12 20 students; except that only in the case of "D" and "F"  
13 schools as identified by the commissioner, the goal in  
14 kindergarten through grade three shall be a ratio of one  
15 full-time equivalent teacher per 15 students. For purposes of  
16 any funding in the General Appropriations Act to meet these  
17 goals, the district school board shall give priority to  
18 identified "D" and "F" schools in the school district. Second  
19 priority for the use of any funds designated for meeting these  
20 goals shall be for kindergarten through grade one. Third  
21 priority for the use of any funds designated for meeting these  
22 goals shall be for grades two and three.

23 Section 114. Section 1003.04, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25 1003.04 Student conduct and parental involvement  
26 goals.--

27 (1) It is the goal of the Legislature and each  
28 district school board that each public K-12 student remain in  
29 attendance throughout the school year, unless excused by the  
30 school for illness or other good cause, and comply fully with  
31 the school's code of conduct.

1           (2) It is the goal of the Legislature and each  
2 district school board that the parent of each public K-12  
3 student comply with the school's reasonable and  
4 time-acceptable parental involvement requests.

5           Section 115. Part II of chapter 1003, Florida  
6 Statutes, shall be entitled "School Attendance" and shall  
7 consist of ss. 1003.21-1003.29.

8           Section 116. Section 1003.21, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10           1003.21 School attendance.--

11           (1)(a)1. All children who have attained the age of 6  
12 years or who will have attained the age of 6 years by February  
13 1 of any school year or who are older than 6 years of age but  
14 who have not attained the age of 16 years, except as otherwise  
15 provided, are required to attend school regularly during the  
16 entire school term.

17           2. Children who will have attained the age of 5 years  
18 on or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for  
19 admission to public kindergartens during that school year  
20 under rules adopted by the district school board.

21           (b) Any child who has attained the age of 6 years on  
22 or before September 1 of the school year and who has been  
23 enrolled in a public school or who has attained the age of 6  
24 years on or before September 1 and has satisfactorily  
25 completed the requirements for kindergarten in a private  
26 school from which the district school board accepts transfer  
27 of academic credit, or who otherwise meets the criteria for  
28 admission or transfer in a manner similar to that applicable  
29 to other grades, shall progress according to the district's  
30 student progression plan. However, nothing in this section  
31 shall authorize the state or any school district to oversee or

1 exercise control over the curricula or academic programs of  
2 private schools or home education programs.

3 (c) A student who attains the age of 16 years during  
4 the school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance  
5 beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the  
6 student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate  
7 school enrollment with the district school board. The  
8 declaration must acknowledge that terminating school  
9 enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning potential  
10 and must be signed by the student and the student's parent.  
11 The school district must notify the student's parent of  
12 receipt of the student's declaration of intent to terminate  
13 school enrollment.

14 (d) Students who become or have become married and  
15 students who are pregnant shall not be prohibited from  
16 attending school. These students and students who are parents  
17 shall receive the same educational instruction or its  
18 equivalent as other students, but may voluntarily be assigned  
19 to a class or program suited to their special needs.  
20 Consistent with s. 1003.54, pregnant or parenting teens may  
21 participate in a teenage parent program. Pregnant students may  
22 attend alternative education programs or adult education  
23 programs, provided that the curriculum allows the student to  
24 continue to work toward a high school diploma.

25 (e) Consistent with rules adopted by the State Board  
26 of Education, children with disabilities who have attained the  
27 age of 3 years shall be eligible for admission to public  
28 special education programs and for related services under  
29 rules adopted by the district school board. Exceptional  
30 children who are deaf or hard of hearing, visually impaired,  
31 dual sensory impaired, severely physically handicapped,

1 trainable mentally handicapped, or profoundly handicapped, or  
2 who have established conditions, or exhibit developmental  
3 delays, below age 3 may be eligible for special programs; or,  
4 if enrolled in other school readiness programs, they may be  
5 eligible for supplemental instruction. Rules for the  
6 identification of established conditions for children birth  
7 through 2 years of age and developmental delays for children  
8 birth through 5 years of age must be adopted by the State  
9 Board of Education.

10 (f) Homeless children, as defined in s. 1003.01, must  
11 have access to a free public education and must be admitted to  
12 school in the school district in which they or their families  
13 live. School districts shall assist homeless children to meet  
14 the requirements of subsection (4) and s. 1003.22, as well as  
15 local requirements for documentation.

16 (2)(a) The State Board of Education may adopt rules  
17 under which students not meeting the entrance age may be  
18 transferred from another state if their parents have been  
19 legal residents of that state.

20 (b) Each district school board, in accordance with  
21 rules of the State Board of Education, shall adopt a policy  
22 that authorizes a parent to request and be granted permission  
23 for absence of a student from school for religious instruction  
24 or religious holidays.

25 (3) The district school superintendent may authorize  
26 certificates of exemptions from school attendance requirements  
27 in certain situations. Students within the compulsory  
28 attendance age limits who hold valid certificates of exemption  
29 that have been issued by the superintendent shall be exempt  
30 from attending school. A certificate of exemption shall cease  
31

1 to be valid at the end of the school year in which it is  
2 issued.

3 (4) Before admitting a child to kindergarten, the  
4 principal shall require evidence that the child has attained  
5 the age at which he or she should be admitted in accordance  
6 with the provisions of subparagraph (1)(a)2. The district  
7 school superintendent may require evidence of the age of any  
8 child whom he or she believes to be within the limits of  
9 compulsory attendance as provided for by law. If the first  
10 prescribed evidence is not available, the next evidence  
11 obtainable in the order set forth below shall be accepted:

12 (a) A duly attested transcript of the child's birth  
13 record filed according to law with a public officer charged  
14 with the duty of recording births;

15 (b) A duly attested transcript of a certificate of  
16 baptism showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the  
17 child, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent;

18 (c) An insurance policy on the child's life that has  
19 been in force for at least 2 years;

20 (d) A bona fide contemporary religious record of the  
21 child's birth accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the  
22 parent;

23 (e) A passport or certificate of arrival in the United  
24 States showing the age of the child;

25 (f) A transcript of record of age shown in the child's  
26 school record of at least 4 years prior to application,  
27 stating date of birth; or

28 (g) If none of these evidences can be produced, an  
29 affidavit of age sworn to by the parent, accompanied by a  
30 certificate of age signed by a public health officer or by a  
31 public school physician, or, if neither of these is available

1 in the county, by a licensed practicing physician designated  
2 by the district school board, which certificate states that  
3 the health officer or physician has examined the child and  
4 believes that the age as stated in the affidavit is  
5 substantially correct. A homeless child, as defined in s.  
6 1003.01, shall be given temporary exemption from this section  
7 for 30 school days.

8 Section 117. Section 1003.22, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1003.22 School-entry health examinations; immunization  
11 against communicable diseases; exemptions; duties of  
12 Department of Health.--

13 (1) Each district school board and the governing  
14 authority of each private school shall require that each child  
15 who is entitled to admittance to kindergarten, or is entitled  
16 to any other initial entrance into a public or private school  
17 in this state, present a certification of a school-entry  
18 health examination performed within 1 year prior to enrollment  
19 in school. Each district school board, and the governing  
20 authority of each private school, may establish a policy that  
21 permits a student up to 30 school days to present a  
22 certification of a school-entry health examination. A  
23 homeless child, as defined in s. 1003.01, shall be given a  
24 temporary exemption for 30 school days. Any district school  
25 board that establishes such a policy shall include provisions  
26 in its local school health services plan to assist students in  
27 obtaining the health examinations. However, any child shall be  
28 exempt from the requirement of a health examination upon  
29 written request of the parent of the child stating objections  
30 to the examination on religious grounds.

31

1           (2) The State Board of Education, subject to the  
2 concurrence of the Department of Health, shall adopt rules to  
3 govern medical examinations and immunizations performed under  
4 this section.

5           (3) The Department of Health may adopt rules necessary  
6 to administer and enforce this section. The Department of  
7 Health, after consultation with the Department of Education,  
8 shall adopt rules governing the immunization of children  
9 against, the testing for, and the control of preventable  
10 communicable diseases. The rules must include procedures for  
11 exempting a child from immunization requirements.  
12 Immunizations shall be required for poliomyelitis, diphtheria,  
13 rubeola, rubella, pertussis, mumps, tetanus, and other  
14 communicable diseases as determined by rules of the Department  
15 of Health. The manner and frequency of administration of the  
16 immunization or testing shall conform to recognized standards  
17 of medical practice. The Department of Health shall supervise  
18 and secure the enforcement of the required immunization.  
19 Immunizations required by this section shall be available at  
20 no cost from the county health departments.

21           (4) Each district school board and the governing  
22 authority of each private school shall establish and enforce  
23 as policy that, prior to admittance to or attendance in a  
24 public or private school, grades kindergarten through 12, each  
25 child present or have on file with the school a certification  
26 of immunization for the prevention of those communicable  
27 diseases for which immunization is required by the Department  
28 of Health and further shall provide for appropriate screening  
29 of its students for scoliosis at the proper age. Such  
30 certification shall be made on forms approved and provided by  
31 the Department of Health and shall become a part of each

1 student's permanent record, to be transferred when the student  
2 transfers, is promoted, or changes schools. The transfer of  
3 such immunization certification by Florida public schools  
4 shall be accomplished using the Florida Automated System for  
5 Transferring Education Records and shall be deemed to meet the  
6 requirements of this section.

7 (5) The provisions of this section shall not apply if:

8 (a) The parent of the child objects in writing that  
9 the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with his or  
10 her religious tenets or practices;

11 (b) A physician licensed under the provisions of  
12 chapter 458 or chapter 459 certifies in writing, on a form  
13 approved and provided by the Department of Health, that the  
14 child should be permanently exempt from the required  
15 immunization for medical reasons stated in writing, based upon  
16 valid clinical reasoning or evidence, demonstrating the need  
17 for the permanent exemption;

18 (c) A physician licensed under the provisions of  
19 chapter 458, chapter 459, or chapter 460 certifies in writing,  
20 on a form approved and provided by the Department of Health,  
21 that the child has received as many immunizations as are  
22 medically indicated at the time and is in the process of  
23 completing necessary immunizations;

24 (d) The Department of Health determines that,  
25 according to recognized standards of medical practice, any  
26 required immunization is unnecessary or hazardous; or

27 (e) An authorized school official issues a temporary  
28 exemption, for a period not to exceed 30 school days, to  
29 permit a student who transfers into a new county to attend  
30 class until his or her records can be obtained. A homeless  
31 child, as defined in s. 1003.01, shall be given a temporary

1 exemption for 30 school days. The public school health nurse  
2 or authorized private school official is responsible for  
3 followup of each such student until proper documentation or  
4 immunizations are obtained. An exemption for 30 days may be  
5 issued for a student who enters a juvenile justice program to  
6 permit the student to attend class until his or her records  
7 can be obtained or until the immunizations can be obtained. An  
8 authorized juvenile justice official is responsible for  
9 followup of each student who enters a juvenile justice program  
10 until proper documentation or immunizations are obtained.

11 (6)(a) No person licensed by this state as a physician  
12 or nurse shall be liable for any injury caused by his or her  
13 action or failure to act in the administration of a vaccine or  
14 other immunizing agent pursuant to the provisions of this  
15 section if the person acts as a reasonably prudent person with  
16 similar professional training would have acted under the same  
17 or similar circumstances.

18 (b) No member of a district school board, or any of  
19 its employees, or member of a governing board of a private  
20 school, or any of its employees, shall be liable for any  
21 injury caused by the administration of a vaccine to any  
22 student who is required to be so immunized or for a failure to  
23 diagnose scoliosis pursuant to the provisions of this section.

24 (7) The parents of any child admitted to or in  
25 attendance at a Florida public or private school, grades  
26 kindergarten through 12, are responsible for assuring that the  
27 child is in compliance with the provisions of this section.

28 (8) Each public school, including public kindergarten,  
29 and each private school, including private kindergarten, shall  
30 be required to provide to the county health department  
31 director or administrator annual reports of compliance with

1 the provisions of this section. Reports shall be completed on  
2 forms provided by the Department of Health for each  
3 kindergarten, and other grade as specified; and the reports  
4 shall include the status of children who were admitted at the  
5 beginning of the school year. After consultation with the  
6 Department of Education, the Department of Health shall  
7 establish by administrative rule the dates for submission of  
8 these reports, the grades for which the reports shall be  
9 required, and the forms to be used.

10 (9) The presence of any of the communicable diseases  
11 for which immunization is required by the Department of Health  
12 in a Florida public or private school shall permit the county  
13 health department director or administrator or the State  
14 Health Officer to declare a communicable disease emergency.  
15 The declaration of such emergency shall mandate that all  
16 students in attendance in the school who are not in compliance  
17 with the provisions of this section be identified by the  
18 district school board or by the governing authority of the  
19 private school; and the school health and immunization records  
20 of such children shall be made available to the county health  
21 department director or administrator. Those children  
22 identified as not being immunized against the disease for  
23 which the emergency has been declared shall be temporarily  
24 excluded from school by the district school board, or the  
25 governing authority of the private school, until such time as  
26 is specified by the county health department director or  
27 administrator.

28 (10) Each district school board and the governing  
29 authority of each private school shall:

30 (a) Refuse admittance to any child otherwise entitled  
31 to admittance to kindergarten, or any other initial entrance

1 into a Florida public or private school, who is not in  
2 compliance with the provisions of subsection (4).

3 (b) Temporarily exclude from attendance any student  
4 who is not in compliance with the provisions of subsection  
5 (4).

6 (11) The provisions of this section do not apply to  
7 those persons admitted to or attending adult education classes  
8 unless the adult students are under 21 years of age.

9 Section 118. Section 1003.23, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11 1003.23 Attendance records and reports.--

12 (1) The attendance of all public K-12 school students  
13 shall be checked each school day in the manner prescribed by  
14 rules of the State Board of Education and recorded in the  
15 teacher's register or by some approved system of recording  
16 attendance. Students may be counted in attendance only if  
17 they are actually present at school or are away from school on  
18 a school day and are engaged in an educational activity which  
19 constitutes a part of the school-approved instructional  
20 program for the student.

21 (2) All officials, teachers, and other employees in  
22 public, parochial, religious, denominational, and private K-12  
23 schools, including private tutors, shall keep all records and  
24 shall prepare and submit promptly all reports that may be  
25 required by law and by rules of the State Board of Education  
26 and district school boards. Such records shall include a  
27 register of enrollment and attendance and all persons  
28 described above shall make these reports therefrom as may be  
29 required by the State Board of Education. The enrollment  
30 register shall show the absence or attendance of each student  
31 enrolled for each school day of the year in a manner

1 prescribed by the State Board of Education. The register shall  
2 be open for the inspection by the designated school  
3 representative or the district school superintendent of the  
4 district in which the school is located. Violation of the  
5 provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor of the  
6 second degree, punishable as provided by law. This section  
7 shall not apply to home education programs provided in s.  
8 1002.41.

9           Section 119. Section 1003.24, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11           1003.24 Parents responsible for attendance of  
12 children; attendance policy.--Each parent of a child within  
13 the compulsory attendance age is responsible for the child's  
14 school attendance as required by law. The absence of a  
15 student from school is prima facie evidence of a violation of  
16 this section; however, criminal prosecution under this chapter  
17 may not be brought against a parent until the provisions of s.  
18 1003.26 have been complied with. A parent of a student is not  
19 responsible for the student's nonattendance at school under  
20 any of the following conditions:

21           (1) WITH PERMISSION.--The absence was with permission  
22 of the head of the school;

23           (2) WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE.--The absence was without the  
24 parent's knowledge, consent, or connivance, in which case the  
25 student shall be dealt with as a dependent child;

26           (3) FINANCIAL INABILITY.--The parent was unable  
27 financially to provide necessary clothes for the student,  
28 which inability was reported in writing to the superintendent  
29 prior to the opening of school or immediately after the  
30 beginning of such inability, provided that the validity of any  
31 claim for exemption under this paragraph shall be determined

1 by the district school superintendent subject to appeal to the  
2 district school board; or

3 (4) SICKNESS, INJURY, OR OTHER INSURMOUNTABLE  
4 CONDITION.--Attendance was impracticable or inadvisable on  
5 account of sickness or injury, attested to by a written  
6 statement of a licensed practicing physician, or was  
7 impracticable because of some other stated insurmountable  
8 condition as defined by rules of the State Board of Education.  
9 If a student is continually sick and repeatedly absent from  
10 school, he or she must be under the supervision of a physician  
11 in order to receive an excuse from attendance. Such excuse  
12 provides that a student's condition justifies absence for more  
13 than the number of days permitted by the district school  
14 board.

15  
16 Each district school board shall establish an attendance  
17 policy that includes, but is not limited to, the required  
18 number of days each school year that a student must be in  
19 attendance and the number of absences and tardinesses after  
20 which a statement explaining such absences and tardinesses  
21 must be on file at the school. Each school in the district  
22 must determine if an absence or tardiness is excused or  
23 unexcused according to criteria established by the district  
24 school board.

25 Section 120. Section 1003.25, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 1003.25 Procedures for maintenance and transfer of  
28 student records.--

29 (1) Each principal shall maintain a permanent  
30 cumulative record for each student enrolled in a public K-12  
31 school. Such record shall be maintained in the form, and

1 contain all data, prescribed by rule by the State Board of  
2 Education. The cumulative record is confidential and exempt  
3 from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and is open to inspection  
4 only as provided in chapter 1002.

5 (2) The procedure for transferring and maintaining  
6 records of students who transfer from school to school shall  
7 be prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education.

8 (3) Procedures relating to the acceptance of transfer  
9 work and credit for students shall be prescribed by rule by  
10 the State Board of Education.

11 Section 121. Section 1003.26, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13 1003.26 Enforcement of school attendance.--The  
14 Legislature finds that poor academic performance is associated  
15 with nonattendance and that schools must take an active role  
16 in enforcing attendance as a means of improving the  
17 performance of many students. It is the policy of the state  
18 that each district school superintendent be responsible for  
19 enforcing school attendance of all students subject to the  
20 compulsory school age in the school district. The  
21 responsibility includes recommending to the district school  
22 board policies and procedures to ensure that schools respond  
23 in a timely manner to every unexcused absence, or absence for  
24 which the reason is unknown, of students enrolled in the  
25 schools. District school board policies must require each  
26 parent of a student to justify each absence of the student,  
27 and that justification will be evaluated based on adopted  
28 district school board policies that define excused and  
29 unexcused absences. The policies must provide that schools  
30 track excused and unexcused absences and contact the home in  
31 the case of an unexcused absence from school, or an absence

1 from school for which the reason is unknown, to prevent the  
2 development of patterns of nonattendance. The Legislature  
3 finds that early intervention in school attendance matters is  
4 the most effective way of producing good attendance habits  
5 that will lead to improved student learning and achievement.  
6 Each public school shall implement the following steps to  
7 enforce regular school attendance:

8       (1) CONTACT, REFER, AND ENFORCE.--

9       (a) Upon each unexcused absence, or absence for which  
10 the reason is unknown, the school principal or his or her  
11 designee shall contact the student's parent to determine the  
12 reason for the absence. If the absence is an excused absence,  
13 as defined by district school board policy, the school shall  
14 provide opportunities for the student to make up assigned work  
15 and not receive an academic penalty unless the work is not  
16 made up within a reasonable time.

17       (b) If a student has had at least five unexcused  
18 absences, or absences for which the reasons are unknown,  
19 within a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences, or absences  
20 for which the reasons are unknown, within a 90-calendar-day  
21 period, the student's primary teacher shall report to the  
22 school principal or his or her designee that the student may  
23 be exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance. The principal shall,  
24 unless there is clear evidence that the absences are not a  
25 pattern of nonattendance, refer the case to the school's child  
26 study team to determine if early patterns of truancy are  
27 developing. If the child study team finds that a pattern of  
28 nonattendance is developing, whether the absences are excused  
29 or not, a meeting with the parent must be scheduled to  
30 identify potential remedies, and the principal shall notify  
31 the district school superintendent and the school district

1 contact for home education programs that the referred student  
2 is exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance.

3 (c) If an initial meeting does not resolve the  
4 problem, the child study team shall implement interventions  
5 that best address the problem. The interventions may include,  
6 but need not be limited to:

7 1. Frequent communication between the teacher and the  
8 family;

9 2. Changes in the learning environment;

10 3. Mentoring;

11 4. Student counseling;

12 5. Tutoring, including peer tutoring;

13 6. Placement into different classes;

14 7. Evaluation for alternative education programs;

15 8. Attendance contracts;

16 9. Referral to other agencies for family services; or

17 10. Other interventions, including, but not limited  
18 to, a truancy petition pursuant to s. 984.151.

19 (d) The child study team shall be diligent in  
20 facilitating intervention services and shall report the case  
21 to the district school superintendent only when all reasonable  
22 efforts to resolve the nonattendance behavior are exhausted.

23 (e) If the parent refuses to participate in the  
24 remedial strategies because he or she believes that those  
25 strategies are unnecessary or inappropriate, the parent may  
26 appeal to the district school board. The district school board  
27 may provide a hearing officer, and the hearing officer shall  
28 make a recommendation for final action to the district school  
29 board. If the district school board's final determination is  
30 that the strategies of the child study team are appropriate,  
31 and the parent still refuses to participate or cooperate, the

1 district school superintendent may seek criminal prosecution  
2 for noncompliance with compulsory school attendance.

3 (f)1. If the parent of a child who has been identified  
4 as exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance enrolls the child in  
5 a home education program pursuant to chapter 1002, the  
6 district school superintendent shall provide the parent a copy  
7 of s. 1002.41 and the accountability requirements of this  
8 paragraph. The district school superintendent shall also  
9 refer the parent to a home education review committee composed  
10 of the district contact for home education programs and at  
11 least two home educators selected by the parent from a  
12 district list of all home educators who have conducted a home  
13 education program for at least 3 years and who have indicated  
14 a willingness to serve on the committee. The home education  
15 review committee shall review the portfolio of the student, as  
16 defined by s. 1002.41, every 30 days during the district's  
17 regular school terms until the committee is satisfied that the  
18 home education program is in compliance with s. 1002.41(1)(b).  
19 The first portfolio review must occur within the first 30  
20 calendar days of the establishment of the program. The  
21 provisions of subparagraph 2. do not apply once the committee  
22 determines the home education program is in compliance with s.  
23 1002.41(1)(b).

24 2. If the parent fails to provide a portfolio to the  
25 committee, the committee shall notify the district school  
26 superintendent. The district school superintendent shall then  
27 terminate the home education program and require the parent to  
28 enroll the child in an attendance option that meets the  
29 definition of "regular school attendance" under s.  
30 1003.01(13)(a), (b), (c), or (e), within 3 days. Upon  
31 termination of a home education program pursuant to this

1 subparagraph, the parent shall not be eligible to reenroll the  
2 child in a home education program for 180 calendar days.  
3 Failure of a parent to enroll the child in an attendance  
4 option as required by this subparagraph after termination of  
5 the home education program pursuant to this subparagraph shall  
6 constitute noncompliance with the compulsory attendance  
7 requirements of s. 1003.21 and may result in criminal  
8 prosecution under s. 1003.27(2). Nothing contained herein  
9 shall restrict the ability of the district school  
10 superintendent, or the ability of his or her designee, to  
11 review the portfolio pursuant to s. 1002.41(1)(b).

12 (g) If a student subject to compulsory school  
13 attendance will not comply with attempts to enforce school  
14 attendance, the parent or the district school superintendent  
15 or his or her designee shall refer the case to the case  
16 staffing committee pursuant to s. 984.12, and the district  
17 school superintendent or his or her designee may file a  
18 truancy petition pursuant to the procedures in s. 984.151.

19 (2) GIVE WRITTEN NOTICE.--

20 (a) Under the direction of the district school  
21 superintendent, a designated school representative shall give  
22 written notice that requires enrollment or attendance within 3  
23 days after the date of notice, in person or by return-receipt  
24 mail, to the parent when no valid reason is found for a  
25 student's nonenrollment in school. If the notice and  
26 requirement are ignored, the designated school representative  
27 shall report the case to the district school superintendent,  
28 and may refer the case to the case staffing committee,  
29 established pursuant to s. 984.12. The district school  
30 superintendent shall take such steps as are necessary to bring  
31 criminal prosecution against the parent.

1           (b) Subsequent to the activities required under  
2 subsection (1), the district school superintendent or his or  
3 her designee shall give written notice in person or by  
4 return-receipt mail to the parent that criminal prosecution is  
5 being sought for nonattendance. The district school  
6 superintendent may file a truancy petition, as defined in s.  
7 984.03, following the procedures outlined in s. 984.151.

8           (3) RETURN STUDENT TO PARENT.--A designated school  
9 representative shall visit the home or place of residence of a  
10 student and any other place in which he or she is likely to  
11 find any student who is required to attend school when the  
12 student is not enrolled or is absent from school during school  
13 hours without an excuse, and, when the student is found, shall  
14 return the student to his or her parent or to the principal or  
15 teacher in charge of the school, or to the private tutor from  
16 whom absent, or to the juvenile assessment center or other  
17 location established by the district school board to receive  
18 students who are absent from school. Upon receipt of the  
19 student, the parent shall be immediately notified.

20           (4) REPORT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY.--A designated  
21 school representative shall report to the appropriate  
22 authority designated by law to receive such notices, all  
23 violations of the Child Labor Law that may come to his or her  
24 knowledge.

25           (5) RIGHT TO INSPECT.--A designated school  
26 representative shall have the right of access to, and  
27 inspection of, establishments where minors may be employed or  
28 detained only for the purpose of ascertaining whether students  
29 of compulsory school age are actually employed there and are  
30 actually working there regularly. The designated school  
31 representative shall, if he or she finds unsatisfactory

1 working conditions or violations of the Child Labor Law,  
2 report his or her findings to the appropriate authority.

3 Section 122. Section 1003.27, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1003.27 Court procedure and penalties.--The court  
6 procedure and penalties for the enforcement of the provisions  
7 of this part, relating to compulsory school attendance, shall  
8 be as follows:

9 (1) COURT JURISDICTION.--The circuit court has  
10 original and exclusive jurisdiction of all proceedings  
11 against, or prosecutions of, students under the provisions of  
12 this part. Proceedings against, or prosecutions of, parents or  
13 employers as provided by this section shall be in the court of  
14 each county having jurisdiction of misdemeanors wherein trial  
15 by jury is afforded the defendant.

16 (2) NONENROLLMENT AND NONATTENDANCE CASES.--

17 (a) In each case of nonenrollment or of nonattendance  
18 upon the part of a student who is required to attend some  
19 school, when no valid reason for such nonenrollment or  
20 nonattendance is found, the district school superintendent  
21 shall institute a criminal prosecution against the student's  
22 parent.

23 (b) Each public school principal or the principal's  
24 designee shall notify the district school board of each minor  
25 student under its jurisdiction who accumulates 15 unexcused  
26 absences in a period of 90 calendar days. Each designee of the  
27 governing body of each private school, and each parent whose  
28 child is enrolled in a home education program, may provide the  
29 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles with the legal  
30 name, sex, date of birth, and social security number of each  
31 minor student under his or her jurisdiction who fails to

1 satisfy relevant attendance requirements and who fails to  
2 otherwise satisfy the requirements of s. 322.091. The district  
3 school superintendent must provide the Department of Highway  
4 Safety and Motor Vehicles the legal name, sex, date of birth,  
5 and social security number of each minor student who has been  
6 reported under this paragraph and who fails to otherwise  
7 satisfy the requirements of s. 322.091. The Department of  
8 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles may not issue a driver's  
9 license or learner's driver's license to, and shall suspend  
10 any previously issued driver's license or learner's driver's  
11 license of, any such minor student, pursuant to the provisions  
12 of s. 322.091.

13 (3) HABITUAL TRUANCY CASES.--The district school  
14 superintendent is authorized to file a truancy petition, as  
15 defined in s. 984.03, following the procedures outlined in s.  
16 984.151. If the district school superintendent chooses not to  
17 file a truancy petition, procedures for filing a  
18 child-in-need-of-services petition shall be commenced pursuant  
19 to this subsection and chapter 984. In accordance with  
20 procedures established by the district school board, the  
21 designated school representative shall refer a student who is  
22 habitually truant and the student's family to the  
23 children-in-need-of-services and families-in-need-of-services  
24 provider or the case staffing committee, established pursuant  
25 to s. 984.12, as determined by the cooperative agreement  
26 required in this section. The case staffing committee may  
27 request the Department of Juvenile Justice or its designee to  
28 file a child-in-need-of-services petition based upon the  
29 report and efforts of the district school board or other  
30 community agency or may seek to resolve the truant behavior  
31 through the school or community-based organizations or

1 agencies. Prior to and subsequent to the filing of a  
2 child-in-need-of-services petition due to habitual truancy,  
3 the appropriate governmental agencies must allow a reasonable  
4 time to complete actions required by this section and s.  
5 1003.26 to remedy the conditions leading to the truant  
6 behavior. Prior to the filing of a petition, the district  
7 school board must have complied with the requirements of s.  
8 1003.26, and those efforts must have been unsuccessful.

9 (4) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.--The circuit manager of  
10 the Department of Juvenile Justice or the circuit manager's  
11 designee, the district administrator of the Department of  
12 Children and Family Services or the district administrator's  
13 designee, and the district school superintendent or the  
14 superintendent's designee must develop a cooperative  
15 interagency agreement that:

16 (a) Clearly defines each department's role,  
17 responsibility, and function in working with habitual truants  
18 and their families.

19 (b) Identifies and implements measures to resolve and  
20 reduce truant behavior.

21 (c) Addresses issues of streamlining service delivery,  
22 the appropriateness of legal intervention, case management,  
23 the role and responsibility of the case staffing committee,  
24 student and parental intervention and involvement, and  
25 community action plans.

26 (d) Delineates timeframes for implementation and  
27 identifies a mechanism for reporting results by the circuit  
28 juvenile justice manager or the circuit manager's designee and  
29 the district school superintendent or the superintendent's  
30 designee to the Department of Juvenile Justice and the  
31

1 Department of Education and other governmental entities as  
2 needed.

3 (e) Designates which agency is responsible for each of  
4 the intervention steps in this section, to yield more  
5 effective and efficient intervention services.

6 (5) ATTENDANCE REGISTER AS EVIDENCE.--The register of  
7 attendance of students at a public, parochial, religious,  
8 denominational, or private school, or of students taught by a  
9 private tutor, kept in compliance with rules of the State  
10 Board of Education is prima facie evidence of the facts which  
11 it is required to show. A certified copy of any rule and a  
12 statement of the date of its adoption by the State Board of  
13 Education is admissible as prima facie evidence of the  
14 provisions of the rule and of the date of its adoption.

15 (6) PROCEEDINGS AND PROSECUTIONS; WHO MAY  
16 BEGIN.--Proceedings or prosecutions under this chapter may be  
17 commenced by the district school superintendent, by a  
18 designated school representative, by the probation officer of  
19 the county, by the executive officer of any court of competent  
20 jurisdiction, by an officer of any court of competent  
21 jurisdiction, or by a duly authorized agent of the Department  
22 of Education or the Department of Juvenile Justice. If a  
23 proceeding has been commenced against both a parent and a  
24 child pursuant to this chapter, the presiding courts shall  
25 make every effort to coordinate sanctions against the child  
26 and parent, including ordering the child and parent to perform  
27 community service hours or attend counseling together.

28 (7) PENALTIES.--The penalties for refusing or failing  
29 to comply with this chapter shall be as follows:

30 (a) The parent.--  
31

1           1. A parent who refuses or fails to have a minor  
2 student who is under his or her control attend school  
3 regularly, or who refuses or fails to comply with the  
4 requirements in subsection (3), commits a misdemeanor of the  
5 second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
6 775.083.

7           2. The continued or habitual absence of a minor  
8 student without the consent of the principal or teacher in  
9 charge of the school he or she attends or should attend, or of  
10 the tutor who instructs or should instruct him or her, is  
11 prima facie evidence of a violation of this chapter; however,  
12 a showing that the parent has made a bona fide and diligent  
13 effort to control and keep the student in school shall be an  
14 affirmative defense to any criminal or other liability under  
15 this subsection and the court shall refer the parent and child  
16 for counseling, guidance, or other needed services.

17           3. In addition to any other punishment, the court  
18 shall order a parent who has violated this section to send the  
19 minor student to school, and may also order the parent to  
20 participate in an approved parent training class, attend  
21 school with the student unless this would cause undue  
22 hardship, perform community service hours at the school, or  
23 participate in counseling or other services, as appropriate.  
24 If a parent is ordered to attend school with a student, the  
25 school shall provide for programming to educate the parent and  
26 student on the importance of school attendance. It shall be  
27 unlawful to terminate any employee solely because he or she is  
28 attending school with his or her child pursuant to a court  
29 order.

30           (b) The principal or teacher.--A principal or teacher  
31 in any public, parochial, religious, denominational, or

1 private school, or a private tutor who willfully violates any  
2 provision of this chapter may, upon satisfactory proof of such  
3 violation, have his or her certificate revoked by the  
4 Department of Education.

5 (c) The employer.--

6 1. An employer who fails to notify the district school  
7 superintendent when he or she ceases to employ a student  
8 commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as  
9 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

10 2. An employer who terminates any employee solely  
11 because he or she is attending school with a student pursuant  
12 to court order commits a misdemeanor of the second degree,  
13 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

14 (d) The student.--

15 1. In addition to any other authorized sanctions, the  
16 court shall order a student found to be a habitual truant to  
17 make up all school work missed and may order the student to  
18 pay a civil penalty of up to \$2, based on the student's  
19 ability to pay, for each day of school missed, perform up to  
20 25 community service hours at the school, or participate in  
21 counseling or other services, as appropriate.

22 2. Upon a second or subsequent finding that a student  
23 is a habitual truant, the court, in addition to any other  
24 authorized sanctions, shall order the student to make up all  
25 school work missed and may order the student to pay a civil  
26 penalty of up to \$5, based on the student's ability to pay,  
27 for each day of school missed, perform up to 50 community  
28 service hours at the school, or participate in counseling or  
29 other services, as appropriate.

30 Section 123. Section 1003.28, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1003.28 Continuation of truancy remedial activities  
2 upon transfer of student; retention of legal jurisdiction.--

3           (1) If, during the activities designed to remedy  
4 truancy behavior as described in s. 1003.27, the parent of the  
5 student who is the subject of such activities transfers the  
6 student to another school district in this state in an attempt  
7 to circumvent the remedial procedures which have already  
8 begun, the administration of the school from which the student  
9 transferred shall provide to the administration of the new  
10 school, at no charge, copies of all available records and  
11 documents relevant to such remedial activities, and the  
12 administration of the new school shall begin remedial  
13 activities in the program that most closely meets the transfer  
14 student's needs.

15           (2) In the event that a legal proceeding has  
16 commenced, as provided in s. 1003.27, against a student who  
17 has been determined to be a habitual truant, the movement of  
18 the student who is the subject of such proceeding to another  
19 circuit court district in this state will not affect the  
20 jurisdiction of the court to proceed with the case under the  
21 law.

22           Section 124. Section 1003.29, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24           1003.29 Notice to schools of court action.--If a court  
25 takes action that directly involves a student's school,  
26 including, but not limited to, an order that a student attend  
27 school, attend school with his or her parent, perform at grade  
28 level, or perform community service hours at the school, the  
29 office of the clerk of the court shall provide notice to the  
30 school of the court's action.

31

1           Section 125. Part III of chapter 1003, Florida  
2 Statutes, shall be entitled "Control of Students" and shall  
3 consist of ss. 1003.31-1003.33.

4           Section 126. Section 1003.31, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1003.31 Students subject to control of school.--

7           (1) Subject to law and rules of the State Board of  
8 Education and of the district school board, each student  
9 enrolled in a school shall:

10           (a) During the time she or he is being transported to  
11 or from school at public expense;

12           (b) During the time she or he is attending school;

13           (c) During the time she or he is on the school  
14 premises participating with authorization in a  
15 school-sponsored activity; and

16           (d) During a reasonable time before and after the  
17 student is on the premises for attendance at school or for  
18 authorized participation in a school-sponsored activity, and  
19 only when on the premises,

20  
21 be under the control and direction of the principal or teacher  
22 in charge of the school, and under the immediate control and  
23 direction of the teacher or other member of the instructional  
24 staff or of the bus driver to whom such responsibility may be  
25 assigned by the principal. However, the State Board of  
26 Education or the district school board may, by rules, subject  
27 each student to the control and direction of the principal or  
28 teacher in charge of the school during the time she or he is  
29 otherwise en route to or from school or is presumed by law to  
30 be attending school.

31

1           (2) There is a rebuttable presumption that the term  
2 "reasonable time" means 30 minutes before or after the  
3 activity is scheduled or actually begins or ends, whichever  
4 period is longer. A school or district school board may, by  
5 policy or other formal action, assume a longer period of  
6 supervision. Casual or incidental contact between school  
7 district personnel and students on school property shall not  
8 result in a legal duty to supervise outside of the reasonable  
9 times set forth in this section, provided that parents shall  
10 be advised in writing twice per year or by posted signs of the  
11 school's formal supervisory responsibility and that parents  
12 should not rely on additional supervision. The duty of  
13 supervision shall not extend to anyone other than students  
14 attending school and students authorized to participate in  
15 school-sponsored activities.

16           (3) Nothing shall prohibit a district school board  
17 from having the right to expel, or to take disciplinary action  
18 against, a student who is found to have committed an offense  
19 on school property at any time if:

20           (a) The student is found to have committed a  
21 delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an  
22 adult;

23           (b) The student has had adjudication withheld for a  
24 delinquent act which, if committed by an adult, would be a  
25 felony; or

26           (c) The student has been found guilty of a felony.

27  
28 However, if the student is a student with a disability, the  
29 disciplinary action must comply with the procedures set forth  
30 in State Board of Education rule.

31

1           (4) Each student enrolled in a school may be required  
2 to take the following school child's daily conduct pledge:

3           (a) I will be respectful at all times and obedient  
4 unless asked to do wrong.

5           (b) I will not hurt another person with my words or my  
6 acts, because it is wrong to hurt others.

7           (c) I will tell the truth, because it is wrong to tell  
8 a lie.

9           (d) I will not steal, because it is wrong to take  
10 someone else's property.

11           (e) I will respect my body, and not take drugs.

12           (f) I will show strength and courage, and not do  
13 something wrong, just because others are doing it.

14           (g) I pledge to be nonviolent and to respect my  
15 teachers and fellow classmates.

16           Section 127. Section 1003.32, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18           1003.32 Authority of teacher; responsibility for  
19 control of students; district school board and principal  
20 duties.--Subject to law and to the rules of the district  
21 school board, each teacher or other member of the staff of any  
22 school shall have such authority for the control and  
23 discipline of students as may be assigned to him or her by the  
24 principal or the principal's designated representative and  
25 shall keep good order in the classroom and in other places in  
26 which he or she is assigned to be in charge of students.

27           (1) Within the framework of the district school  
28 board's code of student conduct, teachers and other  
29 instructional personnel shall have the authority to undertake  
30 any of the following actions in managing student behavior and  
31

- 1 ensuring the safety of all students in their classes and  
2 school:
- 3 (a) Establish classroom rules of conduct.
- 4 (b) Establish and implement consequences, designed to  
5 change behavior, for infractions of classroom rules.
- 6 (c) Have disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive,  
7 uncontrollable, or disruptive students temporarily removed  
8 from the classroom for behavior management intervention.
- 9 (d) Have violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or  
10 disruptive students directed for information or assistance  
11 from appropriate school or district school board personnel.
- 12 (e) Assist in enforcing school rules on school  
13 property, during school-sponsored transportation, and during  
14 school-sponsored activities.
- 15 (f) Request and receive information as to the  
16 disposition of any referrals to the administration for  
17 violation of classroom or school rules.
- 18 (g) Request and receive immediate assistance in  
19 classroom management if a student becomes uncontrollable or in  
20 case of emergency.
- 21 (h) Request and receive training and other assistance  
22 to improve skills in classroom management, violence  
23 prevention, conflict resolution, and related areas.
- 24 (i) Press charges if a crime has been committed  
25 against the teacher or other instructional personnel on school  
26 property, during school-sponsored transportation, or during  
27 school-sponsored activities.
- 28 (j) Use reasonable force, according to standards  
29 adopted by the State Board of Education, to protect himself or  
30 herself or others from injury.
- 31

- 1           (k) Use corporal punishment according to school board  
2 policy and at least the following procedures, if a teacher  
3 feels that corporal punishment is necessary:
- 4           1. The use of corporal punishment shall be approved in  
5 principle by the principal before it is used, but approval is  
6 not necessary for each specific instance in which it is used.  
7 The principal shall prepare guidelines for administering such  
8 punishment which identify the types of punishable offenses,  
9 the conditions under which the punishment shall be  
10 administered, and the specific personnel on the school staff  
11 authorized to administer the punishment.
- 12           2. A teacher or principal may administer corporal  
13 punishment only in the presence of another adult who is  
14 informed beforehand, and in the student's presence, of the  
15 reason for the punishment.
- 16           3. A teacher or principal who has administered  
17 punishment shall, upon request, provide the student's parent  
18 with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment  
19 and the name of the other adult who was present.
- 20           (2) Teachers and other instructional personnel shall:
- 21           (a) Set and enforce reasonable classroom rules that  
22 treat all students equitably.
- 23           (b) Seek professional development to improve classroom  
24 management skills when data show that they are not effective  
25 in handling minor classroom disruptions.
- 26           (c) Maintain a positive and effective learning  
27 environment that maximizes learning and minimizes disruption.
- 28           (d) Work with parents and other school personnel to  
29 solve discipline problems in their classrooms.
- 30           (3) A teacher may send a student to the principal's  
31 office to maintain effective discipline in the classroom. The

1 principal shall respond by employing appropriate  
2 discipline-management techniques consistent with the student  
3 code of conduct under s. 1006.07.

4 (4) A teacher may remove from class a student whose  
5 behavior the teacher determines interferes with the teacher's  
6 ability to communicate effectively with the students in the  
7 class or with the ability of the student's classmates to  
8 learn.

9 (5) If a teacher removes a student from class under  
10 subsection (4), the principal may place the student in another  
11 appropriate classroom, in in-school suspension, or in a  
12 dropout prevention and academic intervention program as  
13 provided by s. 1003.53; or the principal may recommend the  
14 student for out-of-school suspension or expulsion, as  
15 appropriate. The student may be prohibited from attending or  
16 participating in school-sponsored or school-related  
17 activities. The principal may not return the student to that  
18 teacher's class without the teacher's consent unless the  
19 committee established under subsection (6) determines that  
20 such placement is the best or only available alternative. The  
21 teacher and the placement review committee must render  
22 decisions within 5 days of the removal of the student from the  
23 classroom.

24 (6) Each school shall establish a committee to  
25 determine placement of a student when a teacher withholds  
26 consent to the return of a student to the teacher's class.  
27 Committee membership must include at least the following:

28 (a) Two teachers selected by the school's faculty.

29 (b) One member from the school's staff who is selected  
30 by the principal.

31

1 The teacher who withheld consent to readmitting the student  
2 may not serve on the committee. The teacher and the placement  
3 review committee must render decisions within 5 days after the  
4 removal of the student from the classroom.

5 (7) Any teacher who removes 25 percent of his or her  
6 total class enrollment shall be required to complete  
7 professional development to improve classroom management  
8 skills.

9 (8) When knowledgeable of the likely risk of physical  
10 violence in the schools, the district school board shall take  
11 reasonable steps to ensure that teachers, other school staff,  
12 and students are not at undue risk of violence or harm.

13 Section 128. Section 1003.33, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15 1003.33 Report cards; end-of-the-year status.--

16 (1) Each district school board shall establish and  
17 publish policies requiring the content and regular issuance of  
18 student report cards for all elementary school, middle school,  
19 and high school students. These report cards must clearly  
20 depict and grade:

21 (a) The student's academic performance in each class  
22 or course, which in grades 1 through 12 must be based upon  
23 examinations as well as written papers, class participation,  
24 and other academic performance criteria.

25 (b) The student's conduct and behavior.

26 (c) The student's attendance, including absences and  
27 tardiness.

28 (2) A student's final report card for a school year  
29 shall contain a statement indicating end-of-the-year status  
30 regarding performance or nonperformance at grade level,  
31

1 acceptable or unacceptable behavior and attendance, and  
2 promotion or nonpromotion.

3  
4 District school boards shall not allow schools to exempt  
5 students from academic performance requirements based on  
6 practices or policies designed to encourage student  
7 attendance. A student's attendance record may not be used in  
8 whole or in part to provide an exemption from any academic  
9 performance requirement.

10 Section 129. Part IV of chapter 1003, Florida  
11 Statutes, shall be entitled "Public K-12 Educational  
12 Instruction" and shall consist of ss. 1003.41-1003.491.

13 Section 130. Section 1003.41, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15 1003.41 Sunshine State Standards.--Public K-12  
16 educational instruction in Florida is based on the "Sunshine  
17 State Standards." These standards have been adopted by the  
18 State Board of Education and delineate the academic  
19 achievement of students, for which the state will hold schools  
20 accountable, in grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 in the subjects  
21 of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the  
22 arts, health and physical education, and foreign languages.  
23 They include standards in reading, writing, history,  
24 government, geography, economics, and computer literacy.

25 Section 131. Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 1003.42 Required instruction.--

28 (1) Each district school board shall provide all  
29 courses required for high school graduation and appropriate  
30 instruction designed to ensure that students meet State Board  
31 of Education adopted standards in the following subject areas:

1 reading and other language arts, mathematics, science, social  
2 studies, foreign languages, health and physical education, and  
3 the arts.

4 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public  
5 schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education  
6 and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and  
7 faithfully, using the books and materials required, following  
8 the prescribed courses of study, and employing approved  
9 methods of instruction, the following:

10 (a) The content of the Declaration of Independence and  
11 how it forms the philosophical foundation of our government.

12 (b) The arguments in support of adopting our  
13 republican form of government, as they are embodied in the  
14 most important of the Federalist Papers.

15 (c) The essentials of the United States Constitution  
16 and how it provides the structure of our government.

17 (d) Flag education, including proper flag display and  
18 flag salute.

19 (e) The elements of civil government, including the  
20 primary functions of and interrelationships between the  
21 Federal Government, the state, and its counties,  
22 municipalities, school districts, and special districts.

23 (f) The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the  
24 systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other  
25 groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of  
26 humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an  
27 investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the  
28 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an  
29 examination of what it means to be a responsible and  
30 respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance  
31

- 1 of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and  
2 protecting democratic values and institutions.
- 3 (g) The history of African Americans, including the  
4 history of African peoples before the political conflicts that  
5 led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the  
6 enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of  
7 African Americans to society.
- 8 (h) The elementary principles of agriculture.
- 9 (i) The true effects of all alcoholic and intoxicating  
10 liquors and beverages and narcotics upon the human body and  
11 mind.
- 12 (j) Kindness to animals.
- 13 (k) The history of the state.
- 14 (l) The conservation of natural resources.
- 15 (m) Comprehensive health education that addresses  
16 concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental  
17 health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of  
18 sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the  
19 consequences of teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional  
20 health; injury prevention and safety; nutrition; personal  
21 health; prevention and control of disease; and substance use  
22 and abuse.
- 23 (n) Such additional materials, subjects, courses, or  
24 fields in such grades as are prescribed by law or by rules of  
25 the State Board of Education and the district school board in  
26 fulfilling the requirements of law.
- 27 (o) The study of Hispanic contributions to the United  
28 States.
- 29 (p) The study of women's contributions to the United  
30 States.
- 31

1           (q) A character-development program in the elementary  
2 schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which  
3 is secular in nature and stresses such character qualities as  
4 attentiveness, patience, and initiative. Beginning in school  
5 year 2004-2005, the character-development program shall be  
6 required in kindergarten through grade 12. Each district  
7 school board shall develop or adopt a curriculum for the  
8 character-development program that shall be submitted to the  
9 department for approval. The character-development curriculum  
10 shall stress the qualities of patriotism, responsibility,  
11 citizenship, kindness, respect, honesty, self-control,  
12 tolerance, and cooperation.

13           (r) In order to encourage patriotism, the sacrifices  
14 that veterans have made in serving our country and protecting  
15 democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must occur on or  
16 before Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. Members of the  
17 instructional staff are encouraged to use the assistance of  
18 local veterans when practicable.

19           (3) Any student whose parent makes written request to  
20 the school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of  
21 reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, its  
22 symptoms, development, and treatment. A student so exempted  
23 may not be penalized by reason of that exemption. Course  
24 descriptions for comprehensive health education shall not  
25 interfere with the local determination of appropriate  
26 curriculum which reflects local values and concerns.

27           Section 132. Section 1003.43, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29           1003.43 General requirements for high school  
30 graduation.--

31

- 1           (1) Graduation requires successful completion of  
2 either a minimum of 24 academic credits in grades 9 through 12  
3 or an International Baccalaureate curriculum. The 24 credits  
4 shall be distributed as follows:
- 5           (a) Four credits in English, with major concentration  
6 in composition and literature.
- 7           (b) Three credits in mathematics. Effective for  
8 students entering the 9th grade in the 1997-1998 school year  
9 and thereafter, one of these credits must be Algebra I, a  
10 series of courses equivalent to Algebra I, or a higher-level  
11 mathematics course.
- 12           (c) Three credits in science, two of which must have a  
13 laboratory component. The State Board of Education may grant  
14 an annual waiver of the laboratory requirement to a district  
15 school board that certifies that its laboratory facilities are  
16 inadequate, provided the district school board submits a  
17 capital outlay plan to provide adequate facilities and makes  
18 the funding of this plan a priority of the district school  
19 board. Agriscience Foundations I, the core course in secondary  
20 Agriscience and Natural Resources programs, counts as one of  
21 the science credits.
- 22           (d) One credit in American history.
- 23           (e) One credit in world history, including a  
24 comparative study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of  
25 all major political systems.
- 26           (f) One-half credit in economics, including a  
27 comparative study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of  
28 all major economic systems. The Florida Council on Economic  
29 Education shall provide technical assistance to the department  
30 and district school boards in developing curriculum materials  
31 for the study of economics.

1            (g) One-half credit in American government, including  
2 study of the Constitution of the United States. For students  
3 entering the 9th grade in the 1997-1998 school year and  
4 thereafter, the study of Florida government, including study  
5 of the State Constitution, the three branches of state  
6 government, and municipal and county government, shall be  
7 included as part of the required study of American government.

8            (h)1. One credit in practical arts career and  
9 technical education or exploratory career and technical  
10 education. Any career and technical education course as  
11 defined in s. 1003.01 may be taken to satisfy the high school  
12 graduation requirement for one credit in practical arts or  
13 exploratory career and technical education provided in this  
14 subparagraph;

15            2. One credit in performing fine arts to be selected  
16 from music, dance, drama, painting, or sculpture. A course in  
17 any art form, in addition to painting or sculpture, that  
18 requires manual dexterity, or a course in speech and debate,  
19 may be taken to satisfy the high school graduation requirement  
20 for one credit in performing arts pursuant to this  
21 subparagraph; or

22            3. One-half credit each in practical arts career and  
23 technical education or exploratory career and technical  
24 education and performing fine arts, as defined in this  
25 paragraph.

26  
27 Such credit for practical arts career and technical education  
28 or exploratory career and technical education or for  
29 performing fine arts shall be made available in the 9th grade,  
30 and students shall be scheduled into a 9th grade course as a  
31 priority.

1           (i) One-half credit in life management skills to  
2 include consumer education, positive emotional development,  
3 marriage and relationship skill-based education, nutrition,  
4 prevention of human immunodeficiency virus infection and  
5 acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other sexually  
6 transmissible diseases, benefits of sexual abstinence and  
7 consequences of teenage pregnancy, information and instruction  
8 on breast cancer detection and breast self-examination,  
9 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, drug education, and the hazards  
10 of smoking. Such credit shall be given for a course to be  
11 taken by all students in either the 9th or 10th grade.

12           (j) One credit in physical education to include  
13 assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal fitness.  
14 Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior  
15 varsity or varsity level, for two full seasons, shall satisfy  
16 the one-credit requirement in physical education if the  
17 student passes a competency test on personal fitness with a  
18 score of "C" or better. The competency test on personal  
19 fitness must be developed by the Department of Education. A  
20 district school board may not require that the one credit in  
21 physical education be taken during the 9th grade year.  
22 Completion of one semester with a grade of "C" or better in a  
23 marching band class or in a physical activity class that  
24 requires participation in marching band activities as an  
25 extracurricular activity shall satisfy a one-half credit  
26 requirement in physical education. This one-half credit may  
27 not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the  
28 requirement for adaptive physical education under an  
29 individual educational plan (IEP) or 504 plan.

30           (k) Eight and one-half elective credits.  
31

1 District school boards may award a maximum of one-half credit  
2 in social studies and one-half elective credit for student  
3 completion of nonpaid voluntary community or school service  
4 work. Students choosing this option must complete a minimum  
5 of 75 hours of service in order to earn the one-half credit in  
6 either category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for  
7 service provided as a result of court action. District school  
8 boards that approve the award of credit for student volunteer  
9 service shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the  
10 credit, and school principals are responsible for approving  
11 specific volunteer activities. A course designated in the  
12 Course Code Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 that is  
13 taken below the 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school  
14 graduation requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award  
15 requirements as specified in a district school board's student  
16 progression plan. A student shall be granted credit toward  
17 meeting the requirements of this subsection for equivalent  
18 courses, as identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6), taken  
19 through dual enrollment.

20 (2) Remedial and compensatory courses taken in grades  
21 9 through 12 may only be counted as elective credit as  
22 provided in subsection (1).

23 (3) Credit for high school graduation may be earned  
24 for volunteer activities and nonacademic activities which have  
25 been approved for such credit by the State Board of Education.

26 (4)(a) A district school board may require specific  
27 courses and programs of study within the minimum credit  
28 requirements for high school graduation and shall modify basic  
29 courses, as necessary, to assure exceptional students the  
30 opportunity to meet the graduation requirements for a standard  
31 diploma, using one of the following strategies:

1           1. Assignment of the exceptional student to an  
2 exceptional education class for instruction in a basic course  
3 with the same student performance standards as those required  
4 of nonexceptional students in the district school board  
5 student progression plan; or

6           2. Assignment of the exceptional student to a basic  
7 education class for instruction that is modified to  
8 accommodate the student's exceptionality.

9           (b) The district school board shall determine which of  
10 these strategies to employ based upon an assessment of the  
11 student's needs and shall reflect this decision in the  
12 student's individual educational plan.

13           (c) District school boards are authorized and  
14 encouraged to establish requirements for high school  
15 graduation in excess of the minimum requirements; however, an  
16 increase in academic credit or minimum grade point average  
17 requirements shall not apply to those students enrolled in  
18 grades 9 through 12 at the time the district school board  
19 increases the requirements. In addition, any increase in  
20 academic credit or minimum grade point average requirements  
21 shall not apply to a student who earns credit toward the  
22 graduation requirements of this section for equivalent courses  
23 taken through dual enrollment.

24           (5) Each district school board shall establish  
25 standards for graduation from its schools, and these standards  
26 must include:

27           (a) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in  
28 s. 1008.22(3)(c).

29           (b) Completion of all other applicable requirements  
30 prescribed by the district school board pursuant to s.  
31 1008.25.

1           (c) Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of  
2 1.5 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, for students entering  
3 9th grade before the 1997-1998 school year; however, these  
4 students must earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on  
5 a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by  
6 subsection (1) that are taken after July 1, 1997, or have an  
7 overall cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above.

8           (d) Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of  
9 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required  
10 by subsection (1), for students entering 9th grade in the  
11 1997-1998 school year and thereafter.

12           (e) For purposes of paragraphs (c) and (d):

13           1. Each district school board shall adopt policies  
14 designed to assist students in meeting these requirements.  
15 These policies may include, but are not limited to:  
16 forgiveness policies, summer school or before or after school  
17 attendance, special counseling, volunteer and/or peer tutors,  
18 school-sponsored help sessions, homework hotlines, and study  
19 skills classes. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year and  
20 each year thereafter, forgiveness policies for required  
21 courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F,"  
22 or the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of  
23 "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher,  
24 earned subsequently in the same or comparable course.  
25 Forgiveness policies for elective courses shall be limited to  
26 replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade  
27 of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or higher, or the  
28 equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in  
29 another course. Any course grade not replaced according to a  
30 district school board forgiveness policy shall be included in  
31

1 the calculation of the cumulative grade point average required  
2 for graduation.

3 2. At the end of each semester, the parent of each  
4 student in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 who has a cumulative grade  
5 point average of less than 0.5 above the cumulative grade  
6 point average required for graduation shall be notified that  
7 the student is at risk of not meeting the requirements for  
8 graduation. The notice shall contain an explanation of the  
9 policies the district school board has in place to assist the  
10 student in meeting the grade point average requirement.

11 3. Special assistance to obtain a high school  
12 equivalency diploma pursuant to s. 1003.435 may be given only  
13 when the student has completed all requirements for graduation  
14 except the attainment of the required cumulative grade point  
15 average.

16  
17 The standards required in this subsection, and any subsequent  
18 modifications, shall be reprinted in the Florida  
19 Administrative Code even though not defined as "rules."

20 (6) The Legislature recognizes that adult learners are  
21 unique in situation and needs. The following graduation  
22 requirements are therefore instituted for students enrolled in  
23 adult general education in accordance with s. 1004.93 in  
24 pursuit of a high school diploma:

25 (a) The one credit in physical education required for  
26 graduation, pursuant to subsection (1), is not required for  
27 graduation and shall be substituted with elective credit  
28 keeping the total credits needed for graduation consistent  
29 with subsection (1).

30 (b) Each district school board may waive the  
31 laboratory component of the science requirement expressed in

1 subsection (1) when such facilities are inaccessible or do not  
2 exist.

3 (c) Any course listed within the Department of  
4 Education Course Code Directory in the areas of art, dance,  
5 drama, or music may be undertaken by adult secondary education  
6 students. Enrollment and satisfactory completion of such a  
7 course shall satisfy the credit in performing fine arts  
8 required for high school graduation pursuant to subsection  
9 (1).

10 (7) No student may be granted credit toward high  
11 school graduation for enrollment in the following courses or  
12 programs:

13 (a) More than a total of nine elective credits in  
14 remedial programs.

15 (b) More than one credit in exploratory career  
16 education courses as defined in s. 1003.01(4)(a).

17 (c) More than three credits in practical arts family  
18 and consumer sciences classes as defined in s. 1003.01(4)(a).

19 (d) Any Level I course unless the student's assessment  
20 indicates that a more rigorous course of study would be  
21 inappropriate, in which case a written assessment of the need  
22 must be included in the student's individual educational plan  
23 or in a student performance plan, signed by the principal, the  
24 guidance counselor, and the parent of the student, or the  
25 student if the student is 18 years of age or older.

26 (8) The State Board of Education, after a public  
27 hearing and consideration, shall make provision for  
28 appropriate modification of testing instruments and procedures  
29 for students with identified handicaps or disabilities in  
30 order to ensure that the results of the testing represent the  
31 student's achievement, rather than reflecting the student's

1 impaired sensory, manual, speaking, or psychological process  
2 skills.

3 (9) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in  
4 subsections (1), (4), and (5) shall be awarded a standard  
5 diploma in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.  
6 A district school board may attach the Florida gold seal  
7 career and technical endorsement to a standard diploma or,  
8 instead of the standard diploma, award differentiated diplomas  
9 to those exceeding the prescribed minimums. A student who  
10 completes the minimum number of credits and other requirements  
11 prescribed by subsections (1) and (4), but who is unable to  
12 meet the standards of paragraph (5)(a), paragraph (5)(b), or  
13 paragraph (5)(c), shall be awarded a certificate of completion  
14 in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education. However,  
15 any student who is otherwise entitled to a certificate of  
16 completion may elect to remain in the secondary school either  
17 as a full-time student or a part-time student for up to 1  
18 additional year and receive special instruction designed to  
19 remedy his or her identified deficiencies.

20 (10) The public hearing and consideration required in  
21 subsection (8) shall not be construed to amend or nullify the  
22 requirements of security relating to the contents of  
23 examinations or assessment instruments and related materials  
24 or data as prescribed in s. 1008.23.

25 (11) The Commissioner of Education may award a  
26 standard high school diploma to honorably discharged veterans  
27 who started high school between 1937 and 1946 and were  
28 scheduled to graduate between 1941 and 1950 but were inducted  
29 into the United States Armed Forces between September 16,  
30 1940, and December 31, 1946, prior to completing the necessary  
31 high school graduation requirements. Upon the recommendation

1 of the commissioner, the State Board of Education may develop  
2 criteria and guidelines for awarding such diplomas.

3 Section 133. Section 1003.435, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1003.435 High school equivalency diploma program.--

6 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
7 that prescribe performance standards and provide for  
8 comprehensive examinations to be administered to candidates  
9 for high school equivalency diplomas. Such rules shall  
10 include, but are not limited to, provisions for fees,  
11 frequency of examinations, and procedures for retaking an  
12 examination upon unsatisfactory performance.

13 (2) The department may award high school equivalency  
14 diplomas to candidates who meet the performance standards  
15 prescribed by the State Board of Education.

16 (3) Each district school board shall offer and  
17 administer the high school equivalency diploma examinations  
18 and the subject area examinations to all candidates pursuant  
19 to rules of the State Board of Education.

20 (4) A candidate for a high school equivalency diploma  
21 shall be at least 18 years of age on the date of the  
22 examination, except that in extraordinary circumstances, as  
23 provided for in rules of the district school board of the  
24 district in which the candidate resides or attends school, a  
25 candidate may take the examination after reaching the age of  
26 16.

27 (5) Each district school board shall develop, in  
28 cooperation with the area community college board of trustees,  
29 a plan for the provision of advanced instruction for those  
30 students who attain satisfactory performance on the high  
31 school equivalency examination or the subject area

1 examinations or who demonstrate through other means a  
2 readiness to engage in postsecondary-level academic work. The  
3 plan shall include provisions for the equitable distribution  
4 of generated funds to cover personnel, maintenance, and other  
5 costs of offering the advanced instruction. Priority shall be  
6 given to programs of advanced instruction offered in high  
7 school facilities.

8 (6)(a) All high school equivalency diplomas issued  
9 under the provisions of this section shall have equal status  
10 with other high school diplomas for all state purposes,  
11 including admission to any state university or community  
12 college.

13 (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
14 providing for the award of a standard high school diploma to  
15 holders of high school equivalency diplomas who are assessed  
16 as meeting designated criteria, and the commissioner shall  
17 establish procedures for administering the assessment.

18 Section 134. Section 1003.436, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1003.436 Definition of "credit".--

21 (1)(a) For the purposes of requirements for high  
22 school graduation, one full credit means a minimum of 135  
23 hours of bona fide instruction in a designated course of study  
24 that contains student performance standards. The State Board  
25 of Education shall determine the number of postsecondary  
26 credit hours earned through dual enrollment pursuant to s.  
27 1007.271 that satisfy the requirements of a district's  
28 interinstitutional articulation agreement according to s.  
29 1007.235 and that equal one full credit of the equivalent high  
30 school course identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6).  
31

1           (b) The hourly requirements for one-half credit are  
2 one-half the requirements specified in paragraph (a).

3           (2) In awarding credit for high school graduation,  
4 each district school board shall maintain a one-half credit  
5 earned system that shall include courses provided on a  
6 full-year basis. A student enrolled in a full-year course  
7 shall receive one-half credit if the student successfully  
8 completes either the first half or the second half of a  
9 full-year course but fails to successfully complete the other  
10 half of the course and the averaging of the grades obtained in  
11 each half would not result in a passing grade. A student  
12 enrolled in a full-year course shall receive a full credit if  
13 the student successfully completes either the first half or  
14 the second half of a full-year course but fails to  
15 successfully complete the other half of the course and the  
16 averaging of the grades obtained in each half would result in  
17 a passing grade, provided that such additional requirements  
18 specified in district school board policies, such as class  
19 attendance, homework, participation, and other indicators of  
20 performance, shall be successfully completed by the student.

21           Section 135. Section 1003.437, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23           1003.437 High school grading system.--The grading  
24 system and interpretation of letter grades used in public high  
25 schools shall be as follows:

26           (1) Grade "A" equals 90 percent through 100 percent,  
27 has a grade point average value of 4, and is defined as  
28 "outstanding progress."

29           (2) Grade "B" equals 80 percent through 89 percent,  
30 has a grade point average value of 3, and is defined as "above  
31 average progress."

1           (3) Grade "C" equals 70 percent through 79 percent,  
 2 has a grade point average value of 2, and is defined as  
 3 "average progress."

4           (4) Grade "D" equals 60 percent through 69 percent,  
 5 has a grade point average value of 1, and is defined as  
 6 "lowest acceptable progress."

7           (5) Grade "F" equals zero percent through 59 percent,  
 8 has a grade point average value of zero, and is defined as  
 9 "failure."

10           (6) Grade "I" equals zero percent, has a grade point  
 11 average value of zero, and is defined as "incomplete."

12

13 For the purposes of class ranking, district school boards may  
 14 exercise a weighted grading system.

15           Section 136. Section 1003.438, Florida Statutes, is  
 16 created to read:

17           1003.438 Special high school graduation requirements  
 18 for certain exceptional students.--A student who has been  
 19 properly classified, in accordance with rules established by  
 20 the State board of Education, as "educable mentally  
 21 handicapped," "trainable mentally handicapped," "hearing  
 22 impaired," "specific learning disabled," "physically or  
 23 language impaired," or "emotionally handicapped" shall not be  
 24 required to meet all requirements of s. 1003.43 and shall,  
 25 upon meeting all applicable requirements prescribed by the  
 26 district school board pursuant to s. 1008.25, be awarded a  
 27 special diploma in a form prescribed by the commissioner;  
 28 however, such special graduation requirements prescribed by  
 29 the district school board must include minimum graduation  
 30 requirements as prescribed by the commissioner. Any such  
 31 student who meets all special requirements of the district

1 school board for exceptionality, but is unable to meet the  
2 appropriate special state minimum requirements, shall be  
3 awarded a special certificate of completion in a form  
4 prescribed by the commissioner. A student who has been  
5 properly classified as "profoundly handicapped" and who meets  
6 the special requirements of the district school board for a  
7 special diploma in accordance with requirements for any  
8 exceptional student identified in this section shall be  
9 awarded a special diploma; however, such a student shall  
10 alternatively be eligible for a special certificate of  
11 completion, in a form prescribed by the commissioner, if all  
12 school requirements for students who are "profoundly  
13 handicapped" have been met. However, this section does not  
14 limit or restrict the right of an exceptional student solely  
15 to a special diploma or special certificate of completion.  
16 Any such student shall, upon proper request, be afforded the  
17 opportunity to fully meet all requirements of s. 1003.43  
18 through the standard procedures established therein and  
19 thereby to qualify for a standard diploma upon graduation.

20 Section 137. Section 1003.44, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22 1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.--

23 (1) Each district school board may adopt rules to  
24 require, in all of the schools of the district, programs of a  
25 patriotic nature to encourage greater respect for the  
26 government of the United States and its national anthem and  
27 flag, subject always to other existing pertinent laws of the  
28 United States or of the state. When the national anthem is  
29 played, students and all civilians shall stand at attention,  
30 men removing the headdress, except when such headdress is worn  
31 for religious purposes. The pledge of allegiance to the flag,

1 "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of  
2 America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation  
3 under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all,"  
4 shall be rendered by students standing with the right hand  
5 over the heart. The pledge of allegiance to the flag shall be  
6 recited at the beginning of the day in each public elementary,  
7 middle, and high school in the state. Each student shall be  
8 informed by posting a notice in a conspicuous place that the  
9 student has the right not to participate in reciting the  
10 pledge. Upon written request by his or her parent, the student  
11 must be excused from reciting the pledge. When the pledge is  
12 given, civilians must show full respect to the flag by  
13 standing at attention, men removing the headdress, except when  
14 such headdress is worn for religious purposes, as provided by  
15 Pub. L. ch. 77-435, s. 7, approved June 22, 1942, 56 Stat.  
16 377, as amended by Pub. L. ch. 77-806, 56 Stat. 1074, approved  
17 December 22, 1942.

18 (2) Each district school board may allow any teacher  
19 or administrator to read, or to post in a public school  
20 building or classroom or at any school-related event, any  
21 excerpt or portion of the following historic material: the  
22 national motto; the national anthem; the pledge of allegiance;  
23 the Constitution of the State of Florida, including the  
24 Preamble; the Constitution of the United States, including the  
25 Preamble; the Bill of Rights; the Declaration of Independence;  
26 the Mayflower Compact; the Emancipation Proclamation; the  
27 writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the  
28 presidents of the United States, the signers of the  
29 Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of  
30 Independence, and civil rights leaders; and decisions of the  
31 United States Supreme Court. However, any material that is

1 read, posted, or taught pursuant to this provision may be  
 2 presented only from a historical perspective and in a  
 3 nonproselytizing manner. When less than an entire document is  
 4 used, the excerpt or portion must include as much material as  
 5 is reasonably necessary to reflect the sentiment of the entire  
 6 document and avoid expressing statements out of the context in  
 7 which they were originally made. If the material refers to  
 8 laws or judicial decisions that have been superseded, the  
 9 material must be accompanied by a statement indicating that  
 10 such law or decision is no longer the law of the land. No  
 11 material shall be selected to advance a particular religious,  
 12 political, or sectarian purpose. The department shall  
 13 distribute a copy of this section to each district school  
 14 board, whereupon each district school superintendent shall  
 15 distribute a copy to all teachers and administrators.

16 Section 138. Section 1003.45, Florida Statutes, is  
 17 created to read:

18 1003.45 Permitting study of the Bible and religion;  
 19 permitting brief meditation period.--

20 (1) The district school board may install in the  
 21 public schools in the district a secular program of education  
 22 including, but not limited to, an objective study of the Bible  
 23 and of religion.

24 (2) The district school board may provide that a brief  
 25 period, not to exceed 2 minutes, for the purpose of silent  
 26 prayer or meditation be set aside at the start of each school  
 27 day or each school week in the public schools in the district.

28 Section 139. Section 1003.46, Florida Statutes, is  
 29 created to read:

30 1003.46 Health education; instruction in acquired  
 31 immune deficiency syndrome.--

1           (1) Each district school board may provide instruction  
2 in acquired immune deficiency syndrome education as a specific  
3 area of health education. Such instruction may include, but  
4 is not limited to, the known modes of transmission, signs and  
5 symptoms, risk factors associated with acquired immune  
6 deficiency syndrome, and means used to control the spread of  
7 acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The instruction shall be  
8 appropriate for the grade and age of the student and shall  
9 reflect current theory, knowledge, and practice regarding  
10 acquired immune deficiency syndrome and its prevention.

11           (2) Throughout instruction in acquired immune  
12 deficiency syndrome, sexually transmitted diseases, or health  
13 education, when such instruction and course material contains  
14 instruction in human sexuality, a school shall:

15           (a) Teach abstinence from sexual activity outside of  
16 marriage as the expected standard for all school-age students  
17 while teaching the benefits of monogamous heterosexual  
18 marriage.

19           (b) Emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity is  
20 a certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually  
21 transmitted diseases, including acquired immune deficiency  
22 syndrome, and other associated health problems.

23           (c) Teach that each student has the power to control  
24 personal behavior and encourage students to base actions on  
25 reasoning, self-esteem, and respect for others.

26           (d) Provide instruction and material that is  
27 appropriate for the grade and age of the student.

28           Section 140. Section 1003.47, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30           1003.47 Biological experiments on living subjects.--  
31

1           (1) It is the intent of the Legislature with respect  
2 to biological experiments involving living subjects by  
3 students in grades K through 12 that:

4           (a) No surgery or dissection shall be performed on any  
5 living mammalian vertebrate or bird. Dissection may be  
6 performed on nonliving mammals or birds secured from a  
7 recognized source of such specimens and under supervision of  
8 qualified instructors. Students may be excused upon written  
9 request of a parent.

10           (b) Lower orders of life and invertebrates may be used  
11 in such experiments.

12           (c) Nonmammalian vertebrates, excluding birds, may be  
13 used in biological experiments, provided that physiological  
14 harm does not result from such experiments. Anatomical  
15 studies shall only be conducted on models that are  
16 anatomically correct for the animal being studied or on  
17 nonliving nonmammalian vertebrates secured and from a  
18 recognized source of such specimens and under the supervision  
19 of qualified instructors. Students may be excused from such  
20 experiments upon written request of the parent.

21           (d) Observational studies of animals in the wild or in  
22 zoological parks, gardens, or aquaria, or of pets, fish,  
23 domestic animals, or livestock may be conducted.

24           (e) Studies of vertebrate animal cells, such as red  
25 blood cells or other tissue cells, plasma or serum, or  
26 anatomical specimens, such as organs, tissues, or skeletons,  
27 purchased or acquired from biological supply houses or  
28 research facilities or from wholesale or retail establishments  
29 that supply carcasses or parts of food animals may be  
30 conducted.

31

1           (f) Normal physiological and behavioral studies of the  
2 human animal may be conducted, provided that such projects are  
3 carefully selected so that neither physiological or  
4 psychological harm to the subject can result from such  
5 studies.

6           (g) All experiments shall be carried out under the  
7 supervision of a competent science teacher who shall be  
8 responsible for ensuring that the student has the necessary  
9 comprehension for the study to be undertaken. Whenever  
10 feasible, specifically qualified experts in the field should  
11 be consulted.

12           (h) Live animals on the premises of public and private  
13 elementary, middle, and high schools shall be housed and cared  
14 for in a humane and safe manner. Animals shall not remain on  
15 the premises of any school during periods when such school is  
16 not in session, unless adequate care is provided for such  
17 animals.

18           (2) The provisions of this section shall not be  
19 construed to prohibit or constrain conventional instruction in  
20 the normal practices of animal husbandry or exhibition of any  
21 livestock in connection with any agricultural program or  
22 instruction of advanced students participating in advanced  
23 research, scientific studies, or projects.

24           (3) If any instructional employee of a public high  
25 school or area technical center knowingly or intentionally  
26 fails or refuses to comply with any of the provisions of this  
27 section, the district school board may suspend, dismiss,  
28 return to annual contract, or otherwise discipline such  
29 employee as provided in s. 1012.22(1)(f) in accordance with  
30 procedures established in chapter 1012. If any instructional  
31 employee of any private school knowingly or intentionally

1 fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of this  
2 section, the governing authority of the private school may  
3 suspend, dismiss, or otherwise discipline such employee in  
4 accordance with its standard personnel procedures.

5 Section 141. Section 1003.48, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1003.48 Instruction in operation of motor vehicles.--

8 (1) A course of study and instruction in the safe and  
9 lawful operation of a motor vehicle shall be made available by  
10 each district school board to students in the secondary  
11 schools in the state. As used in this section, the term  
12 "motor vehicle" shall have the same meaning as in s.

13 320.01(1)(a) and shall include motorcycles and mopeds.  
14 Instruction in motorcycle or moped operation may be limited to  
15 classroom instruction. The course shall not be made a part  
16 of, or a substitute for, any of the minimum requirements for  
17 graduation.

18 (2) In order to make such a course available to any  
19 secondary school student, the district school board may use  
20 any one of the following procedures or any combination  
21 thereof:

22 (a) Utilize instructional personnel employed by the  
23 district school board.

24 (b) Contract with a commercial driving school licensed  
25 under the provisions of chapter 488.

26 (c) Contract with an instructor certified under the  
27 provisions of chapter 488.

28 (3)(a) District school boards shall earn funds on  
29 full-time equivalent students at the appropriate basic program  
30 cost factor, regardless of the method by which such courses  
31 are offered.

1           (b) For the purpose of financing the Driver Education  
2 Program in the secondary schools, there shall be levied an  
3 additional 50 cents per year to the driver's license fee  
4 required by s. 322.21. The additional fee shall be promptly  
5 remitted to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
6 Vehicles, which shall transmit the fee to the Treasurer to be  
7 deposited in the General Revenue Fund.

8           (4) The district school board shall prescribe  
9 standards for the course required by this section and for  
10 instructional personnel directly employed by the district  
11 school board. Any certified instructor or licensed commercial  
12 driving school shall be deemed sufficiently qualified and  
13 shall not be required to meet any standards in lieu of or in  
14 addition to those prescribed under chapter 488.

15           Section 142. Section 1003.49, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17           1003.49 Graduation and promotion requirements for  
18 publicly operated schools.--

19           (1) Each state or local public agency, including the  
20 Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of  
21 Corrections, the boards of trustees of universities and  
22 community colleges, and the Board of Trustees of the Florida  
23 School for the Deaf and the Blind, which agency is authorized  
24 to operate educational programs for students at any level of  
25 grades kindergarten through 12 shall be subject to all  
26 applicable requirements of ss. 1003.43, 1008.23, and 1008.25.  
27 Within the content of these cited statutes each such state or  
28 local public agency or entity shall be considered a "district  
29 school board."

30           (2) The Commissioner of Education shall establish  
31 procedures to extend the state-administered assessment program

1 to school programs operated by such state or local public  
2 agencies or entities in the same manner and to the same extent  
3 as such program is administered in each district school  
4 system.

5 Section 143. Section 1003.491, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1003.491 Career and technical education.--

8 (1) School board, superintendent, and school  
9 accountability for career and technical education within  
10 elementary and secondary schools includes, but is not limited  
11 to:

12 (a) Student exposure to a variety of careers and  
13 provision of instruction to explore specific careers in  
14 greater depth.

15 (b) Student awareness of available career and  
16 technical programs and the corresponding occupations into  
17 which such programs lead.

18 (c) Student development of individual career plans.

19 (d) Integration of academic and career and technical  
20 skills in the secondary curriculum.

21 (e) Student preparation to enter the workforce and  
22 enroll in postsecondary education without being required to  
23 complete college preparatory or vocational preparatory  
24 instruction.

25 (f) Student retention in school through high school  
26 graduation.

27 (g) Career and technical curriculum articulation with  
28 corresponding postsecondary programs in the local area  
29 technical center or community college, or both.

30 (2) No school board or public school shall require a  
31 student to participate in any school-to-work or job training

1 program. A district school board or school shall not require a  
2 student to meet occupational standards for grade level  
3 promotion or graduation unless the student is voluntarily  
4 enrolled in a job training program.

5 Section 144. Part V of chapter 1003, Florida Statutes,  
6 shall be entitled "Specialized Instruction For Certain Public  
7 K-12 Students" and shall consist of ss. 1003.51-1003.58.

8 Section 145. Section 1003.51, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1003.51 Other public educational services.--

11 (1) The general control of other public educational  
12 services shall be vested in the State Board of Education  
13 except as provided herein. The State Board of Education  
14 shall, at the request of the Department of Children and Family  
15 Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice, advise as to  
16 standards and requirements relating to education to be met in  
17 all state schools or institutions under their control which  
18 provide educational programs. The Department of Education  
19 shall provide supervisory services for the educational  
20 programs of all such schools or institutions. The direct  
21 control of any of these services provided as part of the  
22 district program of education shall rest with the district  
23 school board. These services shall be supported out of state,  
24 district, federal, or other lawful funds, depending on the  
25 requirements of the services being supported.

26 (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt and  
27 maintain an administrative rule articulating expectations for  
28 effective education programs for youth in Department of  
29 Juvenile Justice programs, including, but not limited to,  
30 education programs in juvenile justice commitment and  
31 detention facilities. The rule shall articulate policies and

1 standards for education programs for youth in Department of  
2 Juvenile Justice programs and shall include the following:  
3 (a) The interagency collaborative process needed to  
4 ensure effective programs with measurable results.  
5 (b) The responsibilities of the Department of  
6 Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, district school  
7 boards, and providers of education services to youth in  
8 Department of Juvenile Justice programs.  
9 (c) Academic expectations.  
10 (d) Service delivery options available to district  
11 school boards, including direct service and contracting.  
12 (e) Assessment procedures, which:  
13 1. Include appropriate academic and career and  
14 technical assessments administered at program entry and exit  
15 that are selected by the Department of Education in  
16 partnership with representatives from the Department of  
17 Juvenile Justice, district school boards, and providers.  
18 2. Require district school boards to be responsible  
19 for ensuring the completion of the assessment process.  
20 3. Require assessments for students in detention who  
21 will move on to commitment facilities, to be designed to  
22 create the foundation for developing the student's education  
23 program in the assigned commitment facility.  
24 4. Require assessments of students sent directly to  
25 commitment facilities to be completed within the first week of  
26 the student's commitment.  
27  
28 The results of these assessments, together with a portfolio  
29 depicting the student's academic and career and technical  
30 accomplishments, shall be included in the discharge package  
31 assembled for each youth.

- 1           (f) Recommended instructional programs, including, but  
2 not limited to, career and technical training and job  
3 preparation.
- 4           (g) Funding requirements, which shall include the  
5 requirement that at least 80 percent of the FEFP funds  
6 generated by students in Department of Juvenile Justice  
7 programs be spent on instructional costs for those students.  
8 One hundred percent of the formula-based categorical funds  
9 generated by students in Department of Juvenile Justice  
10 programs must be spent on appropriate categoricals such as  
11 instructional materials and public school technology for those  
12 students.
- 13           (h) Qualifications of instructional staff, procedures  
14 for the selection of instructional staff, and procedures to  
15 ensure consistent instruction and qualified staff year round.
- 16           (i) Transition services, including the roles and  
17 responsibilities of appropriate personnel in school districts,  
18 provider organizations, and the Department of Juvenile  
19 Justice.
- 20           (j) Procedures and timeframe for transfer of education  
21 records when a youth enters and leaves a facility.
- 22           (k) The requirement that each district school board  
23 maintain an academic transcript for each student enrolled in a  
24 juvenile justice facility that delineates each course  
25 completed by the student as provided by the State Course Code  
26 Directory.
- 27           (l) The requirement that each district school board  
28 make available and transmit a copy of a student's transcript  
29 in the discharge packet when the student exits a facility.
- 30           (m) Contract requirements.  
31

1           (n) Performance expectations for providers and  
2 district school boards, including the provision of an academic  
3 improvement plan as required in s. 1008.25.

4           (o) The role and responsibility of the district school  
5 board in securing workforce development funds.

6           (p) A series of graduated sanctions for district  
7 school boards whose educational programs in Department of  
8 Juvenile Justice facilities are considered to be  
9 unsatisfactory and for instances in which district school  
10 boards fail to meet standards prescribed by law, rule, or  
11 State Board of Education policy. These sanctions shall include  
12 the option of requiring a district school board to contract  
13 with a provider or another district school board if the  
14 educational program at the Department of Juvenile Justice  
15 facility has failed a quality assurance review and, after 6  
16 months, is still performing below minimum standards.

17           (q) Other aspects of program operations.

18           (3) The Department of Education in partnership with  
19 the Department of Juvenile Justice, the district school  
20 boards, and providers shall:

21           (a) Maintain model contracts for the delivery of  
22 appropriate education services to youth in Department of  
23 Juvenile Justice programs to be used for the development of  
24 future contracts. The model contracts shall reflect the policy  
25 and standards included in subsection (2). The Department of  
26 Education shall ensure that appropriate district school board  
27 personnel are trained and held accountable for the management  
28 and monitoring of contracts for education programs for youth  
29 in juvenile justice residential and nonresidential facilities.

30           (b) Maintain model procedures for transitioning youth  
31 into and out of Department of Juvenile Justice programs. These

1 procedures shall reflect the policy and standards adopted  
2 pursuant to subsection (2).

3 (c) Maintain standardized required content of  
4 education records to be included as part of a youth's  
5 commitment record. These requirements shall reflect the policy  
6 and standards adopted pursuant to subsection (2) and shall  
7 include, but not be limited to, the following:

8 1. A copy of the student's individual educational  
9 plan.

10 2. Assessment data, including grade level proficiency  
11 in reading, writing, and mathematics, and performance on tests  
12 taken according to s. 1008.22.

13 3. A copy of the student's permanent cumulative  
14 record.

15 4. A copy of the student's academic transcript.

16 5. A portfolio reflecting the youth's academic  
17 accomplishments while in the Department of Juvenile Justice  
18 program.

19 (d) Maintain model procedures for securing the  
20 education record and the roles and responsibilities of the  
21 juvenile probation officer and others involved in the  
22 withdrawal of the student from school and assignment to a  
23 commitment or detention facility. District school boards shall  
24 respond to requests for student education records received  
25 from another district school board or a juvenile justice  
26 facility within 5 working days after receiving the request.

27 (4) The Department of Education shall ensure that  
28 district school boards notify students in juvenile justice  
29 residential or nonresidential facilities who attain the age of  
30 16 years of the provisions of law regarding compulsory school  
31 attendance and make available the option of enrolling in a

1 program to attain a Florida high school diploma by taking the  
2 general educational development test prior to release from the  
3 facility. District school boards or community colleges, or  
4 both, shall waive GED testing fees for youth in Department of  
5 Juvenile Justice residential programs and shall, upon request,  
6 designate schools operating for the purpose of providing  
7 educational services to youth in Department of Juvenile  
8 Justice programs as GED testing centers, subject to GED  
9 testing center requirements. The administrative fees for the  
10 general education development test required by the Department  
11 of Education are the responsibility of district school boards  
12 and may be required of providers by contractual agreement.

13 (5) The Department of Education shall establish and  
14 operate, either directly or indirectly through a contract, a  
15 mechanism to provide quality assurance reviews of all juvenile  
16 justice education programs and shall provide technical  
17 assistance and related research to district school boards and  
18 providers on how to establish, develop, and operate  
19 educational programs that exceed the minimum quality assurance  
20 standards.

21 Section 146. Section 1003.52, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23 1003.52 Educational services in Department of Juvenile  
24 Justice programs.--

25 (1) The Legislature finds that education is the single  
26 most important factor in the rehabilitation of adjudicated  
27 delinquent youth in the custody of the Department of Juvenile  
28 Justice in detention or commitment facilities. It is the goal  
29 of the Legislature that youth in the juvenile justice system  
30 continue to be allowed the opportunity to obtain a high  
31 quality education. The Department of Education shall serve as

1 the lead agency for juvenile justice education programs,  
2 curriculum, support services, and resources. To this end, the  
3 Department of Education and the Department of Juvenile Justice  
4 shall each designate a Coordinator for Juvenile Justice  
5 Education Programs to serve as the point of contact for  
6 resolving issues not addressed by district school boards and  
7 to provide each department's participation in the following  
8 activities:

9       (a) Training, collaborating, and coordinating with the  
10 Department of Juvenile Justice, district school boards,  
11 educational contract providers, and juvenile justice  
12 providers, whether state operated or contracted.

13       (b) Collecting information on the academic performance  
14 of students in juvenile justice commitment and detention  
15 programs and reporting on the results.

16       (c) Developing academic and career and technical  
17 protocols that provide guidance to district school boards and  
18 providers in all aspects of education programming, including  
19 records transfer and transition.

20       (d) Prescribing the roles of program personnel and  
21 interdepartmental district school board or provider  
22 collaboration strategies.

23  
24 Annually, a cooperative agreement and plan for juvenile  
25 justice education service enhancement shall be developed  
26 between the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department  
27 of Education and submitted to the Secretary of Juvenile  
28 Justice and the Commissioner of Education by June 30.

29       (2) Students participating in a detention, commitment,  
30 or rehabilitation program pursuant to chapter 985 which is  
31 sponsored by a community-based agency or is operated or

1 contracted for by the Department of Juvenile Justice shall  
2 receive educational programs according to rules of the State  
3 Board of Education. These students shall be eligible for  
4 services afforded to students enrolled in programs pursuant to  
5 s. 1003.53 and all corresponding State Board of Education  
6 rules.

7       (3) The district school board of the county in which  
8 the residential or nonresidential care facility or juvenile  
9 assessment facility is located shall provide appropriate  
10 educational assessments and an appropriate program of  
11 instruction and special education services. The district  
12 school board shall make provisions for each student to  
13 participate in basic, career and technical education, and  
14 exceptional student programs as appropriate. Students served  
15 in Department of Juvenile Justice programs shall have access  
16 to the appropriate courses and instruction to prepare them for  
17 the GED test. Students participating in GED preparation  
18 programs shall be funded at the basic program cost factor for  
19 Department of Juvenile Justice programs in the Florida  
20 Education Finance Program. Each program shall be conducted  
21 according to applicable law providing for the operation of  
22 public schools and rules of the State Board of Education.

23       (4) Educational services shall be provided at times of  
24 the day most appropriate for the juvenile justice program.  
25 School programming in juvenile justice detention, commitment,  
26 and rehabilitation programs shall be made available by the  
27 local school district during the juvenile justice school year,  
28 as defined in s. 1003.01(12).

29       (5) The educational program shall consist of  
30 appropriate basic academic, career and technical, or  
31 exceptional curricula and related services which support the

1 treatment goals and reentry and which may lead to completion  
2 of the requirements for receipt of a high school diploma or  
3 its equivalent. If the duration of a program is less than 40  
4 days, the educational component may be limited to tutorial  
5 activities and career and technical employability skills.

6 (6) Participation in the program by students of  
7 compulsory school-attendance age as provided for in s. 1003.21  
8 shall be mandatory. All students of noncompulsory  
9 school-attendance age who have not received a high school  
10 diploma or its equivalent shall participate in the educational  
11 program, unless the student files a formal declaration of his  
12 or her intent to terminate school enrollment as described in  
13 s. 1003.21 and is afforded the opportunity to take the general  
14 educational development test and attain a Florida high school  
15 diploma prior to release from a facility. A youth who has  
16 received a high school diploma or its equivalent and is not  
17 employed shall participate in workforce development or other  
18 career or technical education or community college or  
19 university courses while in the program, subject to available  
20 funding.

21 (7) An academic improvement plan shall be developed  
22 for students who score below the level specified in district  
23 school board policy in reading, writing, and mathematics or  
24 below the level specified by the Commissioner of Education on  
25 statewide assessments as required by s. 1008.25. These plans  
26 shall address academic, literacy, and life skills and shall  
27 include provisions for intensive remedial instruction in the  
28 areas of weakness.

29 (8) Each district school board shall maintain an  
30 academic record for each student enrolled in a juvenile  
31 justice facility as prescribed by s. 1003.51. Such record

1 shall delineate each course completed by the student according  
2 to procedures in the State Course Code Directory. The district  
3 school board shall include a copy of a student's academic  
4 record in the discharge packet when the student exits the  
5 facility.

6 (9) The Department of Education shall ensure that all  
7 district school boards make provisions for high school level  
8 committed youth to earn credits toward high school graduation  
9 while in residential and nonresidential juvenile justice  
10 facilities. Provisions must be made for the transfer of  
11 credits and partial credits earned.

12 (10) The district school board shall recruit and train  
13 teachers who are interested, qualified, or experienced in  
14 educating students in juvenile justice programs. Students in  
15 juvenile justice programs shall be provided a wide range of  
16 educational programs and opportunities including textbooks,  
17 technology, instructional support, and other resources  
18 available to students in public schools. Teachers assigned to  
19 educational programs in juvenile justice settings in which the  
20 district school board operates the educational program shall  
21 be selected by the district school board in consultation with  
22 the director of the juvenile justice facility. Educational  
23 programs in juvenile justice facilities shall have access to  
24 the substitute teacher pool utilized by the district school  
25 board. Full-time teachers working in juvenile justice schools,  
26 whether employed by a district school board or a provider,  
27 shall be eligible for the critical teacher shortage tuition  
28 reimbursement program as defined by s. 1009.58.

29 (11) District school boards may contract with a  
30 private provider for the provision of educational programs to  
31 youths placed with the Department of Juvenile Justice and

1 shall generate local, state, and federal funding, including  
2 funding through the Florida Education Finance Program for such  
3 students. The district school board's planning and budgeting  
4 process shall include the needs of Department of Juvenile  
5 Justice programs in the district school board's plan for  
6 expenditures for state categorical and federal funds.

7 (12) The district school board shall fund the  
8 educational program in a Department of Juvenile Justice  
9 facility at the same or higher level of funding for equivalent  
10 students in the district school system based on the funds  
11 generated by state funding through the Florida Education  
12 Finance Program for such students. It is the intent of the  
13 Legislature that the school district maximize its available  
14 local, state, and federal funding to a juvenile justice  
15 program.

16 (a) Juvenile justice educational programs shall be  
17 funded in the appropriate FEFP program based on the  
18 educational services needed by the student for Department of  
19 Juvenile Justice programs in accordance with s. 1011.62.

20 (b) Juvenile justice educational programs to receive  
21 the appropriate FEFP funding for Department of Juvenile  
22 Justice programs shall include those operated through a  
23 contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice and which are  
24 under purview of the Department of Juvenile Justice quality  
25 assurance standards for education.

26 (c) Consistent with the rules of the State Board of  
27 Education, district school boards are required to request an  
28 alternative FTE survey for Department of Juvenile Justice  
29 programs experiencing fluctuations in student enrollment.

30 (d) FTE count periods shall be prescribed in rules of  
31 the State Board of Education and shall be the same for

1 programs of the Department of Juvenile Justice as for other  
2 public school programs. The summer school period for students  
3 in Department of Juvenile Justice programs shall begin on the  
4 day immediately following the end of the regular school year  
5 and end on the day immediately preceding the subsequent  
6 regular school year. Students shall be funded for no more than  
7 25 hours per week of direct instruction.

8 (13) Each district school board shall negotiate a  
9 cooperative agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice  
10 on the delivery of educational services to youths under the  
11 jurisdiction of the Department of Juvenile Justice. Such  
12 agreement must include, but is not limited to:

13 (a) Roles and responsibilities of each agency,  
14 including the roles and responsibilities of contract  
15 providers.

16 (b) Administrative issues including procedures for  
17 sharing information.

18 (c) Allocation of resources including maximization of  
19 local, state, and federal funding.

20 (d) Procedures for educational evaluation for  
21 educational exceptionalities and special needs.

22 (e) Curriculum and delivery of instruction.

23 (f) Classroom management procedures and attendance  
24 policies.

25 (g) Procedures for provision of qualified  
26 instructional personnel, whether supplied by the district  
27 school board or provided under contract by the provider, and  
28 for performance of duties while in a juvenile justice setting.

29 (h) Provisions for improving skills in teaching and  
30 working with juvenile delinquents.

31

- 1        (i) Transition plans for students moving into and out  
2 of juvenile facilities.
- 3        (j) Procedures and timelines for the timely  
4 documentation of credits earned and transfer of student  
5 records.
- 6        (k) Methods and procedures for dispute resolution.
- 7        (l) Provisions for ensuring the safety of education  
8 personnel and support for the agreed-upon education program.
- 9        (m) Strategies for correcting any deficiencies found  
10 through the quality assurance process.
- 11        (14) Nothing in this section or in a cooperative  
12 agreement shall be construed to require the district school  
13 board to provide more services than can be supported by the  
14 funds generated by students in the juvenile justice programs.
- 15        (15)(a) The Department of Education in consultation  
16 with the Department of Juvenile Justice, district school  
17 boards, and providers shall establish objective and measurable  
18 quality assurance standards for the educational component of  
19 residential and nonresidential juvenile justice facilities.  
20 These standards shall rate the district school board's  
21 performance both as a provider and contractor. The quality  
22 assurance rating for the educational component shall be  
23 disaggregated from the overall quality assurance score and  
24 reported separately.
- 25        (b) The Department of Education shall develop a  
26 comprehensive quality assurance review process and schedule  
27 for the evaluation of the educational component in juvenile  
28 justice programs. The Department of Juvenile Justice quality  
29 assurance site visit and the education quality assurance site  
30 visit shall be conducted during the same visit.
- 31

1           (c) The Department of Education, in consultation with  
2 district school boards and providers, shall establish minimum  
3 thresholds for the standards and key indicators for  
4 educational programs in juvenile justice facilities. If a  
5 district school board fails to meet the established minimum  
6 standards, it will be given 6 months to achieve compliance  
7 with the standards. If after 6 months, the district school  
8 board's performance is still below minimum standards, the  
9 Department of Education shall exercise sanctions as prescribed  
10 by rules adopted by the State Board of Education. If a  
11 provider, under contract with the district school board, fails  
12 to meet minimum standards, such failure shall cause the  
13 district school board to cancel the provider's contract unless  
14 the provider achieves compliance within 6 months or unless  
15 there are documented extenuating circumstances.

16           (16) The district school board shall not be charged  
17 any rent, maintenance, utilities, or overhead on such  
18 facilities. Maintenance, repairs, and remodeling of existing  
19 facilities shall be provided by the Department of Juvenile  
20 Justice.

21           (17) When additional facilities are required, the  
22 district school board and the Department of Juvenile Justice  
23 shall agree on the appropriate site based on the instructional  
24 needs of the students. When the most appropriate site for  
25 instruction is on district school board property, a special  
26 capital outlay request shall be made by the commissioner in  
27 accordance with s. 1013.60. When the most appropriate site is  
28 on state property, state capital outlay funds shall be  
29 requested by the Department of Juvenile Justice provided by s.  
30 216.043 and shall be submitted as specified by s. 216.023.  
31 Any instructional facility to be built on state property shall

1 have educational specifications jointly developed by the  
2 district school board and the Department of Juvenile Justice  
3 and approved by the Department of Education. The size of  
4 space and occupant design capacity criteria as provided by  
5 State Board of Education rules shall be used for remodeling or  
6 new construction whether facilities are provided on state  
7 property or district school board property.

8 (18) The parent of an exceptional student shall have  
9 the due process rights provided for in chapter 1003.

10 (19) Department of Juvenile Justice detention and  
11 commitment programs may be designated as second chance schools  
12 pursuant to s. 1003.53(1)(d). Admission to such programs shall  
13 be governed by chapter 985.

14 (20) The Department of Education and the Department of  
15 Juvenile Justice, after consultation with and assistance from  
16 local providers and district school boards, shall report  
17 annually to the Legislature by February 1 on the progress  
18 towards developing effective educational programs for juvenile  
19 delinquents, including the amount of funding provided by  
20 district school boards to juvenile justice programs, the  
21 amount retained for administration including documenting the  
22 purposes for such expenses, the status of the development of  
23 cooperative agreements, the results of the quality assurance  
24 reviews including recommendations for system improvement, and  
25 information on the identification of, and services provided  
26 to, exceptional students in juvenile justice commitment  
27 facilities to determine whether these students are properly  
28 reported for funding and are appropriately served.

29 (21) The educational programs at the Arthur Dozier  
30 School for Boys in Jackson County and the Florida School for  
31 Boys in Okeechobee shall be operated by the Department of

1 Education, either directly or through grants or contractual  
2 agreements with other public or duly accredited education  
3 agencies approved by the Department of Education.

4 (22) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
5 necessary to implement the provisions of this section,  
6 including uniform curriculum, funding, and second chance  
7 schools. Such rules shall require the minimum amount of  
8 paperwork and reporting.

9 (23) The Department of Juvenile Justice and the  
10 Department of Education shall, in consultation with the  
11 statewide Workforce Development Youth Council, district school  
12 boards, providers, and others, jointly develop a multiagency  
13 plan for career and technical education which describes the  
14 curriculum, goals, and outcome measures for career and  
15 technical education programming in juvenile commitment  
16 facilities, pursuant to s. 985.3155.

17 Section 147. Section 1003.53, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1003.53 Dropout prevention and academic  
20 intervention.--

21 (1)(a) Dropout prevention and academic intervention  
22 programs may differ from traditional educational programs and  
23 schools in scheduling, administrative structure, philosophy,  
24 curriculum, or setting and shall employ alternative teaching  
25 methodologies, curricula, learning activities, and diagnostic  
26 and assessment procedures in order to meet the needs,  
27 interests, abilities, and talents of eligible students. The  
28 educational program shall provide curricula, character  
29 development and law education, and related services that  
30 support the program goals and lead to improved performance in  
31 the areas of academic achievement, attendance, and discipline.

1 Student participation in such programs shall be voluntary.  
2 District school boards may, however, assign students to a  
3 program for disruptive students. Notwithstanding any other  
4 provision of law to the contrary, no student shall be  
5 identified as being eligible to receive services funded  
6 through the dropout prevention and academic intervention  
7 program based solely on the student being from a single-parent  
8 family.

9       (b) Students in grades 1-12 shall be eligible for  
10 dropout prevention and academic intervention programs.  
11 Eligible students shall be reported in the appropriate basic  
12 cost factor in the Florida Education Finance Program. The  
13 strategies and supports provided to eligible students shall be  
14 funded through the General Appropriations Act and may include,  
15 but are not limited to, those services identified on the  
16 student's academic intervention plan.

17       (c) A student shall be identified as being eligible to  
18 receive services funded through the dropout prevention and  
19 academic intervention program based upon one of the following  
20 criteria:

21           1. The student is academically unsuccessful as  
22 evidenced by low test scores, retention, failing grades, low  
23 grade point average, falling behind in earning credits, or not  
24 meeting the state or district proficiency levels in reading,  
25 mathematics, or writing.

26           2. The student has a pattern of excessive absenteeism  
27 or has been identified as a habitual truant.

28           3. The student has a history of disruptive behavior in  
29 school or has committed an offense that warrants out-of-school  
30 suspension or expulsion from school according to the district  
31

1 school board's code of student conduct. For the purposes of  
2 this program, "disruptive behavior" is behavior that:  
3 a. Interferes with the student's own learning or the  
4 educational process of others and requires attention and  
5 assistance beyond that which the traditional program can  
6 provide or results in frequent conflicts of a disruptive  
7 nature while the student is under the jurisdiction of the  
8 school either in or out of the classroom; or  
9 b. Severely threatens the general welfare of students  
10 or others with whom the student comes into contact.  
11 (d)1. "Second chance schools" means district school  
12 board programs provided through cooperative agreements between  
13 the Department of Juvenile Justice, private providers, state  
14 or local law enforcement agencies, or other state agencies for  
15 students who have been disruptive or violent or who have  
16 committed serious offenses. As partnership programs, second  
17 chance schools are eligible for waivers by the Commissioner of  
18 Education from State Board of Education rules that prevent the  
19 provision of appropriate educational services to violent,  
20 severely disruptive, or delinquent students in small  
21 nontraditional settings or in court-adjudicated settings.  
22 2. District school boards seeking to enter into a  
23 partnership with a private entity or public entity to operate  
24 a second chance school for disruptive students may apply to  
25 the Department of Education for startup grants. These grants  
26 must be available for 1 year and must be used to offset the  
27 startup costs for implementing such programs off public school  
28 campuses. General operating funds must be generated through  
29 the appropriate programs of the Florida Education Finance  
30 Program. Grants approved under this program shall be for the  
31 full operation of the school by a private nonprofit or

1 for-profit provider or the public entity. This program must  
2 operate under rules adopted by the State Board of Education  
3 and be implemented to the extent funded by the Legislature.  
4 3. A student enrolled in a sixth, seventh, eighth,  
5 ninth, or tenth grade class may be assigned to a second chance  
6 school if the student meets the following criteria:  
7 a. The student is a habitual truant as defined in s.  
8 1003.01.  
9 b. The student's excessive absences have detrimentally  
10 affected the student's academic progress and the student may  
11 have unique needs that a traditional school setting may not  
12 meet.  
13 c. The student's high incidences of truancy have been  
14 directly linked to a lack of motivation.  
15 d. The student has been identified as at risk of  
16 dropping out of school.  
17 4. A student who is habitually truant may be assigned  
18 to a second chance school only if the case staffing committee,  
19 established pursuant to s. 984.12, determines that such  
20 placement could be beneficial to the student and the criteria  
21 included in subparagraph 3. are met.  
22 5. A student may be assigned to a second chance school  
23 if the district school board in which the student resides has  
24 a second chance school and if the student meets one of the  
25 following criteria:  
26 a. The student habitually exhibits disruptive behavior  
27 in violation of the code of student conduct adopted by the  
28 district school board.  
29 b. The student interferes with the student's own  
30 learning or the educational process of others and requires  
31 attention and assistance beyond that which the traditional

1 program can provide, or, while the student is under the  
2 jurisdiction of the school either in or out of the classroom,  
3 frequent conflicts of a disruptive nature occur.

4 c. The student has committed a serious offense which  
5 warrants suspension or expulsion from school according to the  
6 district school board's code of student conduct. For the  
7 purposes of this program, "serious offense" is behavior which:

8 (I) Threatens the general welfare of students or  
9 others with whom the student comes into contact;

10 (II) Includes violence;

11 (III) Includes possession of weapons or drugs; or

12 (IV) Is harassment or verbal abuse of school personnel  
13 or other students.

14 6. Prior to assignment of students to second chance  
15 schools, district school boards are encouraged to use  
16 alternative programs, such as in-school suspension, which  
17 provide instruction and counseling leading to improved student  
18 behavior, a reduction in the incidence of truancy, and the  
19 development of more effective interpersonal skills.

20 7. Students assigned to second chance schools must be  
21 evaluated by the district school board's child study team  
22 before placement in a second chance school. The study team  
23 shall ensure that students are not eligible for placement in a  
24 program for emotionally disturbed children.

25 8. Students who exhibit academic and social progress  
26 and who wish to return to a traditional school shall complete  
27 a character development and law education program and  
28 demonstrate preparedness to reenter the regular school setting  
29 prior to reentering a traditional school.

30 (2)(a) Each district school board may establish  
31 dropout prevention and academic intervention programs at the

1 elementary, middle, junior high school, or high school level.  
2 Programs designed to eliminate patterns of excessive  
3 absenteeism or habitual truancy shall emphasize academic  
4 performance and may provide specific instruction in the areas  
5 of career education, preemployment training, and behavioral  
6 management. Such programs shall utilize instructional teaching  
7 methods appropriate to the specific needs of the student.

8 (b) Each school that establishes a dropout prevention  
9 and academic intervention program at that school site shall  
10 reflect that program in the school improvement plan as  
11 required under s. 1001.42(16).

12 (3) Each district school board receiving state funding  
13 for dropout prevention and academic intervention programs  
14 through the General Appropriations Act shall submit  
15 information through an annual report to the Department of  
16 Education's database documenting the extent to which each of  
17 the district's dropout prevention and academic intervention  
18 programs has been successful in the areas of graduation rate,  
19 dropout rate, attendance rate, and retention/promotion rate.  
20 The department shall compile this information into an annual  
21 report which shall be submitted to the presiding officers of  
22 the Legislature by February 15.

23 (4) Each district school board shall establish  
24 procedures for ensuring that teachers assigned to dropout  
25 prevention and academic intervention programs possess the  
26 affective, pedagogical, and content-related skills necessary  
27 to meet the needs of these students.

28 (5) Each district school board providing a dropout  
29 prevention and academic intervention program pursuant to this  
30 section shall maintain for each participating student records  
31 documenting the student's eligibility, the length of

1 participation, the type of program to which the student was  
2 assigned or the type of academic intervention services  
3 provided, and an evaluation of the student's academic and  
4 behavioral performance while in the program. The school  
5 principal or his or her designee shall, prior to placement in  
6 a dropout prevention and academic intervention program or the  
7 provision of an academic service, provide written notice of  
8 placement or services by certified mail, return receipt  
9 requested, to the student's parent. The parent of the student  
10 shall sign an acknowledgment of the notice of placement or  
11 service and return the signed acknowledgment to the principal  
12 within 3 days after receipt of the notice. The parents of a  
13 student assigned to such a dropout prevention and academic  
14 intervention program shall be notified in writing and entitled  
15 to an administrative review of any action by school personnel  
16 relating to such placement pursuant to the provisions of  
17 chapter 120.

18 (6) District school board dropout prevention and  
19 academic intervention programs shall be coordinated with  
20 social service, law enforcement, prosecutorial, and juvenile  
21 justice agencies and juvenile assessment centers in the school  
22 district. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 1002.22, these  
23 agencies are authorized to exchange information contained in  
24 student records and juvenile justice records. Such information  
25 is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.  
26 119.07(1). District school boards and other agencies receiving  
27 such information shall use the information only for official  
28 purposes connected with the certification of students for  
29 admission to and for the administration of the dropout  
30 prevention and academic intervention program, and shall  
31

1 maintain the confidentiality of such information unless  
2 otherwise provided by law or rule.

3 (7) The State Board of Education shall have the  
4 authority pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to adopt rules  
5 necessary to implement the provisions of this section; such  
6 rules shall require the minimum amount of necessary paperwork  
7 and reporting.

8 Section 148. Section 1003.54, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1003.54 Teenage parent programs.--

11 (1) Each district school board shall maintain a  
12 teenage parent program.

13 (2) "Teenage parent programs" means educational  
14 programs designed to provide a specialized curriculum to meet  
15 the needs of students who are pregnant or students who are  
16 mothers or fathers and the children of the students.

17 (3)(a) The program shall provide pregnant students or  
18 students who are parents and the children of these students  
19 with a comprehensive teenage parent program. The program shall  
20 provide pregnant students or students who are parents with the  
21 option of participating in regular classroom activities or  
22 enrolling in a special program designed to meet their needs  
23 pursuant to s. 1003.21. Students participating in teenage  
24 parent programs shall be exempt from minimum attendance  
25 requirements for absences related to pregnancy or parenting,  
26 but shall be required to make up work missed due to absence.

27 (b) The curriculum shall include instruction in such  
28 topics as prenatal and postnatal health care, parenting  
29 skills, benefits of sexual abstinence, and consequences of  
30 subsequent pregnancies. Parenting skills should include  
31 instruction in the stages of child growth and development,

1 methods for aiding in the intellectual, language, physical,  
2 and social development of children, and guidance on  
3 constructive play activities.

4 (c) Provision for necessary child care, health care,  
5 social services, parent education, and transportation shall be  
6 ancillary service components of teenage parent programs.  
7 Ancillary services may be provided through the coordination of  
8 existing programs and services and through joint agreements  
9 between district school boards and local school readiness  
10 coalitions or other appropriate public and private providers.

11 (d) The district school board shall make adequate  
12 provisions for pregnant and parenting teenagers to complete  
13 the coursework necessary to earn a high school diploma.

14 (e) Children enrolled in child care provided by the  
15 district shall be funded at the special program cost factor  
16 pursuant to s. 1011.62 if the parent or parents are enrolled  
17 full time in a public school in the district.

18 (4) Districts may modify courses listed in the State  
19 Course Code Directory for the purpose of providing teenage  
20 parent programs pursuant to the provisions of this section.  
21 Such modifications must be approved by the commissioner and  
22 may include lengthening or shortening of the school time  
23 allotted for in-class study, alternate methods of assessment  
24 of student performance, and the integration of curriculum  
25 frameworks or student performance standards to produce  
26 interdisciplinary units of instruction.

27 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
28 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

29 Section 149. Section 1003.55, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:  
31

1           1003.55 Instructional programs for blind or visually  
2 impaired students and deaf or hard-of-hearing students.--

3           (1) The Department of Education may establish a  
4 coordinating unit and instructional materials center for  
5 visually impaired students and deaf or hard-of-hearing  
6 students to provide staff and resources for the coordination,  
7 cataloging, standardizing, producing, procuring, storing, and  
8 distributing of braille, large print, tangible apparatus,  
9 captioned films and video tapes, and other specialized  
10 educational materials needed by these students and other  
11 exceptional students. The coordinating unit shall have as its  
12 major purpose the improvement of instructional programs for  
13 visually impaired students and deaf or hard-of-hearing  
14 students and may, as a second priority, extend appropriate  
15 services to other exceptional students, consistent with  
16 provisions and criteria established, to the extent that  
17 resources are available.

18           (2) The unit shall be operated under rules adopted by  
19 the State Board of Education.

20           (3) As used in this section, the term:

21           (a) "Blind student" means a student who is eligible  
22 for special education services and who:

23           1. Has a visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better  
24 eye with correcting lenses or has a limited field of vision  
25 such that the widest diameter subtends an angular distance of  
26 no greater than 20 degrees; or

27           2. Has a medically indicated expectation of visual  
28 deterioration.

29           (b) "Braille" means the system of reading and writing  
30 through touch commonly known as standard English braille.

31

1           (c) "Individualized education program" means a written  
2 statement developed for a student eligible for special  
3 education services pursuant to s. 602(a)(20), Part A of the  
4 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. s.  
5 1401(a).

6           (4) In developing an individualized written education  
7 program for each blind student, the presumption shall be that  
8 blind students can communicate effectively and efficiently  
9 with the same level of proficiency expected of the students'  
10 peers of comparable ability and grade level. Accordingly,  
11 proficiency in reading and writing braille shall be considered  
12 during the individualized planning and assessment processes in  
13 this context.

14           (5) Any publisher of a textbook adopted pursuant to  
15 the state instructional materials adoption process shall  
16 furnish the Department of Education with a computer file in an  
17 electronic format specified by the department at least 2 years  
18 in advance that is readily translatable to braille and can be  
19 used for large print or speech access. Any textbook  
20 reproduced pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall  
21 be purchased at a price equal to the price paid for the  
22 textbook as adopted. The Department of Education shall not  
23 reproduce textbooks obtained pursuant to this subsection in  
24 any manner that would generate revenues for the department  
25 from the use of such computer files or that would preclude the  
26 rightful payment of fees to the publisher for use of all or  
27 some portion of the textbook.

28           Section 150. Section 1003.56, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30           1003.56 English language instruction for limited  
31 English proficient students.--

1           (1) Instruction in the English language shall be  
2 provided to limited English proficient students. Such  
3 instruction shall be designed to develop the student's mastery  
4 of the four language skills, including listening, speaking,  
5 reading, and writing, as rapidly as possible.

6           (2)(a) "Limited English proficient" or "limited  
7 English proficiency," when used with reference to an  
8 individual, means:

9           1.a. An individual who was not born in the United  
10 States and whose native language is a language other than  
11 English;

12           b. An individual who comes from a home environment  
13 where a language other than English is spoken in the home; or

14           c. An individual who is an American Indian or Alaskan  
15 native and who comes from an environment where a language  
16 other than English has had a significant impact on his or her  
17 level of English language proficiency; and

18           2. Who, by reason thereof, has sufficient difficulty  
19 speaking, reading, writing, or listening to the English  
20 language to deny such individual the opportunity to learn  
21 successfully in classrooms where the language of instruction  
22 is English.

23           (b) "Home language" or "native language," when used  
24 with reference to an individual of limited English  
25 proficiency, means the language normally used by such  
26 individual or, in the case of a student, the language normally  
27 used by the parents of the student.

28           (c) "ESOL" means English for Speakers of Other  
29 Languages and:

30           1. When modifying instruction, the strategy used to  
31 teach limited English proficient students; or

1           2. When modifying program, the program funded in the  
2 Florida Education Finance Program, listed under English for  
3 Speakers of Other Languages in s. 1011.62.

4           (3) Each district school board shall implement the  
5 following procedures:

6           (a) Develop and submit a plan for providing English  
7 language instruction for limited English proficient students  
8 to the Department of Education for review and approval.

9           (b) Identify limited English proficient students  
10 through assessment.

11           (c) Provide for student exit from and reclassification  
12 into the program.

13           (d) Provide limited English proficient students ESOL  
14 instruction in English and ESOL instruction or home language  
15 instruction in the basic subject areas of reading,  
16 mathematics, science, social studies, and computer literacy.

17           (e) Maintain a student plan.

18           (f) Provide qualified teachers.

19           (g) Provide equal access to other programs for  
20 eligible limited English proficient students based on need.

21           (h) Provide for parental involvement in the program.

22           (4) Each district school board's program for limited  
23 English proficient students shall be evaluated and monitored  
24 periodically.

25           (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for  
26 the purpose of implementing this section.

27           Section 151. Section 1003.57, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29           1003.57 Exceptional students instruction.--Each  
30 district school board shall provide for an appropriate program  
31 of special instruction, facilities, and services for

1 exceptional students as prescribed by the State Board of  
2 Education as acceptable, including provisions that:  
3 (1) The district school board provide the necessary  
4 professional services for diagnosis and evaluation of  
5 exceptional students.  
6 (2) The district school board provide the special  
7 instruction, classes, and services, either within the district  
8 school system, in cooperation with other district school  
9 systems, or through contractual arrangements with approved  
10 private schools or community facilities that meet standards  
11 established by the commissioner.  
12 (3) The district school board annually provide  
13 information describing the Florida School for the Deaf and the  
14 Blind and all other programs and methods of instruction  
15 available to the parent of a sensory-impaired student.  
16 (4) The district school board, once every 3 years,  
17 submit to the department its proposed procedures for the  
18 provision of special instruction and services for exceptional  
19 students.  
20 (5) No student be given special instruction or  
21 services as an exceptional student until after he or she has  
22 been properly evaluated, classified, and placed in the manner  
23 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education. The  
24 parent of an exceptional student evaluated and placed or  
25 denied placement in a program of special education shall be  
26 notified of each such evaluation and placement or denial. Such  
27 notice shall contain a statement informing the parent that he  
28 or she is entitled to a due process hearing on the  
29 identification, evaluation, and placement, or lack thereof.  
30 Such hearings shall be exempt from the provisions of ss.  
31 120.569, 120.57, and 286.011, except to the extent that the

1 State Board of Education adopts rules establishing other  
2 procedures and any records created as a result of such  
3 hearings shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions  
4 of s. 119.07(1). The hearing must be conducted by an  
5 administrative law judge from the Division of Administrative  
6 Hearings of the Department of Management Services. The  
7 decision of the administrative law judge shall be final,  
8 except that any party aggrieved by the finding and decision  
9 rendered by the administrative law judge shall have the right  
10 to bring a civil action in the circuit court. In such an  
11 action, the court shall receive the records of the  
12 administrative hearing and shall hear additional evidence at  
13 the request of either party. In the alternative, any party  
14 aggrieved by the finding and decision rendered by the  
15 administrative law judge shall have the right to request an  
16 impartial review of the administrative law judge's order by  
17 the district court of appeal as provided by s. 120.68.  
18 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, during the pendency  
19 of any proceeding conducted pursuant to this section, unless  
20 the district school board and the parents otherwise agree, the  
21 student shall remain in his or her then-current educational  
22 assignment or, if applying for initial admission to a public  
23 school, shall be assigned, with the consent of the parents, in  
24 the public school program until all such proceedings have been  
25 completed.

26 (6) In providing for the education of exceptional  
27 students, the district school superintendent, principals, and  
28 teachers shall utilize the regular school facilities and adapt  
29 them to the needs of exceptional students to the maximum  
30 extent appropriate. Segregation of exceptional students shall  
31 occur only if the nature or severity of the exceptionality is

1 such that education in regular classes with the use of  
2 supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved  
3 satisfactorily.

4 (7) In addition to the services agreed to in a  
5 student's individual education plan, the district school  
6 superintendent shall fully inform the parent of a student  
7 having a physical or developmental disability of all available  
8 services that are appropriate for the student's disability.  
9 The superintendent shall provide the student's parent with a  
10 summary of the student's rights.

11 Section 152. Section 1003.58, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13 1003.58 Students in residential care facilities.--Each  
14 district school board shall provide educational programs  
15 according to rules of the State Board of Education to students  
16 who reside in residential care facilities operated by the  
17 Department of Children and Family Services.

18 (1) The district school board shall not be charged any  
19 rent, maintenance, utilities, or overhead on such facilities.  
20 Maintenance, repairs, and remodeling of existing facilities  
21 shall be provided by the Department of Children and Family  
22 Services.

23 (2) If additional facilities are required, the  
24 district school board and the Department of Children and  
25 Family Services shall agree on the appropriate site based on  
26 the instructional needs of the students. When the most  
27 appropriate site for instruction is on district school board  
28 property, a special capital outlay request shall be made by  
29 the commissioner in accordance with s. 1013.60. When the most  
30 appropriate site is on state property, state capital outlay  
31 funds shall be requested by the Department of Children and

1 Family Services as provided by s. 216.043 and shall be  
2 submitted as specified by s. 216.023. Any instructional  
3 facility to be built on state property shall have educational  
4 specifications jointly developed by the school district and  
5 the Department of Children and Family Services and approved by  
6 the Department of Education. The size of space and occupant  
7 design capacity criteria as provided by state board rules  
8 shall be used for remodeling or new construction whether  
9 facilities are provided on state property or district school  
10 board property. The planning of such additional facilities  
11 shall incorporate current Department of Children and Family  
12 Services deinstitutionalization plans.

13 (3) The district school board shall have full and  
14 complete authority in the matter of the assignment and  
15 placement of such students in educational programs. The parent  
16 of an exceptional student shall have the same due process  
17 rights as are provided under s. 1003.57(5).

18 (4) The district school board shall have a written  
19 agreement with the Department of Children and Family Services  
20 outlining the respective duties and responsibilities of each  
21 party.

22  
23 Notwithstanding the provisions herein, the educational program  
24 at the Marianna Sunland Center in Jackson County shall be  
25 operated by the Department of Education, either directly or  
26 through grants or contractual agreements with other public or  
27 duly accredited educational agencies approved by the  
28 Department of Education.

29 Section 153. Part VI of chapter 1003, Florida  
30 Statutes, shall be entitled "Pilot Public K-12 Education  
31 Programs" and shall consist of ss. 1003.61-1003.63.

1 Section 154. Section 1003.61, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1003.61 Pilot attendance project.--It is the purpose  
4 of this section to require the Manatee County District School  
5 Board to implement a pilot project that raises the compulsory  
6 age of attendance for children from the age of 16 years to the  
7 age of 18 years. The pilot project applies to each child who  
8 has not attained the age of 16 years by September 30 of the  
9 school year in which a school board policy is adopted.

10 (1) Beginning July 1, 1999, the Manatee County  
11 District School Board shall implement a pilot project  
12 consistent with policy adopted by the school board to raise  
13 the compulsory age of attendance for children from the age of  
14 16 years to the age of 18 years.

15 (2) The district school board must, before the  
16 beginning of the school year, adopt a policy for raising the  
17 compulsory age of attendance for children from the age of 16  
18 years to 18 years.

19 (a) Before the adoption of the policy, the district  
20 school board must provide a notice of intent to adopt a policy  
21 to raise the compulsory age of attendance for children from  
22 the age of 16 years to the age of 18 years. The notice must be  
23 provided to the parent of each child who is 15 years of age  
24 and who is enrolled in a school in the district.

25 (b) Within 2 weeks after adoption of the school board  
26 policy, the district school board must provide notice of the  
27 policy to the parent of each child who is 15 years of age and  
28 who is enrolled in a school in the district. The notice must  
29 also provide information related to the penalties for refusing  
30 or failing to comply with the compulsory attendance  
31

1 requirements and information on alternative education programs  
2 offered within the school district.

3 (3) All state laws and State Board of Education rules  
4 related to students subject to compulsory school attendance  
5 apply to the district school board. Notwithstanding the  
6 provisions of s. 1003.21, the formal declaration of intent to  
7 terminate school enrollment does not apply to the district  
8 school board.

9 (4) The district school board must evaluate the effect  
10 of its adopted policy raising the compulsory age of attendance  
11 on school attendance and on the school district's dropout  
12 rate, as well as on the costs associated with the pilot  
13 project. The school district shall report its findings to the  
14 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
15 Representatives, the minority leader of each house of the  
16 Legislature, the Governor, and the Commissioner of Education  
17 not later than August 1 following each year that the pilot  
18 project is in operation.

19 Section 155. Section 1003.62, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21 1003.62 Charter school districts pilot program.--The  
22 State Board of Education is authorized to enter into a  
23 performance contract with up to six district school boards for  
24 the purpose of establishing them as charter school districts.  
25 The State Board of Education shall give priority to  
26 Hillsborough and Volusia Counties upon the submission of a  
27 completed precharter agreement or charter proposal for a  
28 charter school district. The purpose of this pilot program is  
29 to examine a new relationship between the State Board of  
30 Education and district school boards that may produce  
31 significant improvements in student achievement and school

1 management, while complying with constitutional requirements  
2 assigned to each entity.

3 (1) CHARTER DISTRICT.--A charter school district is a  
4 school district in Florida in which the district school board  
5 has submitted and the State Board of Education has approved a  
6 charter proposal that exchanges statutory and rule exemption  
7 for agreement to meet performance goals in the proposal. The  
8 charter school district shall be chartered for 3 years, at the  
9 end of which the performance shall be evaluated.

10 (2) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES AND RULES.--Charter school  
11 districts shall be exempt from state statutes and specified  
12 State Board of Education rules. The district school board of a  
13 charter school district shall not be exempt from any statute  
14 governing election of district school board members, public  
15 meetings and public records requirements, financial  
16 disclosure, conflicts of interest, operation in the sunshine,  
17 or any provisions outside the Florida K-20 Education Code.

18 (3) GOVERNING BOARD.--The governing board of the  
19 charter school district shall be the duly elected district  
20 school board. The district school board shall be responsible  
21 for supervising the schools in the charter district and is  
22 authorized to charter each of its existing public schools  
23 pursuant to s. 1002.33, apply for deregulation of its public  
24 schools pursuant to s. 1003.63, or otherwise establish  
25 performance-based contractual relationships with its public  
26 schools for the purpose of giving them greater autonomy with  
27 accountability for performance.

28 (4) PRECHARTER AGREEMENT.--The State Board of  
29 Education is authorized to approve a precharter agreement with  
30 a potential charter district. The agreement may grant limited  
31

1 flexibility and direction for developing the full charter  
 2 proposal.

3 (5) TIME PERIOD FOR PILOT.--The pilot program shall be  
 4 authorized for a period of 3 full school years commencing with  
 5 award of a charter. The charter may be renewed upon action of  
 6 the State Board of Education.

7 (6) REPORTS.--The State Board of Education shall  
 8 annually report on the implementation of the charter school  
 9 district pilot program. Upon the completion of the first  
 10 3-year term, the State Board of Education, through the  
 11 Commissioner of Education, shall submit to the Legislature a  
 12 full evaluation of the effectiveness of the program.

13 (7) RULEMAKING.--The State Board of Education shall  
 14 have the authority to enact rules to implement this section in  
 15 accordance with ss. 120.536 and 120.54.

16 Section 156. Section 1003.63, Florida Statutes, is  
 17 created to read:

18 1003.63 Deregulated public schools pilot program.--

19 (1) PILOT PROGRAM.--To provide public schools the same  
 20 flexibility and accountability afforded charter schools, pilot  
 21 programs for deregulated public schools shall be conducted.  
 22 The following districts are authorized to conduct pilot  
 23 programs in 1998-1999: Palm Beach, Pinellas, Seminole, Leon,  
 24 Walton, and Citrus Counties. The schools and district school  
 25 boards which are participating in the pilot program as of  
 26 January 1, 1999, are authorized to continue the pilot program  
 27 through the 2003-2004 school year. Lee County is authorized to  
 28 conduct the pilot program beginning in the 1999-2000 school  
 29 year through the 2003-2004 school year.

30 (2) PURPOSE.--The purpose of the pilot program for  
 31 deregulated public schools shall be to:

- 1           (a) Improve student learning.
- 2           (b) Increase learning opportunities for all students,  
 3 with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for  
 4 students who are identified as academically low achieving.
- 5           (c) Encourage the use of different and innovative  
 6 learning methods.
- 7           (d) Increase choice of learning opportunities for  
 8 students.
- 9           (e) Establish a new form of accountability for  
 10 schools.
- 11           (f) Require the measurement of learning outcomes and  
 12 create innovative measurement tools.
- 13           (g) Make the school the unit for improvement.
- 14           (h) Relieve schools of paperwork and procedures that  
 15 are required by the state and the district school board for  
 16 purposes other than health, safety, equal opportunity, fiscal  
 17 accountability and documentation of student achievement.
- 18           (3) PROPOSAL.--
- 19           (a) A proposal to be a deregulated school must be  
 20 developed by the school principal and the school advisory  
 21 council. A majority of the members of the school advisory  
 22 council must approve the proposal, and the principal and the  
 23 school advisory council chair must sign the proposal. At least  
 24 50 percent of the teachers employed at the school must approve  
 25 the proposal. The school must conduct a survey to show  
 26 parental support for the proposal.
- 27           (b) A district school board shall receive and review  
 28 all proposals for a deregulated public school. A district  
 29 school board must by a majority vote approve or deny a  
 30 proposal no later than 30 days after the proposal is received.  
 31 If a proposal is denied, the district school board must,

1 within 10 calendar days, articulate in writing the specific  
2 reasons based upon good cause supporting its denial of the  
3 proposal.

4 (c) The Department of Education may provide technical  
5 assistance to an applicant upon written request.

6 (d) The terms and conditions for the operation of a  
7 deregulated public school shall be set forth in the proposal.  
8 The district school board shall not impose unreasonable rules  
9 or regulations that violate the intent of giving schools  
10 greater flexibility to meet educational goals.

11 (4) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.--

12 (a) A deregulated school shall be open to all students  
13 residing in the school's attendance boundaries as determined  
14 by the district school board.

15 (b) The deregulated public school shall have maximum  
16 flexibility to enroll students under the district school board  
17 open enrollment plan.

18 (5) REQUIREMENTS.--Like other public schools, a  
19 deregulated public school shall:

20 (a) Be nonsectarian in its programs, admission  
21 policies, employment practices, and operations.

22 (b) Not charge tuition or fees, except those fees  
23 normally charged by other public schools.

24 (c) Meet all applicable state and local health,  
25 safety, and civil rights requirements.

26 (d) Not violate the antidiscrimination provisions of  
27 s. 1000.05.

28 (e) Be subject to an annual financial audit in a  
29 manner similar to that of other public schools in the  
30 district.

31

- 1           (6) ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSAL.--The major issues  
2 involving the operation of a deregulated public school shall  
3 be considered in advance and written into the proposal.
- 4           (a) The proposal shall address, and criteria for  
5 approval of the proposal shall be based on:
- 6                 1. The school's mission and the students to be served.  
7                 2. The focus of the curriculum, the instructional  
8 methods to be used, and any distinctive instructional  
9 techniques to be employed.
- 10                3. The current baseline standard of achievement and  
11 the outcomes to be achieved and the method of measurement that  
12 will be used.
- 13                4. The methods used to identify the educational  
14 strengths and needs of students and how well educational goals  
15 and performance standards are met by students attending the  
16 school. Students in deregulated public schools shall, at a  
17 minimum, participate in the statewide assessment program.
- 18                5. In secondary schools, a method for determining that  
19 a student has satisfied the requirements for graduation in s.  
20 1003.43.
- 21                6. A method for resolving conflicts between the school  
22 and the district.
- 23                7. The admissions procedures and dismissal procedures,  
24 including the school's code of student conduct.
- 25                8. The ways by which the school's racial/ethnic  
26 balance reflects the community it serves or reflects the  
27 racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the same school  
28 district.
- 29                9. The financial and administrative management of the  
30 school including a statement of the areas in which the school  
31 will have administrative and fiscal autonomy and the areas in

1 which the school will follow district school board fiscal and  
2 administrative policies.

3 10. The manner in which the school will be insured,  
4 including whether or not the school will be required to have  
5 liability insurance, and, if so, the terms and conditions  
6 thereof and the amounts of coverage.

7 11. The qualifications to be required of the teachers.

8 (b) The school shall make annual progress reports to  
9 the district, which upon verification shall be forwarded to  
10 the Commissioner of Education at the same time as other annual  
11 school accountability reports. The report shall contain at  
12 least the following information:

13 1. The school's progress towards achieving the goals  
14 outlined in its proposal.

15 2. The information required in the annual school  
16 report pursuant to s. 1008.345.

17 3. Financial records of the school, including revenues  
18 and expenditures.

19 4. Salary and benefit levels of school employees.

20 (c) A district school board shall ensure that the  
21 proposal is innovative and consistent with the state education  
22 goals established by s. 1000.03(5).

23 (d) Upon receipt of the annual report required by  
24 paragraph (b), the Department of Education shall provide the  
25 State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, the  
26 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
27 Representatives with a copy of each report and an analysis and  
28 comparison of the overall performance of students, to include  
29 all students in deregulated public schools whose scores are  
30 counted as part of the statewide assessment tests, versus  
31 comparable public school students in the district as

1 determined by FCAT and district assessment tests and, as  
2 appropriate, the Florida Writes Assessment Test, and other  
3 assessments administered pursuant to s. 1008.22(3).

4 (7) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.--

5 (a) A deregulated public school shall operate in  
6 accordance with its proposal and shall be exempt from all  
7 statutes of the Florida K-20 Education Code, except those  
8 pertaining to civil rights and student health, safety, and  
9 welfare, or as otherwise required by this section. A  
10 deregulated public school shall not be exempt from the  
11 following statutes: chapter 119, relating to public records,  
12 and s. 286.011, relating to public meetings and records,  
13 public inspection, and penalties. The school district, upon  
14 request of a deregulated public school, may apply to the State  
15 Board of Education for a waiver of provisions of law  
16 applicable to deregulated public schools under this section,  
17 except that the provisions of chapter 1010 or chapter 1011  
18 shall not be eligible for waiver if the waiver would affect  
19 funding allocations or create inequity in public school  
20 funding. The State Board of Education may grant the waiver if  
21 necessary to implement the school program.

22 (b) A deregulated public school may employ or contract  
23 with skilled selected noncertified personnel to provide  
24 instructional services or to assist instructional staff  
25 members as education paraprofessionals in the same manner as  
26 defined in chapter 1012. A deregulated public school may not  
27 employ an individual to provide instructional services or to  
28 serve as an education paraprofessional if the individual's  
29 certification or licensure as an educator is suspended or  
30 revoked by this or any other state. The qualifications of  
31 teachers shall be disclosed to parents.

1           (c) A deregulated public school shall employ or  
2 contract with employees who have been fingerprinted as  
3 provided in s. 1012.32.

4           (8) REVENUE.--Students enrolled in a deregulated  
5 public school shall be funded in a basic program or a special  
6 program in the same manner as students enrolled in other  
7 public schools in the school district.

8           (9) LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR.--A deregulated public  
9 school shall provide instruction for at least the number of  
10 days required by law for other public schools, and may provide  
11 instruction for additional days.

12           (10) FACILITIES.--A deregulated public school shall  
13 utilize facilities which comply with the State Uniform  
14 Building Code for Public Educational Facilities Construction  
15 adopted pursuant to s. 1013.37, or with applicable state  
16 minimum building codes pursuant to chapter 553 and state  
17 minimum fire protection codes pursuant to s. 633.025, as  
18 adopted by the authority in whose jurisdiction the facility is  
19 located.

20           Section 157. Chapter 1004, Florida Statutes, shall be  
21 entitled "Public Postsecondary Education" and shall consist of  
22 ss. 1004.01-1004.98.

23           Section 158. Part I of chapter 1004, Florida Statutes,  
24 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of  
25 ss. 1004.01-1004.06.

26           Section 159. Section 1004.01, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28           1004.01 Statement of purpose and mission.--

29           (1) The Legislature finds it in the public interest to  
30 provide a system of postsecondary education which is of the  
31 highest possible quality; which enables all students to

1 participate in the search for knowledge and individual  
2 development; which stresses undergraduate teaching as its main  
3 priority; which offers selected professional, graduate, and  
4 research programs with emphasis on state and national needs;  
5 which fosters diversity of educational opportunity; which  
6 promotes service to the public; which makes effective and  
7 efficient use of human and physical resources; which functions  
8 cooperatively with other educational institutions and systems;  
9 and which promotes internal coordination and the wisest  
10 possible use of resources.

11 (2) The mission of the state system of postsecondary  
12 education is to develop human resources, to discover and  
13 disseminate knowledge, to extend knowledge and its application  
14 beyond the boundaries of its campuses, and to develop in  
15 students heightened intellectual, cultural, and humane  
16 sensitivities; scientific, professional, and technological  
17 expertise; and a sense of purpose. Inherent in this broad  
18 mission are methods of instruction, research, extended  
19 training, and public service designed to educate people and  
20 improve the human condition.

21 Section 160. Section 1004.02, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23 1004.02 Definitions.--As used in this chapter:

24 (1) "Adult basic education" means courses of  
25 instruction designed to improve the employability of the  
26 state's workforce through instruction in mathematics, reading,  
27 language, and workforce readiness skills at grade level  
28 equivalency 0-8.9.

29 (2) "Adult ESOL" or "adult ESL" means noncredit  
30 English literacy courses designed to improve the employability  
31 of the state's workforce through acquisition of communication

1 skills and cultural competencies that enhance ability to read,  
2 write, speak, and listen in English. ESOL means English for  
3 Speakers of Other Languages. ESL means English as a Second  
4 Language. The two terms are interchangeable.

5 (3) "Adult general education" means comprehensive  
6 instructional programs designed to improve the employability  
7 of the state's workforce through adult basic education, adult  
8 secondary education, English for Speakers of Other Languages,  
9 vocational-preparatory instruction, and instruction for adults  
10 with disabilities.

11 (4) "Adult high school credit program" means the award  
12 of credits upon completion of courses and passing of state  
13 mandated assessments necessary to qualify for a high school  
14 diploma. Except as provided elsewhere in law, the graduation  
15 standards for adults shall be the same as those for secondary  
16 students.

17 (5) "Adult secondary education" means courses through  
18 which a person receives high school credit that leads to the  
19 award of a high school diploma or courses of instruction  
20 through which a student prepares to take the General  
21 Educational Development test.

22 (6) "Adult student" is a student who is beyond the  
23 compulsory school age and who has legally left elementary or  
24 secondary school, or a high school student who is taking an  
25 adult course required for high school graduation.

26 (7) "Adult with disability" means an individual who  
27 has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits  
28 one or more major life activities, has a record of such  
29 impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment, and  
30 who requires modifications to the educational program,  
31 adaptive equipment, or specialized instructional methods and

1 services in order to participate in workforce development  
2 programs that lead to competitive employment.

3 (8) "Applied technology diploma program" means a  
4 course of study that is part of a technical degree program, is  
5 less than 60 credit hours, and leads to employment in a  
6 specific occupation. An applied technology diploma program may  
7 consist of either technical credit or college credit. A public  
8 school district may offer an applied technology diploma  
9 program only as technical credit, with college credit awarded  
10 to a student upon articulation to a community college.  
11 Statewide articulation among public schools and community  
12 colleges is guaranteed by s. 1007.23, and is subject to  
13 guidelines and standards adopted by the State Board of  
14 Education pursuant to ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25.

15 (9) "Basic literacy," means the demonstration of  
16 academic competence from 2.0 through 5.9 educational grade  
17 levels as measured by means approved for this purpose by the  
18 State Board of Education.

19 (10) "Beginning literacy" means the demonstration of  
20 academic competence from 0 through 1.9 educational grade  
21 levels as measured by means approved for this purpose by the  
22 State Board of Education.

23 (11) "College-preparatory instruction" means courses  
24 through which a high school graduate who applies for any  
25 college credit program may attain the communication and  
26 computation skills necessary to enroll in college credit  
27 instruction.

28 (12) "Community education" means the use of a school  
29 or other public facility as a community center operated in  
30 conjunction with other public, private, and governmental  
31 organizations for the purpose of providing educational,

1 recreational, social, cultural, health, and community services  
2 for persons in the community in accordance with the needs,  
3 interests, and concerns of that community, including lifelong  
4 learning.

5 (13) "Continuing workforce education" means  
6 instruction that does not result in a technical certificate,  
7 diploma, associate in applied science degree, or associate in  
8 science degree. Continuing workforce education is for:

9 (a) Individuals who are required to have training for  
10 licensure renewal or certification renewal by a regulatory  
11 agency or credentialing body;

12 (b) New or expanding businesses as described in  
13 chapter 288;

14 (c) Business, industry, and government agencies whose  
15 products or services are changing so that retraining of  
16 employees is necessary or whose employees need training in  
17 specific skills to increase efficiency and productivity; or

18 (d) Individuals who are enhancing occupational skills  
19 necessary to maintain current employment, to cross train, or  
20 to upgrade employment.

21 (14) "Technical degree education program" means a  
22 course of study that leads to an associate in applied science  
23 degree or an associate in science degree. A technical degree  
24 program may contain within it one or more program progression  
25 points and may lead to certificates or diplomas within the  
26 course of study. The term is interchangeable with the term  
27 "degree career education program." For licensure purposes, the  
28 term "associate in science degree" is interchangeable with  
29 "associate in applied science degree."

30  
31

1           (15) "Family literacy" means a program for adults with  
2 a literacy component for parents and children or other  
3 intergenerational literacy components.

4           (16) "Functional literacy," which is also referred to  
5 as "intermediate adult basic education," means the  
6 demonstration of academic competence from 6.0 through 8.9  
7 educational grade levels as measured by means approved for  
8 this purpose by the State Board of Education.

9           (17) "General Educational Development (GED) test  
10 preparation" means courses of instruction designed to prepare  
11 adults for success on GED subject area tests leading to  
12 qualification for a State of Florida high school diploma.

13           (18) "Lifelong learning" means a noncredit course or  
14 activity offered by a school district or community college  
15 that seeks to address community social and economic issues  
16 related to health and human relations, government, parenting,  
17 consumer economics, and senior citizens.

18           (19) "Local educational agency" means a community  
19 college or school district.

20           (20) "Local sponsor" means a district school board,  
21 community college board of trustees, public library, other  
22 public entity, or private nonprofit entity, or any combination  
23 of these entities, that provides adult literacy instruction.

24           (21) "Technical certificate program" means a course of  
25 study that leads to at least one occupational completion  
26 point. The program may also confer credit that may articulate  
27 with a diploma or technical degree education program, if  
28 authorized by rules of the State Board of Education. Any  
29 credit instruction designed to articulate to a degree program  
30 is subject to guidelines and standards adopted by the  
31 Department of Education pursuant to chapter 1007. The term is

1 interchangeable with the term "certificate career and  
2 technical education program."

3 (22) "Occupational completion point" means the  
4 occupational competencies that qualify a person to enter an  
5 occupation that is linked to a career and technical program.

6 (23) "Career and technical education planning region"  
7 means the geographic area in which career and technical or  
8 adult education is provided. Each career and technical region  
9 is contiguous with one of the 28 community college service  
10 areas.

11 (24) "Vocational-preparatory instruction" means adult  
12 general education through which persons attain academic and  
13 workforce readiness skills at the level of functional literacy  
14 (grade levels 6.0-8.9) or higher so that such persons may  
15 pursue technical certificate education or higher-level  
16 technical education.

17 (25) "Career and technical program" means a group of  
18 identified competencies leading to occupations identified by a  
19 Classification of Instructional Programs number.

20 (26) "Workforce development education" means adult  
21 general education or career and technical education and may  
22 consist of a continuing workforce education course or a  
23 program of study leading to an occupational completion point,  
24 a technical certificate, an applied technology diploma, or a  
25 technical degree.

26 (27) "Workforce literacy" means the basic skills  
27 necessary to perform in entry-level occupations or the skills  
28 necessary to adapt to technological advances in the workplace.

29 Section 161. Section 1004.03, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31 1004.03 Program approval.--

- 1           (1) The State Board of Education shall establish  
2 criteria for the approval of new programs at state  
3 universities, which criteria include, but are not limited to,  
4 the following:
- 5           (a) New programs may not be approved unless the same  
6 objectives cannot be met through use of educational  
7 technology.
- 8           (b) Unnecessary duplication of programs offered by  
9 public and independent institutions shall be avoided.
- 10           (c) Cooperative programs, particularly within regions,  
11 should be encouraged.
- 12           (d) New programs shall be approved only if they are  
13 consistent with the state master plans adopted by the State  
14 Board of Education.
- 15           (e) A new graduate-level program may be approved if:
- 16           1. The university has taken into account the offerings  
17 of its counterparts, including institutions in other sectors,  
18 particularly at the regional level.
- 19           2. The addition of the program will not alter the  
20 emphasis on undergraduate education.
- 21           3. The regional need and demand for the graduate  
22 program was addressed and the community needs are obvious.
- 23           (2) The State Board of Education shall establish  
24 criteria for the approval of new programs at community  
25 colleges, which criteria include, but are not limited to, the  
26 following:
- 27           (a) New programs may not be approved unless the same  
28 objectives cannot be met through use of educational  
29 technology.
- 30           (b) Unnecessary duplication of programs offered by  
31 independent institutions shall be avoided.

1           (c) Cooperative programs, particularly within regions,  
2 should be encouraged.

3           (d) New programs may be approved only if they are  
4 consistent with the state master plan adopted by the State  
5 Board of Education.

6           (3) New colleges, schools, or functional equivalents  
7 of any program leading to a degree that is offered as a  
8 credential for a specific license granted under the Florida  
9 Statutes or the State Constitution shall not be established  
10 without the specific approval of the Legislature.

11           Section 162. Section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13           1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for  
14 teacher preparation programs.--

15           (1) INTENT.--The Legislature recognizes that skilled  
16 teachers make an important contribution to a system that  
17 allows students to obtain a high-quality education. The intent  
18 of the Legislature is to establish a system for development  
19 and approval of teacher preparation programs that will free  
20 postsecondary teacher preparation institutions to employ  
21 varied and innovative teacher preparation techniques while  
22 being held accountable for producing graduates with the  
23 competencies and skills necessary to achieve the state  
24 education goals; help the state's diverse student population,  
25 including students with limited English proficiency, meet high  
26 standards for academic achievement; maintain safe, secure  
27 classroom learning environments; and sustain the state system  
28 of school improvement and education accountability established  
29 pursuant to ss. 1000.03(5) and 1008.345. The State Board of  
30 Education shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and  
31

1 120.54 that establish uniform core curricula for each  
2 state-approved teacher preparation program.

3 (2) DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS.--A  
4 system developed by the Department of Education in  
5 collaboration with postsecondary educational institutions  
6 shall assist departments and colleges of education in the  
7 restructuring of their programs to meet the need for producing  
8 quality teachers now and in the future. The system must be  
9 designed to assist teacher educators in conceptualizing,  
10 developing, implementing, and evaluating programs that meet  
11 state-adopted standards. These standards shall emphasize  
12 quality indicators drawn from research, professional  
13 literature, recognized guidelines, Florida essential teaching  
14 competencies and educator-accomplished practices, effective  
15 classroom practices, and the outcomes of the state system of  
16 school improvement and education accountability, as well as  
17 performance measures. Departments and colleges of education  
18 shall emphasize the state system of school improvement and  
19 education accountability concepts and standards, including  
20 Sunshine State Standards. State-approved teacher preparation  
21 programs must incorporate appropriate English for Speakers of  
22 Other Languages instruction so that program graduates will  
23 have completed the requirements for teaching limited English  
24 proficient students in Florida public schools.

25 (3) INITIAL STATE PROGRAM APPROVAL.--  
26 (a) A program approval process based on standards  
27 adopted pursuant to subsection (2) must be established for  
28 postsecondary teacher preparation programs, phased in  
29 according to timelines determined by the Department of  
30 Education, and fully implemented for all teacher preparation  
31 programs in the state. Each program shall be approved by the

1 department, consistent with the intent set forth in subsection  
2 (1) and based primarily upon significant, objective, and  
3 quantifiable graduate performance measures.

4 (b) Each teacher preparation program approved by the  
5 Department of Education, as provided for by this section,  
6 shall require students to meet the following as prerequisites  
7 for admission into the program:

8 1. Have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0  
9 scale for the general education component of undergraduate  
10 studies or have completed the requirements for a baccalaureate  
11 degree with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0  
12 scale from any college or university accredited by a regional  
13 accrediting association as defined by State Board of Education  
14 rule.

15 2. Demonstrate mastery of general knowledge, including  
16 the ability to read, write, and compute, by passing the  
17 College Level Academic Skills Test, a corresponding component  
18 of the National Teachers Examination series, or a similar test  
19 pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education.

20  
21 Each teacher preparation program may waive these admissions  
22 requirements for up to 10 percent of the students admitted.  
23 Programs shall implement strategies to ensure that students  
24 admitted under a waiver receive assistance to demonstrate  
25 competencies to successfully meet requirements for  
26 certification.

27 (4) CONTINUED PROGRAM APPROVAL.--Notwithstanding  
28 subsection (3), failure by a public or nonpublic teacher  
29 preparation program to meet the criteria for continued program  
30 approval shall result in loss of program approval. The  
31 Department of Education, in collaboration with the departments

1 and colleges of education, shall develop procedures for  
2 continued program approval that document the continuous  
3 improvement of program processes and graduates' performance.

4 (a) Continued approval of specific teacher preparation  
5 programs at each public and nonpublic postsecondary  
6 educational institution within the state is contingent upon  
7 the passing of the written examination required by s. 1012.56  
8 by at least 90 percent of the graduates of the program who  
9 take the examination. On request of an institution, the  
10 Department of Education shall provide an analysis of the  
11 performance of the graduates of such institution with respect  
12 to the competencies assessed by the examination required by s.  
13 1012.56.

14 (b) Additional criteria for continued program approval  
15 for public institutions may be approved by the State Board of  
16 Education. Such criteria must emphasize instruction in  
17 classroom management and must provide for the evaluation of  
18 the teacher candidates' performance in this area. The criteria  
19 shall also require instruction in working with underachieving  
20 students. Program evaluation procedures must include, but are  
21 not limited to, program graduates' satisfaction with  
22 instruction and the program's responsiveness to local school  
23 districts. Additional criteria for continued program approval  
24 for nonpublic institutions shall be developed in the same  
25 manner as for public institutions; however, such criteria must  
26 be based upon significant, objective, and quantifiable  
27 graduate performance measures. Responsibility for collecting  
28 data on outcome measures through survey instruments and other  
29 appropriate means shall be shared by the postsecondary  
30 educational institutions and the Department of Education. By  
31 January 1 of each year, the Department of Education shall

1 report this information for each postsecondary educational  
2 institution that has state-approved programs of teacher  
3 education to the Governor, the State Board of Education, the  
4 Commissioner of Education, the President of the Senate, the  
5 Speaker of the House of Representatives, all Florida  
6 postsecondary teacher preparation programs, and interested  
7 members of the public. This report must analyze the data and  
8 make recommendations for improving teacher preparation  
9 programs in the state.

10 (c) Continued approval for a teacher preparation  
11 program is contingent upon the results of annual reviews of  
12 the program conducted by the postsecondary educational  
13 institution, using procedures and criteria outlined in an  
14 institutional program evaluation plan approved by the  
15 Department of Education. This plan must incorporate the  
16 criteria established in paragraphs (a) and (b) and include  
17 provisions for involving primary stakeholders, such as program  
18 graduates, district school personnel, classroom teachers,  
19 principals, community agencies, and business representatives  
20 in the evaluation process. Upon request by an institution, the  
21 department shall provide assistance in developing, enhancing,  
22 or reviewing the institutional program evaluation plan and  
23 training evaluation team members.

24 (d) Continued approval for a teacher preparation  
25 program is contingent upon standards being in place that are  
26 designed to adequately prepare elementary, middle, and high  
27 school teachers to instruct their students in higher-level  
28 mathematics concepts and in the use of technology at the  
29 appropriate grade level.

30 (e) Continued approval of teacher preparation programs  
31 is contingent upon compliance with the student admission

- 1 requirements of subsection (3) and upon the receipt of at  
2 least a satisfactory rating from public schools and private  
3 schools that employ graduates of the program. Employer  
4 satisfaction shall be determined by an annually administered  
5 survey instrument approved by the Department of Education  
6 that, at a minimum, must include employer satisfaction of the  
7 graduates' ability to do the following:
- 8 1. Write and speak in a logical and understandable  
9 style with appropriate grammar.
  - 10 2. Recognize signs of students' difficulty with the  
11 reading and computational process and apply appropriate  
12 measures to improve students' reading and computational  
13 performance.
  - 14 3. Use and integrate appropriate technology in  
15 teaching and learning processes.
  - 16 4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Sunshine  
17 State Standards.
- 18 (f)1. Each Florida public and private institution that  
19 offers a state-approved teacher preparation program must  
20 annually report information regarding these programs to the  
21 state and the general public. This information shall be  
22 reported in a uniform and comprehensible manner that is  
23 consistent with definitions and methods approved by the  
24 Commissioner of the National Center for Educational Statistics  
25 and that is approved by the State Board of Education. This  
26 information must include, at a minimum:
- 27 a. The percent of graduates obtaining full-time  
28 teaching employment within the first year of graduation.
  - 29 b. The average length of stay of graduates in their  
30 full-time teaching positions.
  - 31 c. Satisfaction ratings required in paragraph (e).

1           2. Each public and private institution offering  
2 training for school readiness related professions, including  
3 training in the fields of child care and early childhood  
4 education, whether offering technical credit, associate in  
5 applied science degree programs, associate in science degree  
6 programs, or associate in arts degree programs, shall annually  
7 report information regarding these programs to the state and  
8 the general public in a uniform and comprehensible manner that  
9 conforms with definitions and methods approved by the State  
10 Board of Education. This information must include, at a  
11 minimum:

- 12           a. Average length of stay of graduates in their  
13 positions.  
14           b. Satisfaction ratings of graduates' employers.

15  
16 This information shall be reported through publications,  
17 including college and university catalogs and promotional  
18 materials sent to potential applicants, secondary school  
19 guidance counselors, and prospective employers of the  
20 institution's program graduates.

21           (5) PRESERVICE FIELD EXPERIENCE.--All postsecondary  
22 instructors, school district personnel and instructional  
23 personnel, and school sites preparing instructional personnel  
24 through preservice field experience courses and internships  
25 shall meet special requirements.

26           (a) All instructors in postsecondary teacher  
27 preparation programs who instruct or supervise preservice  
28 field experience courses or internships shall have at least  
29 one of the following: specialized training in clinical  
30 supervision; a valid professional teaching certificate  
31 pursuant to ss. 1012.56 and 1012.585; or at least 3 years of

1 successful teaching experience in prekindergarten through  
2 grade 12.

3 (b) All school district personnel and instructional  
4 personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students  
5 during field experience courses or internships must have  
6 evidence of "clinical educator" training and must successfully  
7 demonstrate effective classroom management strategies that  
8 consistently result in improved student performance. The State  
9 Board of Education shall approve the training requirements.

10 (c) Preservice field experience programs must provide  
11 specific guidance and demonstration of effective classroom  
12 management strategies, strategies for incorporating technology  
13 into classroom instruction, and ways to link instructional  
14 plans to the Sunshine State Standards, as appropriate. The  
15 length of structured field experiences may be extended to  
16 ensure that candidates achieve the competencies needed to meet  
17 certification requirements.

18 (d) Postsecondary teacher preparation programs in  
19 cooperation with district school boards and approved private  
20 school associations shall select the school sites for  
21 preservice field experience activities. These sites must  
22 represent the full spectrum of school communities, including,  
23 but not limited to, schools located in urban settings. In  
24 order to be selected, school sites must demonstrate commitment  
25 to the education of public school students and to the  
26 preparation of future teachers.

27 (6) STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE.--The State Board of  
28 Education shall approve standards of excellence for teacher  
29 preparation. These standards must exceed the requirements for  
30 program approval pursuant to subsection (3) and must  
31

1 incorporate state and national recommendations for exemplary  
2 teacher preparation programs.

3 (7) NATIONAL BOARD STANDARDS.--The State Board of  
4 Education shall review standards and recommendations developed  
5 by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and  
6 may incorporate those parts deemed appropriate into criteria  
7 for continued state program approval, standards of excellence,  
8 and requirements for inservice education.

9 (8) COMMUNITY COLLEGES.--To the extent practical,  
10 postsecondary educational institutions offering teacher  
11 preparation programs shall establish articulation agreements  
12 on a core of liberal arts courses and introductory  
13 professional courses with field experience components which  
14 shall be offered at community colleges.

15 (9) PRETEACHER AND TEACHER EDUCATION PILOT  
16 PROGRAMS.--State universities and community colleges may  
17 establish preteacher education and teacher education pilot  
18 programs to encourage promising minority students to prepare  
19 for a career in education. These pilot programs shall be  
20 designed to recruit and provide additional academic, clinical,  
21 and counseling support for students whom the institution  
22 judges to be potentially successful teacher education  
23 candidates, but who may not meet teacher education program  
24 admission standards. Priority consideration shall be given to  
25 those pilot programs that are jointly submitted by community  
26 colleges and state universities.

27 (a) These pilot programs shall be approved by the  
28 State Board of Education and shall be designed to provide help  
29 and support for program participants during the preteacher  
30 education period of general academic preparation at a  
31 community college or state university and during professional

1 preparation in a state-approved teacher education program.  
2 Emphasis shall be placed on development of the basic skills  
3 needed by successful teachers.

4 (b) State universities and community colleges may  
5 admit into the pilot program those incoming students who  
6 demonstrate an interest in teaching as a career, but who may  
7 not meet the requirements for entrance into an approved  
8 teacher education program.

9 1. Flexibility may be given to colleges of education  
10 to develop and market innovative teacher training programs  
11 directed at specific target groups such as graduates from the  
12 colleges of arts and sciences, employed education  
13 paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, early federal  
14 retirees, and nontraditional college students. Programs must  
15 be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval.

16 2. Academically successful graduates in the fields of  
17 liberal arts and science may be encouraged to embark upon a  
18 career in education.

19 3. Models may be developed to provide a positive  
20 initial experience in teaching in order to encourage  
21 retention. Priority should be given to models that encourage  
22 minority graduates.

23 (c) In order to be certified, a graduate from a pilot  
24 program shall meet all requirements for teacher certification  
25 specified by s. 1012.56. Should a graduate of a pilot program  
26 not meet the requirements of s. 1012.56, that person shall not  
27 be included in the calculations required by paragraph (4)(a)  
28 and State Board of Education rules for continued program  
29 approval, or in the statutes used by the State Board of  
30 Education in deciding which teacher education programs to  
31 approve.

1           (d) Institutions participating in the pilot program  
2 shall submit an annual report evaluating the success of the  
3 program to the Commissioner of Education by March 1 of each  
4 year. The report shall contain, but shall not be limited to:  
5 the number of pilot program participants, including the number  
6 participating in general education and the number admitted to  
7 approved teacher education programs, the number of pilot  
8 program graduates, and the number of pilot program graduates  
9 who met the requirements of s. 1012.56. The commissioner shall  
10 consider the number of participants recruited, the number of  
11 graduates, and the number of graduates successfully meeting  
12 the requirements of s. 1012.56 reported by each institution,  
13 and shall make an annual recommendation to the State Board of  
14 Education regarding the institution's continued participation  
15 in the pilot program.

16           (10) TEACHER EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAMS FOR  
17 HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS.--Pilot teacher preparation programs  
18 shall be established at the University of Central Florida, the  
19 University of North Florida, and the University of South  
20 Florida. These programs shall include a year-long paid  
21 teaching assignment and competency-based learning experiences  
22 and shall be designed to encourage high-achieving students, as  
23 identified by the institution, to pursue a career in  
24 education. Students chosen to participate in the pilot  
25 programs shall agree to teach for at least 1 year after they  
26 receive their degrees. Criteria for identifying  
27 high-achieving students shall be developed by the institution  
28 and shall include, at a minimum, requirements that the student  
29 have a 3.3 grade point average or above and that the student  
30 has demonstrated mastery of general knowledge pursuant to s.  
31 1012.56. The year-long paid teaching assignment shall begin

1 after completion of the equivalent of 3 years of the state  
2 university teacher preparation program.

3 (a) Each pilot program shall be designed to include:

4 1. A year-long paid teaching assignment at a specified  
5 school site during the fourth year of the state university  
6 teacher preparation program, which includes intense  
7 supervision by a support team trained in clinical education.  
8 The support team shall include a state university supervisor  
9 and experienced school-based mentors. A mentor teacher shall  
10 be assigned to each fourth year employed teacher to implement  
11 an individualized learning plan. This mentor teacher will be  
12 considered an adjunct professor for purposes of this program  
13 and may receive credit for time spent as a mentor teacher in  
14 the program. The mentor teacher must have a master's degree  
15 or above, a minimum of 3 years of teaching experience, and  
16 clinical education training or certification by the National  
17 Board of Professional Teaching Standards. Experiences and  
18 instruction may be delivered by other mentors, assigned  
19 teachers, professors, individualized learning, and  
20 demonstrations. Students in this paid teaching assignment  
21 shall assume full responsibility of all teaching duties.

22 2. Professional education curriculum requirements that  
23 address the educator-accomplished practices and other  
24 competencies specified in state board rule.

25 3. A modified instructional delivery system that  
26 provides onsite training during the paid teaching assignment  
27 in the professional education areas and competencies specified  
28 in this subsection. The institutions participating in this  
29 pilot program shall be given a waiver to provide a modified  
30 instructional delivery system meeting criteria that allows  
31 earned credit through nontraditional approaches. The modified

1 system may provide for an initial evaluation of the  
2 candidate's competencies to determine an appropriate  
3 individualized professional development plan and may provide  
4 for earned credit by:

5       a. Internet learning and competency acquisition.  
6       b. Learning acquired by observing demonstrations and  
7 being observed in application.  
8       c. Independent study or instruction by mentor teachers  
9 or adjunct teachers.

10       4. Satisfactory demonstration of the  
11 educator-accomplished practices and content area competencies  
12 for program completion.

13       5. For program completion, required achievement of  
14 passing scores on all tests required for certification by  
15 State Board of Education rules.

16       (b) Beginning in July 2003, each institution  
17 participating in the pilot program shall submit to the  
18 Commissioner of Education an annual report evaluating the  
19 effectiveness of the program. The report shall include, but  
20 shall not be limited to, the number of students selected for  
21 the pilot program, the number of students successfully  
22 completing the pilot program, the number of program  
23 participants who passed all required examinations, the number  
24 of program participants who successfully demonstrated all  
25 required competencies, and a followup study to determine the  
26 number of pilot program completers who were employed in a  
27 teaching position and employers' satisfaction with the  
28 performance of pilot program completers.

29       (c) This subsection shall be implemented to the extent  
30 specifically funded in the General Appropriations Act.  
31

1           (11) RULES.--The State Board of Education shall adopt  
2 necessary rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to  
3 implement this section.

4           Section 163. Section 1004.05, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1004.05 Substance abuse training programs.--

7           (1) Each state university and community college may  
8 develop courses designed for public school teachers,  
9 counselors, physicians, law enforcement personnel, and other  
10 professionals to assist them in recognizing symptoms of  
11 substance abuse impairment and identifying appropriate service  
12 providers for referral and treatment.

13           (2) Such courses may be made available to students who  
14 are currently enrolled and for continuing education units.

15           Section 164. Section 1004.06, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17           1004.06 Prohibited expenditures.--No community  
18 college, state university, community college direct-support  
19 organization, or state university direct-support organization  
20 shall expend any funds, regardless of source, to purchase  
21 membership in, or goods and services from, any organization  
22 that discriminates on the basis of race, national origin,  
23 gender, or religion.

24           Section 165. Part II of chapter 1004, Florida  
25 Statutes, shall be entitled "State Universities" and shall  
26 consist of ss. 1004.21-1004.62.

27           Section 166. Part II.a. of chapter 1004, Florida  
28 Statutes, shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall  
29 consist of ss. 1004.21-1004.32.

30           Section 167. Section 1004.21, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1004.21 State universities; legislative intent.--It is  
2 the legislative intent that state universities be constituted  
3 as public corporations of the state and be operated by a board  
4 of trustees as provided in s. 1001.74.

5           Section 168. Section 1004.22, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7           1004.22 Divisions of sponsored research at state  
8 universities.--

9           (1) Each university is authorized to create, as it  
10 deems advisable, divisions of sponsored research which will  
11 serve the function of administration and promotion of the  
12 programs of research, including sponsored training programs,  
13 of the university at which they are located. A division of  
14 sponsored research created under the provisions of this  
15 section shall be under the supervision of the president of  
16 that university.

17           (2) The university shall set such policies to regulate  
18 the activities of the divisions of sponsored research as it  
19 may consider necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act  
20 and to administer the research programs in a manner which  
21 assures efficiency and effectiveness, producing the maximum  
22 benefit for the educational programs and maximum service to  
23 the state. To this end, materials that relate to methods of  
24 manufacture or production, potential trade secrets,  
25 potentially patentable material, actual trade secrets,  
26 business transactions, or proprietary information received,  
27 generated, ascertained, or discovered during the course of  
28 research conducted within the state universities shall be  
29 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1),  
30 except that a division of sponsored research shall make  
31 available upon request the title and description of a research

1 project, the name of the researcher, and the amount and source  
2 of funding provided for such project.

3 (3) The president of the university where a division  
4 of sponsored research is created, or his or her designee, is  
5 authorized to negotiate, enter into, and execute research  
6 contracts; to solicit and accept research grants and  
7 donations; and to fix and collect fees, other payments, and  
8 donations that may accrue by reason thereof. The president or  
9 his or her designee may negotiate, enter into, and execute  
10 contracts on a cost-reimbursement basis and may provide  
11 temporary financing of such costs prior to reimbursement from  
12 moneys on deposit in a sponsored research development fund,  
13 except as may be prohibited elsewhere by law.

14 (4) A division of sponsored research shall be financed  
15 from the moneys of a university which are on deposit or  
16 received for use in the research or related programs of that  
17 particular university. Such moneys shall be deposited by the  
18 university in a permanent sponsored research development fund.

19 (5) Moneys deposited in the permanent sponsored  
20 research development fund of a university shall be disbursed  
21 in accordance with the terms of the contract, grant, or  
22 donation under which they are received. Moneys received for  
23 overhead or indirect costs and other moneys not required for  
24 the payment of direct costs shall be applied to the cost of  
25 operating the division of sponsored research. Any surplus  
26 moneys shall be used to support other research or sponsored  
27 training programs in any area of the university.  
28 Transportation and per diem expense allowances shall be the  
29 same as those provided by law in s. 112.061, except that  
30 personnel performing travel under a sponsored research  
31 subcontract may be reimbursed for travel expenses in

1 accordance with the provisions of the applicable prime  
2 contract or grant and the travel allowances established by the  
3 subcontractor, subject to the requirements of subsection (7),  
4 or except as provided in subsection (11).

5 (6)(a) Each university shall submit to the State Board  
6 of Education a report of the activities of each division of  
7 sponsored research together with an estimated budget for the  
8 next fiscal year.

9 (b) Not less than 90 days prior to the convening of  
10 each regular session of the Legislature in which an  
11 appropriation shall be made, the State Board of Education  
12 shall submit to the chair of the appropriations committee of  
13 each house of the Legislature a compiled report, together with  
14 a compiled estimated budget for the next fiscal year. A copy  
15 of such report and estimated budget shall be furnished to the  
16 Governor, as the chief budget officer of the state.

17 (7) All purchases of a division of sponsored research  
18 shall be made in accordance with the policies and procedures  
19 of the university; however, upon certification addressed to  
20 the university president that it is necessary for the  
21 efficient or expeditious prosecution of a research project,  
22 the president may exempt the purchase of material, supplies,  
23 equipment, or services for research purposes shall be exempt  
24 from the general purchasing requirement of the Florida  
25 Statutes.

26 (8) The university may authorize the construction,  
27 alteration, or remodeling of buildings when the funds used are  
28 derived entirely from the sponsored research development fund  
29 of a university or from that fund in combination with other  
30 nonstate sources, provided that such construction, alteration,  
31 or remodeling is for use exclusively in the area of research;

1 it also may authorize the acquisition of real property when  
2 the cost is entirely from said funds. Title to all real  
3 property purchased prior to January 7, 2003, or with funds  
4 appropriated by the Legislature shall vest in the Board of  
5 Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund and shall only  
6 be transferred or conveyed by it.

7 (9) The sponsored research programs of the Institute  
8 of Food and Agricultural Sciences, the University of Florida  
9 Health Science Center, and the engineering and industrial  
10 experiment station shall continue to be centered at the  
11 University of Florida as heretofore provided by law. Indirect  
12 cost reimbursements of all grants deposited in the Division of  
13 Sponsored Research shall be distributed directly to the above  
14 units in direct proportion to the amounts earned by each unit.

15 (10) The operation of the divisions of sponsored  
16 research and the conduct of the sponsored research program are  
17 expressly exempted from the provisions of any other laws or  
18 portions of laws in conflict herewith and are, subject to the  
19 requirements of subsection (7), exempted from the provisions  
20 of chapters 215, 216, and 283.

21 (11) The divisions of sponsored research may pay, by  
22 advancement or reimbursement, or a combination thereof, the  
23 costs of per diem of university employees and of other  
24 authorized persons, as defined in s. 112.061(2)(e), for  
25 foreign travel up to the current rates as stated in the grant  
26 and contract terms and may also pay incidental expenses as  
27 authorized by s. 112.061(8). This subsection applies to any  
28 university employee traveling in foreign countries for  
29 sponsored programs of the university, if such travel expenses  
30 are approved in the terms of the contract or grant. The  
31 provisions of s. 112.061, other than those relating to per

1 diem, apply to the travel described in this subsection. As  
 2 used in this subsection, "foreign travel" means any travel  
 3 outside the United States and its territories and possessions  
 4 and Canada. Persons traveling in foreign countries pursuant  
 5 to this section shall not be entitled to reimbursements or  
 6 advancements pursuant to s. 112.061(6)(a)2. for such travel.

7 (12) Each division of sponsored research is authorized  
 8 to advance funds to any principal investigator who, under the  
 9 contract or grant terms, will be performing a portion of his  
 10 or her research at a site that is remote from the university.  
 11 Funds shall be advanced only to employees who have executed a  
 12 proper power of attorney with the university to ensure the  
 13 proper collection of such advanced funds if it becomes  
 14 necessary. As used in this subsection, the term "remote"  
 15 means so far removed from the university as to render normal  
 16 purchasing and payroll functions ineffective.

17 (13) Each university board of trustees is authorized  
 18 to adopt rules, as necessary, to administer this section.

19 Section 169. Section 1004.23, Florida Statutes, is  
 20 created to read:

21 1004.23 Universities; powers; patents, copyrights, and  
 22 trademarks.--Any other law to the contrary notwithstanding,  
 23 each state university is authorized, in its own name, to:

24 (1) Perform all things necessary to secure letters of  
 25 patent, copyrights, and trademarks on any work products and to  
 26 enforce its rights therein. The university shall consider  
 27 contributions by university personnel in the development of  
 28 trademarks, copyrights, and patents and shall enter into  
 29 written contracts with such personnel establishing the  
 30 interests of the university and such personnel in each  
 31 trademark, copyright, or patent.

1           (2) License, lease, assign, or otherwise give written  
2 consent to any person, firm, or corporation for the  
3 manufacture or use thereof, on a royalty basis or for such  
4 other consideration as the university shall deem proper.

5           (3) Take any action necessary, including legal action,  
6 to protect the same against improper or unlawful use or  
7 infringement.

8           (4) Enforce the collection of any sums due the  
9 university for the manufacture or use thereof by any other  
10 party.

11           (5) Sell any of the same and execute all instruments  
12 necessary to consummate any such sale.

13           (6) Do all other acts necessary and proper for the  
14 execution of powers and duties herein conferred upon the  
15 university, including adopting rules, as necessary, in order  
16 to administer this section. Any proceeds therefrom shall be  
17 deposited and expended in accordance with s. 1004.22. Any  
18 action taken by the university in securing or exploiting such  
19 trademarks, copyrights, or patents shall, within 30 days, be  
20 reported in writing by the president to the Department of  
21 State.

22           Section 170. Section 1004.24, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24           1004.24 State Board of Education authorized to secure  
25 liability insurance.--

26           (1) The State Board of Education is authorized to  
27 secure, or otherwise provide as a self-insurer, or by a  
28 combination thereof, comprehensive general liability  
29 insurance, including professional liability for health care  
30 and veterinary sciences, for:

31

- 1        (a) The State Board of Education and its officers and  
2 members.
- 3        (b) A university board of trustees and its officers  
4 and members.
- 5        (c) The faculty and other employees and agents of a  
6 university board of trustees.
- 7        (d) The students of a state university.
- 8        (e) A state university or any college, school,  
9 institute, center, or program thereof.
- 10       (f) Any not-for-profit corporation organized pursuant  
11 to chapter 617, and the directors, officers, employees, and  
12 agents thereof, which is affiliated with a state university,  
13 if the corporation is operated for the benefit of the state  
14 university in a manner consistent with the best interests of  
15 the state, and if such participation is approved by a  
16 self-insurance program council, the university president, and  
17 the board of trustees.
- 18       (2) In the event the State Board of Education adopts a  
19 self-insurance program, a governing council chaired by the  
20 vice president for health affairs or his or her academic  
21 equivalent shall be established to administer the program and  
22 its duties and responsibilities, including the administration  
23 of self-insurance program assets and expenditure policies,  
24 which shall be defined in rules as authorized by this section.  
25 The council shall have an annual actuary review performed to  
26 establish funding requirements to maintain the fiscal  
27 integrity of the self-insurance program. The assets of a  
28 self-insurance program shall be deposited outside the State  
29 Treasury and shall be administered in accordance with rules as  
30 authorized by this section.
- 31

1           (3) Any self-insurance program created under this  
2 section shall be funded by the entities and individuals  
3 protected by such program. There shall be no funds  
4 appropriated to any self-insurance program. The assets of the  
5 self-insurance program shall be the property of the State  
6 Board of Education and shall be used only to pay the  
7 administrative expenses of the self-insurance program and to  
8 pay any claim, judgment, or claims bill arising out of  
9 activities for which the self-insurance program was created.  
10 Investment income that is in excess of that income necessary  
11 to ensure the solvency of a self-insurance program as  
12 established by a casualty actuary may be used to defray the  
13 annual contribution paid into the program by the entities and  
14 individuals protected by the program.

15           (4) No self-insurance program adopted by the State  
16 Board of Education may sue or be sued. The claims files of any  
17 such program are privileged and confidential, exempt from the  
18 provisions of s. 119.07(1), and are only for the use of the  
19 program in fulfilling its duties. Any self-insurance trust  
20 fund and revenues generated by that fund shall only be used to  
21 pay claims and administration expenses.

22           (5) Each self-insurance program council shall make  
23 provision for an annual postaudit of its financial accounts to  
24 be conducted by an independent certified public accountant.  
25 The annual audit report must include a management letter and  
26 shall be submitted to the State Board of Education for review.  
27 The State Board of Education shall have the authority to  
28 require and receive from the self-insurance program council or  
29 from its independent auditor any detail or supplemental data  
30 relative to the operation of the self-insurance program.  
31

1           (6) The State Board of Education may make such rules  
2 as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

3           Section 171. Section 1004.25, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5           1004.25 State universities; payment of costs of civil  
6 action.--A university may defray all costs of defending any  
7 civil action brought against any officer or employee of the  
8 university for any act or omission arising out of and in the  
9 course of the performance of his or her duties and  
10 responsibilities, which costs may include reasonable  
11 attorney's fees and expenses together with costs of appeal,  
12 and may save harmless and protect such person from any  
13 financial loss resulting from the lawful performance of his or  
14 her duties and responsibilities. Claims based on such actions  
15 or omissions may be settled prior to or after the filing of  
16 suit thereon. The university may arrange for and pay the  
17 premium for appropriate insurance to cover all such losses and  
18 expenses. The university may use funds available, not subject  
19 to the obligation of contract, covenant, or trust, to carry  
20 out the purposes of this section in the amount necessary.  
21 Failure by the university to perform any act authorized by  
22 this section shall not constitute a cause of action against  
23 the university or its members, officers, or employees.

24           Section 172. Section 1004.28, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26           1004.28 Direct-support organizations; use of property;  
27 board of directors; activities; audit; facilities.--

28           (1) DEFINITIONS.--For the purposes of this section:

29           (a) "University direct-support organization" means an  
30 organization which is:

31

1           1. A Florida corporation not for profit incorporated  
2 under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved by the  
3 Department of State.

4           2. Organized and operated exclusively to receive,  
5 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures  
6 to or for the benefit of a state university in Florida or for  
7 the benefit of a research and development park or research and  
8 development authority affiliated with a state university and  
9 organized under part V of chapter 159.

10           3. An organization that a state university board of  
11 trustees, after review, has certified to be operating in a  
12 manner consistent with the goals of the university and in the  
13 best interest of the state. Any organization that is denied  
14 certification by the board of trustees shall not use the name  
15 of the university that it serves.

16           (b) "Personal services" includes full-time or  
17 part-time personnel as well as payroll processing.

18           (2) USE OF PROPERTY.--

19           (a) Each state university board of trustees is  
20 authorized to permit the use of property, facilities, and  
21 personal services at any state university by any university  
22 direct-support organization, and, subject to the provisions of  
23 this section, direct-support organizations may establish  
24 accounts with the State Board of Administration for investment  
25 of funds pursuant to part IV of chapter 218.

26           (b) The board of trustees shall prescribe by rule  
27 conditions with which a university direct-support organization  
28 must comply in order to use property, facilities, or personal  
29 services at any state university. Such rules shall provide  
30 for budget and audit review and oversight by the board of  
31 trustees.

1           (c) The board of trustees shall not permit the use of  
2 property, facilities, or personal services at any state  
3 university by any university direct-support organization that  
4 does not provide equal employment opportunities to all persons  
5 regardless of race, color, religion, gender, age, or national  
6 origin.

7           (3) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.--The chair of the university  
8 board of trustees may appoint a representative to the board of  
9 directors and the executive committee of any direct-support  
10 organization established under this section. The president of  
11 the university for which the direct-support organization is  
12 established, or his or her designee, shall also serve on the  
13 board of directors and the executive committee of any  
14 direct-support organization established to benefit that  
15 university.

16           (4) ACTIVITIES; RESTRICTION.--A university  
17 direct-support organization is prohibited from giving, either  
18 directly or indirectly, any gift to a political committee or  
19 committee of continuous existence as defined in s. 106.011 for  
20 any purpose other than those certified by a majority roll call  
21 vote of the governing board of the direct-support organization  
22 at a regularly scheduled meeting as being directly related to  
23 the educational mission of the university.

24           (5) ANNUAL AUDIT.--Each direct-support organization  
25 shall provide for an annual financial audit of its accounts  
26 and records to be conducted by an independent certified public  
27 accountant in accordance with rules adopted by the Auditor  
28 General pursuant to s. 11.45(8) and by the university board of  
29 trustees. The annual audit report shall be submitted, within  
30 9 months after the end of the fiscal year, to the Auditor  
31 General and the State Board of Education for review. The State

1 Board of Education, the university board of trustees, the  
2 Auditor General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
3 Government Accountability shall have the authority to require  
4 and receive from the organization or from its independent  
5 auditor any records relative to the operation of the  
6 organization. The identity of donors who desire to remain  
7 anonymous shall be protected, and that anonymity shall be  
8 maintained in the auditor's report. All records of the  
9 organization other than the auditor's report, management  
10 letter, and any supplemental data requested by the State Board  
11 of Education, the university board of trustees, the Auditor  
12 General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
13 Government Accountability shall be confidential and exempt  
14 from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

15 (6) FACILITIES.--In addition to issuance of  
16 indebtedness pursuant to s. 1010.60(2), each direct-support  
17 organization is authorized to enter into agreements to  
18 finance, design and construct, lease, lease-purchase,  
19 purchase, or operate facilities necessary and desirable to  
20 serve the needs and purposes of the university, as determined  
21 by the systemwide strategic plan adopted by the State Board of  
22 Education. Such agreements are subject to the provisions of  
23 s. 1013.171.

24 (7) ANNUAL BUDGETS AND REPORTS.--Each direct-support  
25 organization shall submit to the university president and the  
26 State Board of Education its federal Internal Revenue Service  
27 Application for Recognition of Exemption form (Form 1023) and  
28 its federal Internal Revenue Service Return of Organization  
29 Exempt from Income Tax form (Form 990).

30 Section 173. Section 1004.29, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1004.29 University health services support  
2 organizations.--  
3           (1) Each state university is authorized to establish  
4 university health services support organizations which shall  
5 have the ability to enter into, for the benefit of the  
6 university academic health sciences center, arrangements with  
7 other entities as providers in other integrated health care  
8 systems or similar entities. To the extent required by law or  
9 rule, university health services support organizations shall  
10 become licensed as insurance companies, pursuant to chapter  
11 624, or be certified as health maintenance organizations,  
12 pursuant to chapter 641. University health services support  
13 organizations shall have sole responsibility for the acts,  
14 debts, liabilities, and obligations of the organization. In  
15 no case shall the state or university have any responsibility  
16 for such acts, debts, liabilities, and obligations incurred or  
17 assumed by university health services support organizations.  
18           (2) Each university health services support  
19 organization shall be a Florida corporation not for profit,  
20 incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved  
21 by the Department of State.  
22           (3) A state university board of trustees may  
23 prescribe, by rule, conditions with which a university health  
24 services support organization must comply in order to be  
25 certified and to use property, facilities, or personal  
26 services at any state university. The rules must provide for  
27 budget, audit review, and oversight by the board of trustees.  
28 Such rules shall provide that the university health services  
29 support organization may provide salary supplements and other  
30 compensation or benefits for university faculty and staff  
31 employees only as set forth in the organization's budget,

1 which shall be subject to approval by the university  
 2 president.

3 (4) The chair of the university board of trustees may  
 4 appoint a representative to the board of directors and the  
 5 executive committee of any university health services support  
 6 organization established under this section. The president of  
 7 the university for which the university health services  
 8 support organization is established, or the president's  
 9 designee, shall also serve on the board of directors and the  
 10 executive committee of any university health services support  
 11 organization established to benefit that university.

12 (5) Each university health services support  
 13 organization shall provide for an annual financial audit in  
 14 accordance with s. 1004.28(5). The auditor's report,  
 15 management letter, and any supplemental data requested by the  
 16 State Board of Education, the university board of trustees,  
 17 and the Auditor General shall be considered public records,  
 18 pursuant to s. 119.07.

19 Section 174. Section 1004.30, Florida Statutes, is  
 20 created to read:

21 1004.30 University health services support  
 22 organization; confidentiality of information.--

23 (1) All meetings of a governing board of a university  
 24 health services support organization and all university health  
 25 services support organization records shall be open and  
 26 available to the public in accordance with s. 286.011 and s.  
 27 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution and chapter 119 and s.  
 28 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, respectively, unless  
 29 made confidential or exempt by law. Records required by the  
 30 Department of Insurance to discharge its duties shall be made  
 31 available to the department upon request.

1           (2) The following university health services support  
2 organization's records and information are confidential and  
3 exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art.  
4 I of the State Constitution:

5           (a) Contracts for managed care arrangements under  
6 which the university health services support organization  
7 provides health care services, preferred provider organization  
8 contracts, health maintenance organization contracts, alliance  
9 network arrangements, and exclusive provider organization  
10 contracts, and any documents directly relating to the  
11 negotiation, performance, and implementation of any such  
12 contracts for managed care arrangements or alliance network  
13 arrangements. As used in this paragraph, the term "managed  
14 care" means systems or techniques generally used by  
15 third-party payors or their agents to affect access to and  
16 control payment for health care services. Managed-care  
17 techniques most often include one or more of the following:  
18 prior, concurrent, and retrospective review of the medical  
19 necessity and appropriateness of services or site of services;  
20 contracts with selected health care providers; financial  
21 incentives or disincentives related to the use of specific  
22 providers, services, or service sites; controlled access to  
23 and coordination of services by a case manager; and payor  
24 efforts to identify treatment alternatives and modify benefit  
25 restrictions for high-cost patient care.

26           (b) Each university health services support  
27 organization's marketing plan the disclosure of which may  
28 reasonably be expected by the organization's governing board  
29 to be used by a competitor or an affiliated provider of the  
30 organization to frustrate, circumvent, or exploit the purposes  
31 of the plan before it is implemented and which is not

1 otherwise known or cannot be legally obtained by a competitor  
2 or an affiliated provider. However, documents that are  
3 submitted to the organization's governing board as part of the  
4 board's approval of the organization's budget, and the budget  
5 itself, are not confidential and exempt.

6 (c) Trade secrets, as defined in s. 688.002, including  
7 reimbursement methodologies and rates.

8 (d) The records of the peer review panels, committees,  
9 governing board, and agents of the university health services  
10 support organization which relate solely to the evaluation of  
11 health care services and professional credentials of health  
12 care providers and physicians employed by or providing  
13 services under contract to the university health services  
14 support organization. The exemptions created by this  
15 paragraph shall not be construed to impair any otherwise  
16 established rights of an individual health care provider to  
17 inspect documents concerning the determination of such  
18 provider's professional credentials.

19 (3) Any portion of a governing board or peer review  
20 panel or committee meeting during which a confidential and  
21 exempt contract, document, record, marketing plan, or trade  
22 secret, as provided for in subsection (2), is discussed is  
23 exempt from the provisions of s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I  
24 of the State Constitution.

25 (4) Those portions of any public record, such as a  
26 tape recording, minutes, and notes, generated during that  
27 portion of a governing board or peer review panel or committee  
28 meeting which is closed to the public pursuant to this  
29 section, which contain information relating to contracts,  
30 documents, records, marketing plans, or trade secrets which  
31 are made confidential and exempt by this section, are

1 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1)  
2 and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

3 (5) The exemptions from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a),  
4 Art. I of the State Constitution and s. 286.011 and s. 24(b),  
5 Art. I of the State Constitution provided in this section do  
6 not apply if the governing board of a university health  
7 services support organization votes to lease, sell, or  
8 transfer all or any substantial part of the facilities or  
9 property of the university health services support  
10 organization to a nonpublic entity.

11 (6) Any person may petition a court of competent  
12 jurisdiction for an order for the public release of those  
13 portions of any public record, such as a tape recording,  
14 minutes, or notes, generated during that portion of a  
15 governing board meeting which is closed to the public pursuant  
16 to subsection (3), which record is made confidential and  
17 exempt by subsection (4). Any action pursuant to this  
18 subsection must be brought in the county where the principal  
19 office of the university health services support organization  
20 is located, as reflected in the records of the Secretary of  
21 State. In any order for the public release of a record  
22 pursuant to this subsection, the court shall make a finding  
23 that a compelling public interest is served by the release of  
24 the record or portions thereof which exceeds the public  
25 necessity for maintaining the confidentiality of such record  
26 as described in s. 2, chapter 96-171, Laws of Florida, and  
27 that the release of the record will not cause damage to or  
28 adversely affect the interests of private persons, business  
29 entities, the university health services support organization,  
30 or the affiliated university.

31

1           (7) Those portions of any public record, such as a  
2 tape recording, minutes, or notes, generated during that  
3 portion of a governing board meeting at which negotiations for  
4 contracts for managed-care arrangements occur, are reported  
5 on, or are acted on by the governing board, which record is  
6 made confidential and exempt by subsection (4), shall become  
7 public records 2 years after the termination or completion of  
8 the term of the contract to which such negotiations relate or,  
9 if no contract was executed, 2 years after the termination of  
10 the negotiations. Notwithstanding paragraph (2)(a) and  
11 subsection (4), a university health services support  
12 organization must make available, upon request, the title and  
13 general description of a contract for managed-care  
14 arrangements, the names of the contracting parties, and the  
15 duration of the contract term. All contracts for managed-care  
16 arrangements which are made confidential and exempt by  
17 paragraph (2)(a), except those portions of any contract  
18 containing trade secrets which are made confidential and  
19 exempt by paragraph (2)(c), shall become public 2 years after  
20 the termination or completion of the term of the contract.

21           (8) A university health services support organization  
22 may petition a court of competent jurisdiction to continue the  
23 confidentiality of any public record made nonconfidential by  
24 this section, upon a showing of good cause. In determining  
25 good cause, the court shall balance the property, privacy, and  
26 economic interests of any affected person or business entity  
27 with those of the university health services support  
28 organization and with the public interest and must make a  
29 finding that a substantial public interest is served by the  
30 continued confidentiality of the public record for an  
31 additional time period. The length of time for this continued

1 exemption may be no longer than is necessary to protect that  
2 substantial public interest.

3 (9) This act does not preclude discovery of records  
4 and information that are otherwise discoverable under the  
5 Florida Rules of Civil Procedure or any statutory provision  
6 allowing discovery or presuit disclosure of such records and  
7 information for the purpose of civil actions.

8 Section 175. Section 1004.31, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1004.31 Assent to Hatch Act and Morrill Land-Grant  
11 Act.--The assent of the Legislature is given to the provisions  
12 and requirements of the Acts of Congress commonly known as the  
13 "Hatch Act of 1887," the "First Morrill Act of 1862," the  
14 "Second Morrill Act of 1890," and all acts supplemental  
15 thereto. The University of Florida Board of Trustees may  
16 receive grants of money appropriated for the benefit of the  
17 University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural  
18 Sciences in the case of the First Morrill Act, the Hatch Act,  
19 and all acts supplemental thereto. The Florida Agricultural  
20 and Mechanical University Board of Trustees may receive grants  
21 of money appropriated for the benefit of Florida Agricultural  
22 and Mechanical University in the case of the Second Morrill  
23 Act and all acts supplemental thereto. The provisions of  
24 chapter 3564, 1885, Laws of Florida, and s. 7, chapter 1776,  
25 1870, Laws of Florida, are made applicable to said  
26 universities insofar as the same are or can be made effective;  
27 and all estate, right, property claim, and emoluments, and the  
28 rents and issues thereof, or any substitutions thereof, and  
29 all claims and demands arising or that may or can arise  
30 thereunder, or any Act of Congress in that regard, are hereby  
31 preserved, maintained, and transferred to the University of

1 Florida Board of Trustees and the Florida Agricultural and  
2 Mechanical University Board of Trustees for the use and  
3 benefit of said universities under the terms of said acts.

4 Section 176. Section 1004.32, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1004.32 New College of Florida.--

7 (1) MISSION AND GOALS.--New College of Florida with a  
8 campus in Sarasota County serves a distinctive mission as the  
9 4-year residential liberal arts honors college of the State of  
10 Florida. To maintain this mission, New College of Florida has  
11 the following goals:

12 (a) To provide a quality education to students of high  
13 ability who, because of their ability, deserve a program of  
14 study that is both demanding and stimulating.

15 (b) To engage in undergraduate educational reform by  
16 combining educational innovation with educational excellence.

17 (c) To provide programs of study that allow students  
18 to design their educational experience as much as possible in  
19 accordance with their individual interests, values, and  
20 abilities.

21 (d) To challenge undergraduates not only to master  
22 existing bodies of knowledge but also to extend the frontiers  
23 of knowledge through original research.

24 (2) ACCREDITATION.--As soon as possible, New College  
25 of Florida shall apply to the Commission on Colleges of the  
26 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for separate  
27 accreditation.

28 (3) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.--The Governor shall appoint 12  
29 members to the Board of Trustees, to serve 4-year staggered  
30 terms, as follows:

31 (a) Three residents of Sarasota County.

1           (b) Two residents of Manatee County.

2           (c) Until the expiration date of the terms of office  
3 of the members who are on the board June 30, 2001, seven  
4 members selected from the Board of Trustees of the New College  
5 Foundation.

6  
7 In addition, the student body president shall serve ex officio  
8 as a voting member of the board of trustees.

9           Section 177. Part II.b. of chapter 1004, Florida  
10 Statutes, shall be entitled "Branch Campuses, Centers,  
11 Institutes, and Special Programs" and shall consist of ss.  
12 1004.33-1004.62.

13           Section 178. Section 1004.33, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15           1004.33 The University of South Florida St.  
16 Petersburg.--

17           (1) The St. Petersburg campus of the University of  
18 South Florida is established and shall be known as the  
19 "University of South Florida St. Petersburg."

20           (a) The Legislature intends that the University of  
21 South Florida St. Petersburg be operated and maintained as a  
22 separate organizational and budget entity of the University of  
23 South Florida, and that all legislative appropriations for the  
24 University of South Florida St. Petersburg be set forth as  
25 separate line items in the annual General Appropriations Act.

26           (b) The University of South Florida St. Petersburg  
27 shall have a Campus Board and a Campus Executive Officer.

28           (c) As soon as possible, but no later than the  
29 effective date of this act, the President of the University of  
30 South Florida shall begin the process of application to the  
31 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges

1 and Schools for separate accreditation of the University of  
2 South Florida St. Petersburg. If the application is not  
3 approved or is provisionally approved, the University of South  
4 Florida shall correct any identified deficiencies and shall  
5 continue to work for accreditation.

6 (2) The Board of Trustees of the University of South  
7 Florida shall appoint to the Campus Board, from  
8 recommendations of the President of the University of South  
9 Florida, five residents of Pinellas County. If a resident of  
10 Pinellas County is appointed to the Board of Trustees of the  
11 University of South Florida, the board shall appoint that  
12 member to serve jointly as a member of the Campus Board. If  
13 more than one Pinellas County resident is appointed to the  
14 Board of Trustees, the board shall select one joint member.  
15 The Board of Trustees may reappoint a member to the Campus  
16 Board for one additional term. The Campus Board has the powers  
17 and duties provided by law, which include the authority to:

18 (a) Review and approve an annual legislative budget  
19 request to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education. The  
20 Campus Executive Officer shall prepare the legislative budget  
21 request in accordance with guidelines established by the State  
22 Board of Education. This request must include items for campus  
23 operations and fixed capital outlay.

24 (b) Approve and submit an annual operating plan and  
25 budget for review and consultation by the Board of Trustees of  
26 the University of South Florida. The campus operating budget  
27 must reflect the actual funding available to that campus from  
28 separate line-item appropriations contained in each annual  
29 General Appropriations Act, which line-item appropriations  
30 must initially reflect the funds reported to the Legislature  
31 for the University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus for

1 fiscal year 2000-2001 and any additional funds provided in the  
2 fiscal year 2001-2002 legislative appropriation.

3 (c) Enter into central support services contracts with  
4 the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida for  
5 any services that the St. Petersburg campus cannot provide  
6 more economically, including payroll processing, accounting,  
7 technology, construction administration, and other desired  
8 services. However, all legal services for the campus must be  
9 provided by a central services contract with the university.  
10 The Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida and  
11 the Campus Board shall determine in a letter of agreement any  
12 allocation or sharing of student fee revenue between the  
13 University of South Florida's main campus and the St.  
14 Petersburg campus.

15  
16 The Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida may  
17 lawfully delegate other powers and duties to the Campus Board  
18 for the efficient operation and improvement of the campus and  
19 for the purpose of vesting in the campus the attributes  
20 necessary to meet the requirements for separate accreditation  
21 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

22 (3) The University of South Florida St. Petersburg  
23 shall be administered by a Campus Executive Officer who shall  
24 be appointed by, report directly to, and serve at the pleasure  
25 of the President of the University of South Florida. The  
26 President shall consult with the Campus Board before hiring or  
27 terminating the Campus Executive Officer. The Campus Executive  
28 Officer has authority and responsibility as provided in law,  
29 including the authority to:

30 (a) Administer campus operations within the annual  
31 operating budget as approved by the Campus Board.

- 1           (b) Recommend to the Campus Board an annual  
2 legislative budget request that includes funding for campus  
3 operations and fixed capital outlay.
- 4           (c) Recommend to the Campus Board an annual campus  
5 operating budget.
- 6           (d) Recommend to the Campus Board appropriate services  
7 and terms and conditions to be included in annual central  
8 support services contracts.
- 9           (e) Carry out any additional responsibilities assigned  
10 or delegated by the President of the University of South  
11 Florida for the efficient operation and improvement of the  
12 campus, especially any authority necessary for the purpose of  
13 vesting in the campus attributes necessary to meet the  
14 requirements for separate accreditation.
- 15           (4) Students enrolled at the University of South  
16 Florida, including those enrolled at a branch campus, have the  
17 same rights and obligations as provided by law, policy, or  
18 rule adopted by the University of South Florida, the Florida  
19 Department of Education, or other lawful entity. The  
20 University of South Florida shall provide a comprehensive and  
21 coordinated system of student registration so that a student  
22 enrolled at any campus of the University of South Florida has  
23 the ability to register for courses at any other campus of the  
24 University of South Florida.
- 25           (5) The following entities are not affected by this  
26 section and remain under the administrative control of the  
27 University of South Florida:
- 28           (a) The University of South Florida College of Marine  
29 Science, which is a component college of the main campus.
- 30           (b) The Florida Institute of Oceanography, which is a  
31 Type One Institute.

1           (c) The University of South Florida Pediatric Research  
2 Center.

3           (d) The University of South Florida/USGS joint  
4 facility.

5           Section 179. Section 1004.34, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7           1004.34 The University of South Florida  
8 Sarasota/Manatee.--

9           (1) The Sarasota/Manatee campus of the University of  
10 South Florida is established and shall be known as the  
11 "University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee."

12           (a) The Legislature intends that the University of  
13 South Florida Sarasota/Manatee be operated and maintained as a  
14 separate organizational and budget entity of the University of  
15 South Florida and that all legislative appropriations for the  
16 University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee be set forth as  
17 separate line items in the annual General Appropriations Act.

18           (b) The University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee  
19 shall have a Campus Board and a Campus Executive Officer.

20           (c) As soon as possible, but no later than July 1,  
21 2002, the President of the University of South Florida shall  
22 begin the process of application to the Commission on Colleges  
23 of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for  
24 separate accreditation of the University of South Florida  
25 Sarasota/Manatee. If the application is not approved or is  
26 provisionally approved, the University of South Florida shall  
27 correct any identified deficiencies and shall continue to work  
28 for accreditation.

29           (2) The Board of Trustees of the University of South  
30 Florida shall appoint to the Campus Board, from  
31 recommendations of the President of the University of South

1 Florida, three residents of Manatee County and two residents  
2 of Sarasota County, to serve 4-year staggered terms. If one or  
3 more residents of Sarasota County or Manatee County are  
4 appointed to the Board of Trustees of the University of South  
5 Florida, the board shall, at the next vacancy of the Campus  
6 Board, appoint one of those members to serve jointly as a  
7 member of the Campus Board. The Board of Trustees may  
8 reappoint a member to the Campus Board for one additional  
9 term. The Campus Board has the powers and duties provided by  
10 law, which include the authority to:

11 (a) Review and approve an annual legislative budget  
12 request to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education. The  
13 Campus Executive Officer shall prepare the legislative budget  
14 request in accordance with guidelines established by the State  
15 Board of Education. This request must include items for campus  
16 operations and fixed capital outlay.

17 (b) Approve and submit an annual operating plan and  
18 budget for review and consultation by the Board of Trustees of  
19 the University of South Florida. The campus operating budget  
20 must reflect the actual funding available to that campus from  
21 separate line-item appropriations contained in each annual  
22 General Appropriations Act, which line-item appropriations  
23 must initially reflect the funds reported to the Legislature  
24 for the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee campus  
25 for fiscal year 2000-2001 and any additional funds provided in  
26 the fiscal year 2001-2002 legislative appropriation.

27 (c) Enter into central support services contracts with  
28 the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida for  
29 any services that the campus at Sarasota/Manatee cannot  
30 provide more economically, including payroll processing,  
31 accounting, technology, construction administration, and other

1 desired services. However, all legal services for the campus  
2 must be provided by a central services contract with the  
3 university. The Board of Trustees of the University of South  
4 Florida and the Campus Board shall determine in a letter of  
5 agreement any allocation or sharing of student fee revenue  
6 between the University of South Florida's main campus and the  
7 Sarasota/Manatee campus.

8  
9 The Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida may  
10 lawfully delegate other powers and duties to the Campus Board  
11 for the efficient operation and improvement of the campus and  
12 for the purpose of vesting in the campus the attributes  
13 necessary to meet the requirements for separate accreditation  
14 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

15 (3) The University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee  
16 shall be administered by a Campus Executive Officer who shall  
17 be appointed by, report directly to, and serve at the pleasure  
18 of the President of the University of South Florida. The  
19 President shall consult with the Campus Board before hiring or  
20 terminating the Campus Executive Officer. The Campus Executive  
21 Officer has authority and responsibility as provided in law,  
22 including the authority to:

23 (a) Administer campus operations within the annual  
24 operating budget as approved by the Campus Board.

25 (b) Recommend to the Campus Board an annual  
26 legislative budget request that includes funding for campus  
27 operations and fixed capital outlay.

28 (c) Recommend to the Campus Board an annual campus  
29 operating budget.

30  
31

1           (d) Recommend to the Campus Board appropriate services  
2 and terms and conditions to be included in annual central  
3 support services contracts.

4           (e) Carry out any additional responsibilities assigned  
5 or delegated by the President of the University of South  
6 Florida for the efficient operation and improvement of the  
7 campus, especially any authority necessary for the purpose of  
8 vesting in the campus attributes necessary to meet the  
9 requirements for separate accreditation.

10           (4) Students enrolled at the University of South  
11 Florida, including those enrolled at a branch campus, have the  
12 same rights and obligations as provided by law, policy, or  
13 rule adopted by the University of South Florida, the Florida  
14 Department of Education, or other lawful entity. The  
15 University of South Florida shall provide a comprehensive and  
16 coordinated system of student registration so that a student  
17 enrolled at any campus of the University of South Florida has  
18 the ability to register for courses at any other campus of the  
19 University of South Florida.

20           (5) Promote technology transfer between the research  
21 operations of the University of South Florida and local  
22 economic development agencies.

23           Section 180. Section 1004.35, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25           1004.35 Broward County campuses of Florida Atlantic  
26 University; coordination with other institutions.--The State  
27 Board of Education and Florida Atlantic University shall  
28 consult with Broward Community College and Florida  
29 International University in coordinating course offerings at  
30 the postsecondary level in Broward County. Florida Atlantic  
31 University may contract with the Board of Trustees of Broward

1 Community College and with Florida International University to  
2 provide instruction in courses offered at the Southeast  
3 Campus. Florida Atlantic University shall increase course  
4 offerings at the Southeast Campus as facilities become  
5 available.

6 Section 181. Section 1004.36, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8 1004.36 Florida Atlantic University campuses.--

9 (1) The Broward County campuses of Florida Atlantic  
10 University are hereby established as a partner of the Florida  
11 Atlantic University campus in Boca Raton. The Broward County  
12 campuses of Florida Atlantic University shall be known as  
13 "Florida Atlantic University Broward." The Boca Raton campuses  
14 of Florida Atlantic University shall be known as "Florida  
15 Atlantic University Boca Raton." The office of the president  
16 shall be at the campus in Boca Raton.

17 (2) Florida Atlantic University shall develop and  
18 administer a separate budget for Florida Atlantic University  
19 Broward. The budget shall include, at a minimum, an allocation  
20 of those operating and capital outlay funds appropriated  
21 annually by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act  
22 for the Broward campuses; a proportional share, based on  
23 student credit hours produced at the Broward campuses, of any  
24 allocations received by the university from student tuition  
25 and fees, except for athletic fees, specifically authorized by  
26 law; all overhead charges from sponsored research conducted on  
27 the Broward campuses; and all revenues derived from vending  
28 funds, auxiliary enterprises and contracts, and grants and  
29 donations, as authorized by s. 1011.91, which result from  
30 activities on Broward campuses. Florida Atlantic University  
31 Broward and Florida Atlantic University Boca Raton may pay

1 reasonable charges to appropriate levels of administration of  
2 Florida Atlantic University for services delivered  
3 universitywide.

4 (3) The Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees  
5 shall take all actions necessary to ensure that Florida  
6 Atlantic University Broward and Florida Atlantic University  
7 Boca Raton are partners in the overall policymaking and  
8 academic governance structures of the university. Annual  
9 legislative budget requests for operations and facilities  
10 shall separately identify those funds requested for Florida  
11 Atlantic University Broward and Florida Atlantic University  
12 Boca Raton. Florida Atlantic University Broward and Florida  
13 Atlantic University Boca Raton shall have local management  
14 authority over their campus faculty, staff, and programs, but  
15 there shall be universitywide standards and processes for  
16 evaluating requests for promotion and tenure; there shall be  
17 complete transferability of credits and uniform programs  
18 across campuses; and colleges operating on multiple campuses  
19 shall have only one dean for each college. Florida Atlantic  
20 University Broward shall establish a faculty senate and may  
21 establish a direct-support organization. Any such  
22 direct-support organization shall be subject to s. 1004.28(5).

23 (4) The State Board of Education, as a function of its  
24 comprehensive master planning process, shall continue to  
25 evaluate the need for undergraduate programs in Broward County  
26 and shall assess the extent to which existing postsecondary  
27 programs are addressing those needs.

28 Section 182. Section 1004.37, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30  
31

1           1004.37 County or area extension programs; cooperation  
2 between counties and University of Florida and Florida  
3 Agricultural and Mechanical University.--

4           (1) The Florida Cooperative Extension Service is  
5 administered through the University of Florida and is  
6 supported programmatically by the University of Florida and  
7 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in  
8 collaboration with individual county governments. County or  
9 area extension programs will be developed, based on local  
10 situations, needs, and problems, supported by scientific and  
11 technical information developed by the University of Florida,  
12 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, the United  
13 States Department of Agriculture, and other sources of  
14 research information. This information will be made available  
15 through the local program, with the aid of research scientists  
16 and extension specialists of the University of Florida  
17 Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and Florida  
18 Agricultural and Mechanical University.

19           (2) In each county or other geographic subdivision the  
20 board of county commissioners or other legally constituted  
21 governing body will annually determine the extent of its  
22 financial participation in cooperative extension work. The  
23 extent of such financial participation by the counties will  
24 influence the number of county extension agents and clerical  
25 staff employed and the scope of the local extension program.

26           (3) Boards of county commissioners or other legally  
27 constituted governing bodies will approve or disapprove of  
28 persons recommended for extension positions in the county. If  
29 the governing body of the county notifies the extension  
30 service by resolution that it wants a list of three qualified  
31 candidates, then the extension service shall, for each

1 position, make its recommendation by submitting a list of not  
2 fewer than three qualified persons, or all qualified persons  
3 if three or fewer. From this list, the board of county  
4 commissioners, or other legally constituted governing body,  
5 shall make its selection. If none of the persons recommended  
6 are approved, the extension service shall continue to submit  
7 lists of not fewer than three additional qualified persons  
8 until one person is selected. If the governing body of the  
9 county does not forward such a resolution to the extension  
10 service, the extension service shall recommend one qualified  
11 candidate to the governing body. If a person recommended is  
12 not approved, the extension service shall recommend another  
13 qualified candidate and shall repeat this procedure as  
14 necessary until one person is selected. Extension agents so  
15 appointed will be staff members of the University of Florida  
16 or Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, depending  
17 on the source of funds. It is the responsibility of the  
18 cooperative extension service to determine qualifications for  
19 positions.

20 (4) Although county extension agents are jointly  
21 employed by the state universities and federal and county  
22 governments for the purposes of administration of the  
23 cooperative extension service, the personnel policies and  
24 procedures of the University of Florida or Florida  
25 Agricultural and Mechanical University, depending on  
26 appointment, will apply except in those instances when federal  
27 legislation or the basic memorandum of understanding is  
28 applicable.

29 (5) The University of Florida will provide county  
30 extension personnel in the county with supervision and  
31 resources for planning and programming and is responsible for

1 the programming process. The Florida Cooperative Extension  
2 Service will make available needed program materials to the  
3 extension agents through the subject matter specialists or  
4 through other resource persons available from within the  
5 university. It will be responsible for maintaining a high  
6 level of technical competence in the county extension staff  
7 through a continuous program of inservice training.

8       (6) The county extension director will report  
9 periodically to the board of county commissioners or other  
10 legally constituted governing body on programs underway and  
11 results in the county. Each board of county commissioners or  
12 other legally constituted governing body will develop a plan  
13 which will enable it to be kept informed on the progress and  
14 results of the local extension program so that its own  
15 knowledge of program needs and problems may become a part of  
16 the educational work carried on by the agents. Such plan shall  
17 provide for a means of communicating the board's satisfaction  
18 with the extension program to the county extension director  
19 and the cooperative extension service.

20       Section 183. Section 1004.38, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22       1004.38 Master of science program in speech-language  
23 pathology; Florida International University.--A master of  
24 science degree program in speech-language pathology is hereby  
25 authorized at Florida International University.

26       Section 184. Section 1004.39, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28       1004.39 College of law at Florida International  
29 University.--

30       (1) A college of law is authorized at Florida  
31 International University.

1           (2) The college of law at Florida International  
2 University must be operated in compliance with the standards  
3 approved by nationally recognized associations for accredited  
4 colleges of law.

5           (3) The college of law at Florida International  
6 University, to the extent consistent with the standards  
7 required by the American Bar Association or any other  
8 nationally recognized association for the accreditation of  
9 colleges of law, shall develop a law library collection  
10 utilizing electronic formats and mediums.

11           (4) The college of law at Florida International  
12 University shall develop and institute a program that is  
13 consistent with sound legal education principles as determined  
14 by the American Bar Association or any other nationally  
15 recognized association for the accreditation of colleges of  
16 law and that, to the extent consistent with such sound legal  
17 education principles, is structured to serve the legal needs  
18 of traditionally underserved portions of the population by  
19 providing an opportunity for participation in a legal clinic  
20 program or pro bono legal service.

21           (5) The Florida International University Board of  
22 Trustees shall commence the planning of a college of law at  
23 Florida International University. In planning the college of  
24 law, the Florida International University Board of Trustees  
25 and the State Board of Education may accept grants, donations,  
26 gifts, and moneys available for this purpose, including moneys  
27 for planning and constructing the college. The Florida  
28 International University Board of Trustees may procure and  
29 accept any federal funds that are available for the planning,  
30 creation, and establishment of the college of law. Classes  
31 must commence by the fall semester 2003. If the American Bar

1 Association or any other nationally recognized association for  
2 the accreditation of colleges of law issues a third  
3 disapproval of an application for provisional approval or for  
4 full approval or fails to grant, within 5 years following the  
5 graduation of the first class, a provisional approval, to the  
6 college of law at Florida International University, the State  
7 Board of Education shall make recommendations to the Governor  
8 and the Legislature as to whether the college of law will  
9 cease operations at the end of the full academic year  
10 subsequent to the receipt by the college of law of any such  
11 third disapproval, or whether the college of law will continue  
12 operations and any conditions for continued operations. If the  
13 college of law ceases operations pursuant to this section, the  
14 following conditions apply:

15       (a) The authority for the college of law at Florida  
16 International University and the authority of the Florida  
17 International University Board of Trustees and the State Board  
18 of Education provided in this section shall terminate upon the  
19 cessation of operations of the college of law at Florida  
20 International University. The college of law at Florida  
21 International University shall receive no moneys allocated for  
22 the planning, construction, or operation of the college of law  
23 after its cessation of operations other than moneys to be  
24 expended for the cessation of operations of the college of  
25 law. Any moneys allocated to the college of law at Florida  
26 International University not expended prior to or scheduled to  
27 be expended after the date of the cessation of the college of  
28 law shall be appropriated for other use by the Legislature of  
29 the State of Florida.

30       (b) Any buildings of the college of law at Florida  
31 International University constructed from the expenditure of

1 capital outlay funds appropriated by the Legislature shall be  
 2 owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement  
 3 Trust Fund and managed by the Florida International University  
 4 Board of Trustees upon the cessation of the college of law.

5  
 6 Nothing in this section shall undermine commitments to current  
 7 students receiving support as of the date of the enactment of  
 8 this section from the law school scholarship program of the  
 9 Florida Education Fund as provided in s. 1009.70(8). Students  
 10 attending the college of law at Florida International  
 11 University shall be eligible for financial, academic, or other  
 12 support from the Florida Education Fund as provided in s.  
 13 1009.70(8) without the college's obtaining accreditation by  
 14 the American Bar Association.

15 (6) The college of law at Florida International  
 16 University shall be dedicated to providing opportunities for  
 17 minorities to attain representation within the legal  
 18 profession proportionate to their representation in the  
 19 general population; however, the college of law shall not  
 20 include preferences in the admissions process for applicants  
 21 on the basis of race, national origin, or gender.

22 Section 185. Section 1004.40, Florida Statutes, is  
 23 created to read:

24 1004.40 College of law at Florida Agricultural and  
 25 Mechanical University.--

26 (1) A college of law is authorized at Florida  
 27 Agricultural and Mechanical University.

28 (2) The college of law at Florida Agricultural and  
 29 Mechanical University must be operated in compliance with the  
 30 standards approved by nationally recognized associations for  
 31 accredited colleges of law.

1           (3) The college of law at Florida Agricultural and  
2 Mechanical University, to the extent consistent with the  
3 standards required by the American Bar Association or any  
4 other nationally recognized association for the accreditation  
5 of colleges of law, shall develop a law library collection  
6 utilizing electronic formats and mediums.

7           (4) The college of law at Florida Agricultural and  
8 Mechanical University shall develop and institute a program  
9 that is consistent with sound legal education principles as  
10 determined by the American Bar Association or any other  
11 nationally recognized association for the accreditation of  
12 colleges of law and that, to the extent consistent with such  
13 sound legal education principles, is structured to serve the  
14 legal needs of traditionally underserved portions of the  
15 population by providing an opportunity for participation in a  
16 legal clinic program or pro bono legal service.

17           (5) The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University  
18 Board of Trustees shall commence the planning of a college of  
19 law under the auspices of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
20 University to be located in the I-4 corridor area. In planning  
21 the college of law, the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
22 University Board of Trustees and the State Board of Education  
23 may accept grants, donations, gifts, and moneys available for  
24 this purpose, including moneys for planning and constructing  
25 the college. The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
26 University Board of Trustees may procure and accept any  
27 federal funds that are available for the planning, creation,  
28 and establishment of the college of law. Classes must commence  
29 by the fall semester 2003. If the American Bar Association or  
30 any other nationally recognized association for the  
31 accreditation of colleges of law issues a third disapproval of

1 an application for provisional approval or for full approval  
2 or fails to grant, within 5 years following the graduation of  
3 the first class, a provisional approval, to the college of law  
4 at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, the State  
5 Board of Education shall make recommendations to the Governor  
6 and Legislature as to whether the college of law will cease  
7 operations at the end of the full academic year subsequent to  
8 the receipt by the college of law of any such third  
9 disapproval, or whether the college of law will continue  
10 operations and any conditions for continued operations. If the  
11 college of law ceases operations of the college of law  
12 pursuant to this section, the following conditions apply:

13       (a) The authority for the college of law at Florida  
14 Agricultural and Mechanical University and the authority of  
15 the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of  
16 Trustees and the State Board of Education provided in this  
17 section shall terminate upon the cessation of operations of  
18 the college of law at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
19 University. The college of law at Florida Agricultural and  
20 Mechanical University shall receive no moneys allocated for  
21 the planning, construction, or operation of the college of law  
22 after its cessation of operations other than moneys to be  
23 expended for the cessation of operations of the college of  
24 law. Any moneys allocated to the college of law at Florida  
25 Agricultural and Mechanical University not expended prior to  
26 or scheduled to be expended after the date of the cessation of  
27 the college of law shall be appropriated for other use by the  
28 Legislature of the State of Florida.

29       (b) Any buildings of the college of law at Florida  
30 Agricultural and Mechanical University constructed from the  
31 expenditure of capital outlay funds appropriated by the

1 Legislature shall be owned by the Board of Trustees of the  
 2 Internal Improvement Trust Fund and managed by the Florida  
 3 Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees upon  
 4 the cessation of the college of law.

5  
 6 Nothing in this section shall undermine commitments to current  
 7 students receiving support as of the date of the enactment of  
 8 this section from the law school scholarship program of the  
 9 Florida Education Fund as provided in s. 1009.70(8). Students  
 10 attending the college of law at Florida Agricultural and  
 11 Mechanical University shall be eligible for financial,  
 12 academic, or other support from the Florida Education Fund as  
 13 provided in s. 1009.70(8) without the college's obtaining  
 14 accreditation by the American Bar Association.

15 (6) The college of law at Florida Agricultural and  
 16 Mechanical University shall be dedicated to providing  
 17 opportunities for minorities to attain representation within  
 18 the legal profession proportionate to their representation in  
 19 the general population; however, the college of law shall not  
 20 include preferences in the admissions process for applicants  
 21 on the basis of race, national origin, or gender.

22 Section 186. Section 1004.41, Florida Statutes, is  
 23 created to read:

24 1004.41 University of Florida; J. Hillis Miller Health  
 25 Center.--

26 (1) There is established the J. Hillis Miller Health  
 27 Center at the University of Florida, including campuses at  
 28 Gainesville and Jacksonville and affiliated teaching  
 29 hospitals, which shall include the following colleges:

30 (a) College of Dentistry.

31 (b) College of Health Professions.

1           (c) College of Medicine.

2           (d) College of Nursing.

3           (e) College of Pharmacy.

4           (f) College of Veterinary Medicine and related

5 teaching hospitals.

6           (2) Each college of the health center shall be so  
7 maintained and operated as to comply with the standards  
8 approved by a nationally recognized association for  
9 accreditation.

10           (3)(a) The University of Florida Health Center  
11 Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund shall be administered by  
12 the University of Florida Board of Trustees. Funds shall be  
13 credited to the trust fund from the sale of goods and services  
14 performed by the University of Florida Veterinary Medicine  
15 Teaching Hospital. The purpose of the trust fund is to support  
16 the instruction, research, and service missions of the  
17 University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

18           (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301, and  
19 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the  
20 end of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund and  
21 shall be available for carrying out the purposes of the trust  
22 fund.

23           (4)(a) The University of Florida Board of Trustees  
24 shall lease the hospital facilities of the health center,  
25 known as the Shands Teaching Hospital and Clinics on the  
26 campus of the University of Florida and all furnishings,  
27 equipment, and other chattels or choses in action used in the  
28 operation of the hospital, to a private not-for-profit  
29 corporation organized solely for the purpose of operating the  
30 hospital and ancillary health care facilities of the health  
31 center and other health care facilities and programs

1 determined to be necessary by the board of the nonprofit  
2 corporation. The rental for the hospital facilities shall be  
3 an amount equal to the debt service on bonds or revenue  
4 certificates issued solely for capital improvements to the  
5 hospital facilities or as otherwise provided by law.

6 (b) The University of Florida Board of Trustees shall  
7 provide in the lease or by separate contract or agreement with  
8 the not-for-profit corporation for the following:

9 1. Approval of the articles of incorporation of the  
10 not-for-profit corporation by the University of Florida Board  
11 of Trustees and the governance of the not-for-profit  
12 corporation by a board of directors appointed and chaired by  
13 the President of the University of Florida, or his or her  
14 designee, and vice chaired by the Vice President for Health  
15 Affairs of the University of Florida.

16 2. The use of hospital facilities and personnel in  
17 support of the research programs and of the teaching role of  
18 the health center.

19 3. The continued recognition of the collective  
20 bargaining units and collective bargaining agreements as  
21 currently composed and recognition of the certified labor  
22 organizations representing those units and agreements.

23 4. The use of hospital facilities and personnel in  
24 connection with research programs conducted by the health  
25 center.

26 5. Reimbursement to the hospital for indigent  
27 patients, state-mandated programs, underfunded state programs,  
28 and costs to the hospital for support of the teaching and  
29 research programs of the health center. Such reimbursement  
30 shall be appropriated to either the health center or the  
31

1 hospital each year by the Legislature after review and  
2 approval of the request for funds.

3 (c) The University of Florida Board of Trustees may,  
4 with the approval of the Legislature, increase the hospital  
5 facilities or remodel or renovate them, provided that the  
6 rental paid by the hospital for such new, remodeled, or  
7 renovated facilities is sufficient to amortize the costs  
8 thereof over a reasonable period of time or fund the debt  
9 service for any bonds or revenue certificates issued to  
10 finance such improvements.

11 (d) The University of Florida Board of Trustees is  
12 authorized to provide to the not-for-profit corporation  
13 leasing the hospital facilities and its not-for-profit  
14 subsidiaries comprehensive general liability insurance  
15 including professional liability from a self-insurance trust  
16 program established pursuant to s. 1004.24.

17 (e) In the event that the lease of the hospital  
18 facilities to the not-for-profit corporation is terminated for  
19 any reason, the University of Florida Board of Trustees shall  
20 resume management and operation of the hospital facilities.  
21 In such event, the Administration Commission is authorized to  
22 appropriate revenues generated from the operation of the  
23 hospital facilities to the University of Florida Board of  
24 Trustees to pay the costs and expenses of operating the  
25 hospital facility for the remainder of the fiscal year in  
26 which such termination occurs.

27 (f) The University of Florida Board of Trustees is  
28 authorized to provide to Shands Jacksonville Healthcare, Inc.,  
29 and its not-for-profit subsidiaries and affiliates and any  
30 successor corporation that acts in support of the board of  
31 trustees, comprehensive general liability coverage, including

1 professional liability, from the self-insurance programs  
2 established pursuant to s. 1004.24.

3 Section 187. Section 1004.42, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1004.42 Florida State University College of  
6 Medicine.--

7 (1) CREATION.--There is hereby established a 4-year  
8 allopathic medical school within the Florida State University,  
9 to be known as the Florida State University College of  
10 Medicine, with a principal focus on recruiting and training  
11 medical professionals to meet the primary health care needs of  
12 the state, especially the needs of the state's elderly, rural,  
13 minority, and other underserved citizens.

14 (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the intent of the  
15 Legislature that the Florida State University College of  
16 Medicine represent a new model for the training of allopathic  
17 physician healers for the citizens of the state. In accordance  
18 with this intent, the governing philosophy of the College of  
19 Medicine should include the training of students, in a humane  
20 environment, in the scientific, clinical, and behavioral  
21 practices required to deliver patient-centered health care.  
22 Key components of the College of Medicine, which would build  
23 on the foundation of the 30-year-old Florida State University  
24 Program in Medical Sciences (PIMS), would include: admission  
25 of diverse types of students who possess good communication  
26 skills and are compassionate individuals, representative of  
27 the population of the state; basic and behavioral sciences  
28 training utilizing medical problem-based teaching; and  
29 clinical training at several dispersed sites throughout the  
30 state in existing community hospitals, clinics, and doctors'  
31 offices. The Legislature further intends that study of the

1 aging human be a continuing focus throughout the 4-year  
2 curriculum and that use of information technology be a key  
3 component of all parts of the educational program.

4 (3) PURPOSE.--The College of Medicine shall be  
5 dedicated to: preparing physicians to practice primary care,  
6 geriatric, and rural medicine, to make appropriate use of  
7 emerging technologies, and to function successfully in a  
8 rapidly changing health care environment; advancing knowledge  
9 in the applied biomedical and behavioral sciences, geriatric  
10 research, autism, cancer, and chronic diseases; training  
11 future scientists to assume leadership in health care delivery  
12 and academic medicine; and providing access to medical  
13 education for groups which are underrepresented in the medical  
14 profession.

15 (4) TRANSITION; ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE; ADMISSIONS  
16 PROCESS.--The General Appropriations Act for fiscal year  
17 1999-2000 included initial funding for facilities and  
18 operations to provide a transition from the Program in Medical  
19 Sciences (PIMS) to a College of Medicine at the Florida State  
20 University. For transitional purposes, the Program in Medical  
21 Sciences (PIMS) in the College of Arts and Sciences at the  
22 Florida State University shall be reorganized and  
23 restructured, as soon as practicable, as the Institute of  
24 Human Medical Sciences. At such time as the 4-year educational  
25 program development is underway and a sufficient number of  
26 basic and behavioral sciences and clinical faculty are  
27 recruited, the Institute of Human Medical Sciences shall  
28 evolve into the Florida State University College of Medicine,  
29 with appropriate departments. The current admissions procedure  
30 utilized by the Program in Medical Sciences (PIMS) shall  
31 provide the basis for the design of an admissions process for

1 the College of Medicine, with selection criteria that focus on  
2 identifying future primary care physicians who have  
3 demonstrated interest in serving underserved areas. Enrollment  
4 levels at the College of Medicine are planned to not exceed  
5 120 students per class, and shall be phased in from 30  
6 students in the Program in Medical Sciences (PIMS), to 40  
7 students admitted to the College of Medicine as the charter  
8 class in Fall 2001, and 20 additional students admitted to the  
9 College of Medicine in each class thereafter until the maximum  
10 class size is reached.

11 (5) PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS FOR CLINICAL INSTRUCTION;  
12 GRADUATE PROGRAMS.--To provide broad-based clinical  
13 instruction in both rural and urban settings for students in  
14 the community-based medical education program, the College of  
15 Medicine, through creation of nonprofit corporations, shall  
16 seek affiliation agreements with health care systems and  
17 organizations, local hospitals, medical schools, and military  
18 health care facilities in the following targeted communities:  
19 Pensacola, Tallahassee, Orlando, Sarasota, Jacksonville, and  
20 the rural areas of the state. Selected hospitals in the target  
21 communities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 22 (a) Baptist Health Care in Pensacola.  
23 (b) Sacred Heart Health System in Pensacola.  
24 (c) West Florida Regional Medical Center in Pensacola.  
25 (d) Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare in Tallahassee.  
26 (e) Florida Hospital Health System in Orlando.  
27 (f) Sarasota Memorial Health Care System in Sarasota.  
28 (g) Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville.  
29 (h) Lee Memorial Health System, Inc., in Fort Myers.  
30 (i) Rural hospitals in the state.  
31

1 The College of Medicine shall also explore all alternatives  
2 for cooperation with established graduate medical education  
3 programs in the state to develop a plan to retain its  
4 graduates in residency programs in Florida.

5 (6) ACCREDITATION.--The College of Medicine shall  
6 develop a program which conforms to the accreditation  
7 standards of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education  
8 (LCME).

9 (7) CURRICULA; CLINICAL ROTATION TRAINING SITES.--

10 (a) The preclinical curriculum shall draw on the  
11 Florida State University's Program in Medical Sciences (PIMS)  
12 experience and national trends in basic and behavioral  
13 sciences instruction, including use of technology for  
14 distributed and distance learning. First-year instruction  
15 shall include a lecture mode and problem-based learning. In  
16 the second year, a small-group, problem-based learning  
17 approach shall provide more advanced treatment of each  
18 academic subject in a patient-centered context. Various  
19 short-term clinical exposures shall be programmed throughout  
20 the preclinical years, including rural, geriatric, and  
21 minority health, and contemporary practice patterns in these  
22 areas.

23 (b) During the third and fourth years, the curriculum  
24 shall follow a distributed, community-based model with a  
25 special focus on rural health. Subgroups of students shall be  
26 assigned to clinical rotation training sites in local  
27 communities in roughly equal numbers, as follows:

- 28 1. Group 1 - Tallahassee.
- 29 2. Group 2 - Pensacola.
- 30 3. Group 3 - Orlando.
- 31 4. Group 4 - Sarasota.

- 1           5. Group 5 - Jacksonville.
- 2           6. Group 6 - To be determined prior to 2005, based on  
3 emerging state needs.
- 4           7. Group 7 - Rural Physician Associate Program (RPAP).
- 5           (8) MEDICAL NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY.--The College of  
6 Medicine shall develop a comprehensive program to ensure  
7 training in the medical needs of the elderly and incorporate  
8 principles embodied in the curriculum guidelines of the  
9 American Geriatric Society. The College of Medicine shall  
10 have as one of its primary missions the improvement of medical  
11 education for physicians who will treat elder citizens. To  
12 accomplish this mission, the College of Medicine shall  
13 establish an academic leadership position in geriatrics,  
14 create an external elder care advisory committee, and  
15 implement an extensive faculty development plan. For student  
16 recruitment purposes, the current Program in Medical Sciences  
17 (PIMS) selection criteria shall be expanded to include  
18 consideration of students who have expressed an interest in  
19 elder care and who have demonstrated, through life choices, a  
20 commitment to serve older persons.
- 21           (9) MEDICAL NEEDS OF UNDERSERVED AREAS.--To address  
22 the medical needs of the state's rural and underserved  
23 populations, the College of Medicine shall develop a  
24 Department of Family Medicine with a significant rural  
25 training track that provides students with early and frequent  
26 clinical experiences in community-based settings to train and  
27 produce highly skilled primary care physicians. The College  
28 of Medicine shall consider developing new, rural-based family  
29 practice clinical training programs and shall establish a  
30 partnership with the West Florida Area Health Education Center  
31 to assist in developing partnerships and programs to provide

1 incentives and support for physicians to practice in primary  
2 care, geriatric, and rural medicine in underserved areas of  
3 the state.

4 (10) INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF UNDERREPRESENTED  
5 GROUPS.--To increase the participation of underrepresented  
6 groups and socially and economically disadvantaged youth in  
7 science and medical programs, the College of Medicine shall  
8 continue the outreach efforts of the Program in Medical  
9 Sciences (PIMS) to middle and high school minority students,  
10 including the Science Students Together Reaching Instructional  
11 Diversity and Excellence (SSTRIDE), and shall build an  
12 endowment income to support recruitment programs and  
13 scholarship and financial aid packages for these students. To  
14 develop a base of qualified potential medical school  
15 candidates from underrepresented groups, the College of  
16 Medicine shall coordinate with the undergraduate premedical  
17 and science programs currently offered at the Florida State  
18 University, develop relationships with potential feeder  
19 institutions, including 4-year institutions and community  
20 colleges, and pursue grant funds to support programs, as well  
21 as support scholarship and financial aid packages. The College  
22 of Medicine shall develop plans for a postbaccalaureate,  
23 1-year academic program that provides a second chance to a  
24 limited number of students per year who have been declined  
25 medical school admission, who are state residents, and who  
26 meet established criteria as socially and economically  
27 disadvantaged. The College of Medicine shall make every  
28 effort, through recruitment and retention, to employ a faculty  
29 and support staff that reflect the heterogeneous nature of the  
30 state's general population.  
31

1           (11) TECHNOLOGY.--To create technology-rich learning  
2 environments, the College of Medicine shall build on the  
3 considerable infrastructure that already supports the many  
4 technology resources of the Florida State University and shall  
5 expand the infrastructure to conduct an effective medical  
6 education program, including connectivity between the main  
7 campus, community-based training locations, and rural clinic  
8 locations. Additional technology programs shall include  
9 extensive professional development opportunities for faculty;  
10 an on-line library of academic and medical resources for  
11 students, faculty, and community preceptors; and  
12 technology-sharing agreements with other medical schools to  
13 allow for the exchange of technology applications among  
14 medical school faculty for the purpose of enhancing medical  
15 education. The College of Medicine shall explore the  
16 opportunities afforded by Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville through  
17 clerkships, visiting professors or lectures through the  
18 existing telecommunications systems, and collaboration in  
19 research activities at the Mayo Clinic's Jacksonville campus.

20           (12) ADMINISTRATION; FACULTY.--Each of the major  
21 community-based clinical rotation training sites described in  
22 subsection (7) shall have a community dean and a student  
23 affairs/administrative officer. Teaching faculty for the  
24 community-based clinical training component shall be community  
25 physicians serving part-time appointments. Sixty faculty  
26 members shall be recruited to serve in the basic and  
27 behavioral sciences department. The College of Medicine shall  
28 have a small core staff of on-campus, full-time faculty and  
29 administrators at the Florida State University, including a  
30 dean, a senior associate dean for educational programs, an  
31 associate dean for clinical education, a chief

1 financial/administrative officer, an admissions/student  
 2 affairs officer, an instructional resources coordinator, a  
 3 coordinator for graduate and continuing medical education, and  
 4 several mission focus coordinators.

5 (13) COLLABORATION WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS.--To  
 6 provide students with the skills, knowledge, and values needed  
 7 to practice medicine in the evolving national system of health  
 8 care delivery, the College of Medicine shall fully integrate  
 9 modern health care delivery concepts into its curriculum. For  
 10 this purpose, the College of Medicine shall develop a  
 11 partnership with one or more health care organizations in the  
 12 state and shall recruit faculty with strong health care  
 13 delivery competencies. Faculty from other disciplines at the  
 14 Florida State University shall be utilized to develop  
 15 team-based approaches to core competencies in the delivery of  
 16 health care.

17 (14) INDEMNIFICATION FROM LIABILITY.--This section  
 18 shall be construed to authorize the Florida State University  
 19 Board of Trustees to negotiate and purchase policies of  
 20 insurance to indemnify from any liability those individuals or  
 21 entities providing sponsorship or training to the students of  
 22 the medical school, professionals employed by the medical  
 23 school, and students of the medical school.

24 Section 188. Section 1004.43, Florida Statutes, is  
 25 created to read:

26 1004.43 H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research  
 27 Institute.--There is established the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer  
 28 Center and Research Institute at the University of South  
 29 Florida.

30 (1) The State Board of Education shall enter into an  
 31 agreement for the utilization of the facilities on the campus

1 of the University of South Florida to be known as the H. Lee  
2 Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, including all  
3 furnishings, equipment, and other chattels used in the  
4 operation of said facilities, with a Florida not-for-profit  
5 corporation organized solely for the purpose of governing and  
6 operating the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research  
7 Institute. This not-for-profit corporation, acting as an  
8 instrumentality of the State of Florida, shall govern and  
9 operate the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research  
10 Institute in accordance with the terms of the agreement  
11 between the State Board of Education and the not-for-profit  
12 corporation. The not-for-profit corporation may, with the  
13 prior approval of the State Board of Education, create  
14 not-for-profit corporate subsidiaries to fulfill its mission.  
15 The not-for-profit corporation and its subsidiaries are  
16 authorized to receive, hold, invest, and administer property  
17 and any moneys received from private, local, state, and  
18 federal sources, as well as technical and professional income  
19 generated or derived from practice activities of the  
20 institute, for the benefit of the institute and the  
21 fulfillment of its mission. The affairs of the corporation  
22 shall be managed by a board of directors who shall serve  
23 without compensation. The President of the University of  
24 South Florida and the chair of the State Board of Education,  
25 or his or her designee, shall be directors of the  
26 not-for-profit corporation, together with 5 representatives of  
27 the state universities and no more than 14 nor fewer than 10  
28 directors who are not medical doctors or state employees.  
29 Each director shall have only one vote, shall serve a term of  
30 3 years, and may be reelected to the board. Other than the  
31 President of the University of South Florida and the chair of

1 the State Board of Education, directors shall be elected by a  
2 majority vote of the board. The chair of the board of  
3 directors shall be selected by majority vote of the directors.  
4       (2) The State Board of Education shall provide in the  
5 agreement with the not-for-profit corporation for the  
6 following:  
7       (a) Approval of the articles of incorporation of the  
8 not-for-profit corporation by the State Board of Education.  
9       (b) Approval of the articles of incorporation of any  
10 not-for-profit corporate subsidiary created by the  
11 not-for-profit corporation.  
12       (c) Utilization of hospital facilities and personnel  
13 by the not-for-profit corporation and its subsidiaries for  
14 mutually approved teaching and research programs conducted by  
15 the University of South Florida or other accredited medical  
16 schools or research institutes.  
17       (d) Preparation of an annual financial audit of the  
18 not-for-profit corporation's accounts and records and the  
19 accounts and records of any subsidiaries to be conducted by an  
20 independent certified public accountant. The annual audit  
21 report shall include a management letter, as defined in s.  
22 11.45, and shall be submitted to the Auditor General and the  
23 State Board of Education. The State Board of Education, the  
24 Auditor General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
25 Government Accountability shall have the authority to require  
26 and receive from the not-for-profit corporation and any  
27 subsidiaries or from their independent auditor any detail or  
28 supplemental data relative to the operation of the  
29 not-for-profit corporation or subsidiary.  
30       (e) Provision by the not-for-profit corporation and  
31 its subsidiaries of equal employment opportunities to all

1 persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, or  
2 national origin.

3 (3) The State Board of Education is authorized to  
4 secure comprehensive general liability protection, including  
5 professional liability protection, for the not-for-profit  
6 corporation and its subsidiaries pursuant to s. 1004.24.

7 (4) In the event that the agreement between the  
8 not-for-profit corporation and the State Board of Education is  
9 terminated for any reason, the State Board of Education shall  
10 resume governance and operation of said facilities.

11 (5) The institute shall be administered by a chief  
12 executive officer who shall serve at the pleasure of the board  
13 of directors of the not-for-profit corporation and who shall  
14 have the following powers and duties subject to the approval  
15 of the board of directors:

16 (a) The chief executive officer shall establish  
17 programs which fulfill the mission of the institute in  
18 research, education, treatment, prevention, and the early  
19 detection of cancer; however, the chief executive officer  
20 shall not establish academic programs for which academic  
21 credit is awarded and which terminate in the conferment of a  
22 degree without prior approval of the State Board of Education.

23 (b) The chief executive officer shall have control  
24 over the budget and the dollars appropriated or donated to the  
25 institute from private, local, state, and federal sources, as  
26 well as technical and professional income generated or derived  
27 from practice activities of the institute. However,  
28 professional income generated by university faculty from  
29 practice activities at the institute shall be shared between  
30 the institute and the university as determined by the chief  
31

1 executive officer and the appropriate university dean or vice  
2 president.

3 (c) The chief executive officer shall appoint members  
4 to carry out the research, patient care, and educational  
5 activities of the institute and determine compensation,  
6 benefits, and terms of service. Members of the institute  
7 shall be eligible to hold concurrent appointments at  
8 affiliated academic institutions. University faculty shall be  
9 eligible to hold concurrent appointments at the institute.

10 (d) The chief executive officer shall have control  
11 over the use and assignment of space and equipment within the  
12 facilities.

13 (e) The chief executive officer shall have the power  
14 to create the administrative structure necessary to carry out  
15 the mission of the institute.

16 (f) The chief executive officer shall have a reporting  
17 relationship to the Commissioner of Education.

18 (g) The chief executive officer shall provide a copy  
19 of the institute's annual report to the Governor and Cabinet,  
20 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
21 Representatives, and the chair of the State Board of  
22 Education.

23 (6) The board of directors of the not-for-profit  
24 corporation shall create a council of scientific advisers to  
25 the chief executive officer comprised of leading researchers,  
26 physicians, and scientists. This council shall review programs  
27 and recommend research priorities and initiatives so as to  
28 maximize the state's investment in the institute. The council  
29 shall be appointed by the board of directors of the  
30 not-for-profit corporation and shall include five appointees  
31 of the State Board of Education. Each member of the council

1 shall be appointed to serve a 2-year term and may be  
2 reappointed to the council.

3 (7) In carrying out the provisions of this section,  
4 the not-for-profit corporation and its subsidiaries are not  
5 "agencies" within the meaning of s. 20.03(11).

6 (8)(a) Records of the not-for-profit corporation and  
7 of its subsidiaries are public records unless made  
8 confidential or exempt by law.

9 (b) Proprietary confidential business information is  
10 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1)  
11 and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. However, the  
12 Auditor General, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
13 Government Accountability, and the State Board of Education,  
14 pursuant to their oversight and auditing functions, must be  
15 given access to all proprietary confidential business  
16 information upon request and without subpoena and must  
17 maintain the confidentiality of information so received. As  
18 used in this paragraph, the term "proprietary confidential  
19 business information" means information, regardless of its  
20 form or characteristics, which is owned or controlled by the  
21 not-for-profit corporation or its subsidiaries; is intended to  
22 be and is treated by the not-for-profit corporation or its  
23 subsidiaries as private and the disclosure of which would harm  
24 the business operations of the not-for-profit corporation or  
25 its subsidiaries; has not been intentionally disclosed by the  
26 corporation or its subsidiaries unless pursuant to law, an  
27 order of a court or administrative body, a legislative  
28 proceeding pursuant to s. 5, Art. III of the State  
29 Constitution, or a private agreement that provides that the  
30 information may be released to the public; and which is  
31 information concerning:

- 1           1. Internal auditing controls and reports of internal  
2 auditors;
- 3           2. Matters reasonably encompassed in privileged  
4 attorney-client communications;
- 5           3. Contracts for managed-care arrangements, including  
6 preferred provider organization contracts, health maintenance  
7 organization contracts, and exclusive provider organization  
8 contracts, and any documents directly relating to the  
9 negotiation, performance, and implementation of any such  
10 contracts for managed-care arrangements;
- 11           4. Bids or other contractual data, banking records,  
12 and credit agreements the disclosure of which would impair the  
13 efforts of the not-for-profit corporation or its subsidiaries  
14 to contract for goods or services on favorable terms;
- 15           5. Information relating to private contractual data,  
16 the disclosure of which would impair the competitive interest  
17 of the provider of the information;
- 18           6. Corporate officer and employee personnel  
19 information;
- 20           7. Information relating to the proceedings and records  
21 of credentialing panels and committees and of the governing  
22 board of the not-for-profit corporation or its subsidiaries  
23 relating to credentialing;
- 24           8. Minutes of meetings of the governing board of the  
25 not-for-profit corporation and its subsidiaries, except  
26 minutes of meetings open to the public pursuant to subsection  
27 (9);
- 28           9. Information that reveals plans for marketing  
29 services that the corporation or its subsidiaries reasonably  
30 expect to be provided by competitors;
- 31

1           10. Trade secrets as defined in s. 688.002, including  
2 reimbursement methodologies or rates; or

3           11. The identity of donors or prospective donors of  
4 property who wish to remain anonymous or any information  
5 identifying such donors or prospective donors. The anonymity  
6 of these donors or prospective donors must be maintained in  
7 the auditor's report.

8  
9 As used in this paragraph, the term "managed care" means  
10 systems or techniques generally used by third-party payors or  
11 their agents to affect access to and control payment for  
12 health care services. Managed-care techniques most often  
13 include one or more of the following: prior, concurrent, and  
14 retrospective review of the medical necessity and  
15 appropriateness of services or site of services; contracts  
16 with selected health care providers; financial incentives or  
17 disincentives related to the use of specific providers,  
18 services, or service sites; controlled access to and  
19 coordination of services by a case manager; and payor efforts  
20 to identify treatment alternatives and modify benefit  
21 restrictions for high-cost patient care.

22           (9) Meetings of the governing board of the  
23 not-for-profit corporation and meetings of the subsidiaries of  
24 the not-for-profit corporation at which the expenditure of  
25 dollars appropriated to the not-for-profit corporation by the  
26 state are discussed or reported must remain open to the public  
27 in accordance with s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the  
28 State Constitution, unless made confidential or exempt by law.  
29 Other meetings of the governing board of the not-for-profit  
30 corporation and of the subsidiaries of the not-for-profit  
31

1 corporation are exempt from s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of  
2 the State Constitution.

3 Section 189. Section 1004.435, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1004.435 Cancer control and research.--

6 (1) SHORT TITLE.--This section shall be known and may  
7 be cited as the "Cancer Control and Research Act."

8 (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the finding of the  
9 Legislature that:

10 (a) Advances in scientific knowledge have led to the  
11 development of preventive and therapeutic capabilities in the  
12 control of cancer. Such knowledge and therapy must be made  
13 available to all citizens of this state through educational  
14 and therapeutic programs.

15 (b) The present state of our knowledge concerning the  
16 prevalence, cause or associated factors, and treatment of  
17 cancer have resulted primarily from a vast federal investment  
18 into basic and clinical research, some of which is expended in  
19 this state. These research activities must continue, but  
20 programs must be established to extend this knowledge in  
21 preventive measures and patient treatment throughout the  
22 state.

23 (c) Research in cancer has implicated the environment  
24 as a causal factor for many types of cancer, i.e., sunshine, X  
25 rays, diet, smoking, etc., and programs are needed to further  
26 document such cause and effect relationships. Proven causes  
27 of cancer should be publicized and be the subject of  
28 educational programs for the prevention of cancer.

29 (d) An effective cancer control program would mobilize  
30 the scientific, educational, and medical resources that  
31

1 presently exist into an intense attack against this dread  
 2 disease.

3 (3) DEFINITIONS.--The following words and phrases when  
 4 used in this section have, unless the context clearly  
 5 indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this  
 6 subsection:

7 (a) "Cancer" means all malignant neoplasms, regardless  
 8 of the tissue of origin, including lymphoma and leukemia.

9 (b) "Council" means the Florida Cancer Control and  
 10 Research Advisory Council, which is an advisory body appointed  
 11 to function on a continuing basis for the study of cancer and  
 12 which recommends solutions and policy alternatives to the  
 13 State Board of Education and the secretary and which is  
 14 established by this section.

15 (c) "Department" means the Department of Health.

16 (d) "Fund" means the Florida Cancer Control and  
 17 Research Fund established by this section.

18 (e) "Qualified nonprofit association" means any  
 19 association, incorporated or unincorporated, that has received  
 20 tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service.

21 (f) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health.

22 (4) FLORIDA CANCER CONTROL AND RESEARCH ADVISORY  
 23 COUNCIL; CREATION; COMPOSITION.--

24 (a) There is created within the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer  
 25 Center and Research Institute, Inc., the Florida Cancer  
 26 Control and Research Advisory Council. The council shall  
 27 consist of 35 members, which includes the chairperson, all of  
 28 whom must be residents of this state. All members, except  
 29 those appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
 30 and the President of the Senate, must be appointed by the  
 31 Governor. At least one of the members appointed by the

1 Governor must be 60 years of age or older. One member must be  
2 a representative of the American Cancer Society; one member  
3 must be a representative of the Florida Tumor Registrars  
4 Association; one member must be a representative of the  
5 Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center of the University of  
6 Miami; one member must be a representative of the Department  
7 of Health; one member must be a representative of the  
8 University of Florida Shands Cancer Center; one member must be  
9 a representative of the Agency for Health Care Administration;  
10 one member must be a representative of the Florida Nurses  
11 Association; one member must be a representative of the  
12 Florida Osteopathic Medical Association; one member must be a  
13 representative of the American College of Surgeons; one member  
14 must be a representative of the School of Medicine of the  
15 University of Miami; one member must be a representative of  
16 the College of Medicine of the University of Florida; one  
17 member must be a representative of NOVA Southeastern College  
18 of Osteopathic Medicine; one member must be a representative  
19 of the College of Medicine of the University of South Florida;  
20 one member must be a representative of the College of Public  
21 Health of the University of South Florida; one member must be  
22 a representative of the Florida Society of Clinical Oncology;  
23 one member must be a representative of the Florida Obstetric  
24 and Gynecologic Society who has had training in the specialty  
25 of gynecologic oncology; one member must be a representative  
26 of the Florida Medical Association; one member must be a  
27 member of the Florida Pediatric Society; one member must be a  
28 representative of the Florida Radiological Society; one member  
29 must be a representative of the Florida Society of  
30 Pathologists; one member must be a representative of the H.  
31 Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Inc.; three

1 members must be representatives of the general public acting  
2 as consumer advocates; one member must be a member of the  
3 House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House  
4 of Representatives; one member must be a member of the Senate  
5 appointed by the President of the Senate; one member must be a  
6 representative of the Department of Education; one member must  
7 be a representative of the Florida Dental Association; one  
8 member must be a representative of the Florida Hospital  
9 Association; one member must be a representative of the  
10 Association of Community Cancer Centers; one member shall be a  
11 representative from a statutory teaching hospital affiliated  
12 with a community-based cancer center; one member must be a  
13 representative of the Florida Association of Pediatric Tumor  
14 Programs, Inc.; one member must be a representative of the  
15 Cancer Information Service; one member must be a  
16 representative of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
17 University Institute of Public Health; and one member must be  
18 a representative of the Florida Society of Oncology Social  
19 Workers. Of the members of the council appointed by the  
20 Governor, at least 10 must be individuals who are minority  
21 persons as defined by s. 288.703(3).

22 (b) The terms of the members shall be 4 years from  
23 their respective dates of appointment.

24 (c) A chairperson shall be appointed by the Governor  
25 for a term of 2 years. The chairperson shall appoint an  
26 executive committee of no fewer than three persons to serve at  
27 the pleasure of the chairperson. This committee will prepare  
28 material for the council but make no final decisions.

29 (d) The council shall meet no less than semiannually  
30 at the call of the chairperson or, in his or her absence or  
31 incapacity, at the call of the secretary. Sixteen members

1 constitute a quorum for the purpose of exercising all of the  
2 powers of the council. A vote of the majority of the members  
3 present is sufficient for all actions of the council.

4 (e) The council members shall serve without pay.  
5 Pursuant to the provisions of s. 112.061, the council members  
6 may be entitled to be reimbursed for per diem and travel  
7 expenses.

8 (f) No member of the council shall participate in any  
9 discussion or decision to recommend grants or contracts to any  
10 qualified nonprofit association or to any agency of this state  
11 or its political subdivisions with which the member is  
12 associated as a member of the governing body or as an employee  
13 or with which the member has entered into a contractual  
14 arrangement.

15 (g) The council may prescribe, amend, and repeal  
16 bylaws governing the manner in which the business of the  
17 council is conducted.

18 (h) The council shall advise the State Board of  
19 Education, the secretary, and the Legislature with respect to  
20 cancer control and research in this state.

21 (i) The council shall approve each year a program for  
22 cancer control and research to be known as the "Florida Cancer  
23 Plan" which shall be consistent with the State Health Plan and  
24 integrated and coordinated with existing programs in this  
25 state.

26 (j) The council shall formulate and recommend to the  
27 secretary a plan for the care and treatment of persons  
28 suffering from cancer and recommend the establishment of  
29 standard requirements for the organization, equipment, and  
30 conduct of cancer units or departments in hospitals and  
31 clinics in this state. The council may recommend to the

1 secretary the designation of cancer units following a survey  
 2 of the needs and facilities for treatment of cancer in the  
 3 various localities throughout the state. The secretary shall  
 4 consider the plan in developing departmental priorities and  
 5 funding priorities and standards under chapter 395.

6 (k) The council is responsible for including in the  
 7 Florida Cancer Plan recommendations for the coordination and  
 8 integration of medical, nursing, paramedical, lay, and other  
 9 plans concerned with cancer control and research. Committees  
 10 shall be formed by the council so that the following areas  
 11 will be established as entities for actions:

12 1. Cancer plan evaluation: tumor registry, data  
 13 retrieval systems, and epidemiology of cancer in the state and  
 14 its relation to other areas.

15 2. Cancer prevention.

16 3. Cancer detection.

17 4. Cancer patient management: treatment,  
 18 rehabilitation, terminal care, and other patient-oriented  
 19 activities.

20 5. Cancer education: lay and professional.

21 6. Unproven methods of cancer therapy: quackery and  
 22 unorthodox therapies.

23 7. Investigator-initiated project research.

24 (1) In order to implement in whole or in part the  
 25 Florida Cancer Plan, the council shall recommend to the State  
 26 Board of Education or the secretary the awarding of grants and  
 27 contracts to qualified profit or nonprofit associations or  
 28 governmental agencies in order to plan, establish, or conduct  
 29 programs in cancer control or prevention, cancer education and  
 30 training, and cancer research.

31

1           (m) If funds are specifically appropriated by the  
2 Legislature, the council shall develop or purchase  
3 standardized written summaries, written in layperson's terms  
4 and in language easily understood by the average adult  
5 patient, informing actual and high-risk breast cancer  
6 patients, prostate cancer patients, and men who are  
7 considering prostate cancer screening of the medically viable  
8 treatment alternatives available to them in the effective  
9 management of breast cancer and prostate cancer; describing  
10 such treatment alternatives; and explaining the relative  
11 advantages, disadvantages, and risks associated therewith.  
12 The breast cancer summary, upon its completion, shall be  
13 printed in the form of a pamphlet or booklet and made  
14 continuously available to physicians and surgeons in this  
15 state for their use in accordance with s. 458.324 and to  
16 osteopathic physicians in this state for their use in  
17 accordance with s. 459.0125. The council shall periodically  
18 update both summaries to reflect current standards of medical  
19 practice in the treatment of breast cancer and prostate  
20 cancer. The council shall develop and implement educational  
21 programs, including distribution of the summaries developed or  
22 purchased under this paragraph, to inform citizen groups,  
23 associations, and voluntary organizations about early  
24 detection and treatment of breast cancer and prostate cancer.

25           (n) The council shall have the responsibility to  
26 advise the State Board of Education and the secretary on  
27 methods of enforcing and implementing laws already enacted and  
28 concerned with cancer control, research, and education.

29           (o) The council may recommend to the State Board of  
30 Education or the secretary rules not inconsistent with law as  
31

1 it may deem necessary for the performance of its duties and  
2 the proper administration of this section.

3 (p) The council shall formulate and put into effect a  
4 continuing educational program for the prevention of cancer  
5 and its early diagnosis and disseminate to hospitals, cancer  
6 patients, and the public information concerning the proper  
7 treatment of cancer.

8 (q) The council shall be physically located at the H.  
9 Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Inc., at the  
10 University of South Florida.

11 (r) On February 15 of each year, the council shall  
12 report to the Governor and to the Legislature.

13 (5) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION,  
14 THE H. LEE MOFFITT CANCER CENTER AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC.,  
15 AND THE SECRETARY.--

16 (a) The State Board of Education or the secretary,  
17 after consultation with the council, shall award grants and  
18 contracts to qualified nonprofit associations and governmental  
19 agencies in order to plan, establish, or conduct programs in  
20 cancer control and prevention, cancer education and training,  
21 and cancer research.

22 (b) The H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research  
23 Institute, Inc., shall provide such staff, information, and  
24 other assistance as reasonably necessary for the completion of  
25 the responsibilities of the council.

26 (c) The State Board of Education or the secretary,  
27 after consultation with the council, may adopt rules necessary  
28 for the implementation of this section.

29 (d) The secretary, after consultation with the  
30 council, shall make rules specifying to what extent and on  
31 what terms and conditions cancer patients of the state may

1 receive financial aid for the diagnosis and treatment of  
 2 cancer in any hospital or clinic selected. The department may  
 3 furnish to citizens of this state who are afflicted with  
 4 cancer financial aid to the extent of the appropriation  
 5 provided for that purpose in a manner which in its opinion  
 6 will afford the greatest benefit to those afflicted and may  
 7 make arrangements with hospitals, laboratories, or clinics to  
 8 afford proper care and treatment for cancer patients in this  
 9 state.

10 (6) FLORIDA CANCER CONTROL AND RESEARCH FUND.--

11 (a) There is created the Florida Cancer Control and  
 12 Research Fund consisting of funds appropriated therefor from  
 13 the General Revenue Fund and any gifts, grants, or funds  
 14 received from other sources.

15 (b) The fund shall be used exclusively for grants and  
 16 contracts to qualified nonprofit associations or governmental  
 17 agencies for the purpose of cancer control and prevention,  
 18 cancer education and training, cancer research, and all  
 19 expenses incurred in connection with the administration of  
 20 this section and the programs funded through the grants and  
 21 contracts authorized by the State Board of Education or the  
 22 secretary.

23 Section 190. Section 1004.44, Florida Statutes, is  
 24 created to read:

25 1004.44 Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health  
 26 Institute.--There is established the Louis de la Parte Florida  
 27 Mental Health Institute within the University of South  
 28 Florida.

29 (1) The purpose of the institute is to strengthen  
 30 mental health services throughout the state by providing  
 31 technical assistance and support services to mental health

1 agencies and mental health professionals. Such assistance and  
2 services shall include:

3       (a) Technical training and specialized education.  
4       (b) Development, implementation, and evaluation of  
5 mental health service programs.

6       (c) Evaluation of availability and effectiveness of  
7 existing mental health services.

8       (d) Analysis of factors that influence the incidence  
9 and prevalence of mental and emotional disorders.

10       (e) Dissemination of information about innovations in  
11 mental health services.

12       (f) Consultation on all aspects of program development  
13 and implementation.

14       (g) Provisions for direct client services, provided  
15 for a limited period of time either in the institute facility  
16 or in other facilities within the state, and limited to  
17 purposes of research or training.

18       (2) The Department of Children and Family Services is  
19 authorized to designate the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental  
20 Health Institute a treatment facility for the purpose of  
21 accepting voluntary and involuntary clients in accordance with  
22 institute programs. Clients to be admitted are exempted from  
23 prior screening by a community mental health center.

24       (3) The institute may provide direct services in  
25 coordination with other agencies. The institute may also  
26 provide support services to state agencies through joint  
27 programs, collaborative agreements, contracts, and grants.

28       (4) The institute shall operate under the authority of  
29 the President of the University of South Florida and shall  
30 employ a mental health professional as director. The director  
31 shall hold a faculty appointment in a university's college or

1 department related to mental health within the university.  
2 The director has primary responsibility for establishing  
3 active liaisons with the community of mental health  
4 professionals and other related constituencies in the state  
5 and may, with approval of the university president, establish  
6 appropriate statewide advisory groups to assist in developing  
7 these communication links.

8 Section 191. Section 1004.445, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1004.445 Florida Alzheimer's Center and Research  
11 Institute.--

12 (1) There is established the Florida Alzheimer's  
13 Center and Research Institute at the University of South  
14 Florida.

15 (2)(a) The State Board of Education shall enter into  
16 an agreement for the utilization of the facilities on the  
17 campus of the University of South Florida to be known as the  
18 Florida Alzheimer's Center and Research Institute, including  
19 all furnishings, equipment, and other chattels used in the  
20 operation of said facilities, with a Florida not-for-profit  
21 corporation organized solely for the purpose of governing and  
22 operating the Florida Alzheimer's Center and Research  
23 Institute. This not-for-profit corporation, acting as an  
24 instrumentality of the state, shall govern and operate the  
25 Florida Alzheimer's Center and Research Institute in  
26 accordance with the terms of the agreement between the State  
27 Board of Education and the not-for-profit corporation. The  
28 not-for-profit corporation may, with the prior approval of the  
29 State Board of Education, create not-for-profit corporate  
30 subsidiaries to fulfill its mission. The not-for-profit  
31 corporation and its subsidiaries are authorized to receive,

1 hold, invest, and administer property and any moneys received  
2 from private, local, state, and federal sources, as well as  
3 technical and professional income generated or derived from  
4 practice activities of the institute, for the benefit of the  
5 institute and the fulfillment of its mission.

6 (b)1. The affairs of the not-for-profit corporation  
7 shall be managed by a board of directors who shall serve  
8 without compensation. The board of directors shall consist of  
9 the President of the University of South Florida and the chair  
10 of the State Board of Education, or their designees, five  
11 representatives of the state universities, and no fewer than  
12 nine nor more than 14 representatives of the public who are  
13 neither medical doctors nor state employees. Each director  
14 who is a representative of a state university or of the public  
15 shall serve a term of 3 years. The chair of the board of  
16 directors shall be selected by a majority vote of the  
17 directors. Each director shall have only one vote.

18 2. The initial board of directors shall consist of the  
19 President of the University of South Florida and the chair of  
20 the State Board of Education, or their designees; the five  
21 university representatives, of whom one shall be appointed by  
22 the Governor, two by the President of the Senate, and two by  
23 the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and nine public  
24 representatives, of whom three shall be appointed by the  
25 Governor, three by the President of the Senate, and three by  
26 the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Upon the  
27 expiration of the terms of the initial appointed directors,  
28 all directors subject to 3-year terms of office under this  
29 paragraph shall be elected by a majority vote of the directors  
30 and the board may be expanded to include additional public  
31 representative directors up to the maximum number allowed.

1 Any vacancy in office shall be filled for the remainder of the  
2 term by majority vote of the directors. Any director may be  
3 reelected.

4 (3) The State Board of Education shall provide in the  
5 agreement with the not-for-profit corporation for the  
6 following:

7 (a) Approval by the State Board of Education of the  
8 articles of incorporation of the not-for-profit corporation.

9 (b) Approval by the State Board of Education of the  
10 articles of incorporation of any not-for-profit corporate  
11 subsidiary created by the not-for-profit corporation.

12 (c) Utilization of hospital facilities and personnel  
13 by the not-for-profit corporation and its subsidiaries for  
14 mutually approved teaching and research programs conducted by  
15 the University of South Florida or other accredited medical  
16 schools or research institutes.

17 (d) Preparation of an annual postaudit of the  
18 not-for-profit corporation's financial accounts and the  
19 financial accounts of any subsidiaries to be conducted by an  
20 independent certified public accountant. The annual audit  
21 report shall include management letters and shall be submitted  
22 to the Auditor General and the State Board of Education for  
23 review. The State Board of Education, the Auditor General,  
24 and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government  
25 Accountability shall have the authority to require and receive  
26 from the not-for-profit corporation and any subsidiaries or  
27 from their independent auditor any detail or supplemental data  
28 relative to the operation of the not-for-profit corporation or  
29 subsidiary.

30 (e) Provision by the not-for-profit corporation and  
31 its subsidiaries of equal employment opportunities to all

1 persons regardless of race, color, religion, gender, age, or  
2 national origin.

3 (4) The State Board of Education is authorized to  
4 secure comprehensive general liability protection, including  
5 professional liability protection, for the not-for-profit  
6 corporation and its subsidiaries, pursuant to s. 1004.24.

7 (5) In the event that the agreement between the  
8 not-for-profit corporation and the State Board of Education is  
9 terminated for any reason, the State Board of Education shall  
10 assume governance and operation of the facilities.

11 (6) The institute shall be administered by a chief  
12 executive officer who shall be appointed by and serve at the  
13 pleasure of the board of directors of the not-for-profit  
14 corporation and who shall have the following powers and  
15 duties, subject to the approval of the board of directors:

16 (a) The chief executive officer shall establish  
17 programs that fulfill the mission of the institute in  
18 research, education, treatment, prevention, and early  
19 detection of Alzheimer's disease; however, the chief executive  
20 officer may not establish academic programs for which academic  
21 credit is awarded and which terminate in the conferring of a  
22 degree without prior approval of the State Board of Education.

23 (b) The chief executive officer shall have control  
24 over the budget and the moneys appropriated or donated to the  
25 institute from private, local, state, and federal sources, as  
26 well as technical and professional income generated or derived  
27 from practice activities of the institute. However,  
28 professional income generated by university faculty from  
29 practice activities at the institute shall be shared between  
30 the institute and the university as determined by the chief  
31

1 executive officer and the appropriate university dean or vice  
2 president.

3 (c) The chief executive officer shall appoint members  
4 to carry out the research, patient care, and educational  
5 activities of the institute and determine compensation,  
6 benefits, and terms of service. Members of the institute  
7 shall be eligible to hold concurrent appointments at  
8 affiliated academic institutions. University faculty shall be  
9 eligible to hold concurrent appointments at the institute.

10 (d) The chief executive officer shall have control  
11 over the use and assignment of space and equipment within the  
12 facilities.

13 (e) The chief executive officer shall have the power  
14 to create the administrative structure necessary to carry out  
15 the mission of the institute.

16 (f) The chief executive officer shall have a reporting  
17 relationship to the Commissioner of Education.

18 (g) The chief executive officer shall provide a copy  
19 of the institute's annual report to the Governor and Cabinet,  
20 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
21 Representatives, and the chair of the State Board of  
22 Education.

23 (7) The board of directors of the not-for-profit  
24 corporation shall create a council of scientific advisers to  
25 the chief executive officer comprised of leading researchers,  
26 physicians, and scientists. The council shall review programs  
27 and recommend research priorities and initiatives to maximize  
28 the state's investment in the institute. The members of the  
29 council shall be appointed by the board of directors of the  
30 not-for-profit corporation, except for five members who shall  
31 be appointed by the State Board of Education. Each member of

1 the council shall be appointed to serve a 2-year term and may  
 2 be reappointed to the council.

3 (8) In carrying out the provisions of this section,  
 4 the not-for-profit corporation and its subsidiaries are not  
 5 agencies within the meaning of s. 20.03(11).

6 Section 192. Section 1004.45, Florida Statutes, is  
 7 created to read:

8 1004.45 Ringling Center for Cultural Arts.--

9 (1) The Florida State University Ringling Center for  
 10 Cultural Arts is created. The center consists of the following  
 11 properties located in Sarasota County:

12 (a) The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art composed  
 13 of:

- 14 1. The art museum.
- 15 2. The Ca' d'Zan (the Ringling residence).
- 16 3. The Ringling Museum of the Circus.

17 (b) The Florida State University Center for the Fine  
 18 and Performing Arts, including the Asolo Theater and the  
 19 Florida State University Center for the Performing Arts, both  
 20 of which shall provide for academic programs in theatre,  
 21 dance, art, art history, and museum management.

22  
 23 The center shall be operated by the Florida State University,  
 24 which shall be charged with encouraging participation by K-12  
 25 schools and by other postsecondary educational institutions,  
 26 public and private, in the educational and cultural enrichment  
 27 programs of the center.

28 (2)(a) The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art is  
 29 designated as the official Art Museum of the State of Florida.  
 30 The purpose and function of the museum is to maintain and  
 31 preserve all objects of art and artifacts donated to the state

1 through the will of John Ringling; to acquire and preserve  
2 objects of art or artifacts of historical or cultural  
3 significance; to exhibit such objects to the public; to  
4 undertake scholarly research and publication, including that  
5 relating to the collection; to provide educational programs  
6 for students at K-12 schools and those in college and graduate  
7 school and enrichment programs for children and adults; to  
8 assist other museums in the state and nation through education  
9 programs and through loaning objects from the collection when  
10 such loans do not threaten the safety and security of the  
11 objects; to enhance knowledge and appreciation of the  
12 collection; and to engage in other activities related to  
13 visual arts which benefit the public. The museum shall also  
14 engage in programs on the national and international level to  
15 enhance further the cultural resources of the state.

16 (b) The Florida State University shall approve a John  
17 and Mable Ringling Museum of Art direct-support organization.  
18 Such direct-support organization shall consist of no more than  
19 31 members appointed by the president of the university from a  
20 list of nominees provided by the Ringling direct-support  
21 organization. No fewer than one-third of the members must be  
22 residents of Sarasota and Manatee Counties, and the remaining  
23 members may reside elsewhere. The current members of the Board  
24 of Trustees of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art may  
25 be members of the direct-support organization. They shall  
26 develop a charter and bylaws to govern their operation, and  
27 these shall be subject to approval by the Florida State  
28 University.

29 (c) The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art  
30 direct-support organization, operating under the charter and  
31 bylaws and such contracts as are approved by the university,

1 shall set policies to maintain and preserve the collections of  
2 the Art Museum; the Circus Museum; the furnishings and objects  
3 in the Ringling home, referred to as the Ca' d'Zan; and other  
4 objects of art and artifacts in the custody of the museum.  
5 Title to all such collections, art objects, and artifacts of  
6 the museums and its facilities shall remain with the Florida  
7 State University, which shall assign state registration  
8 numbers to, and conduct annual inventories of, all such  
9 properties. The direct-support organization shall develop  
10 policy for the museum, subject to the provisions of the John  
11 Ringling will and the overall direction of the president of  
12 the university; and it is invested with power and authority to  
13 nominate a museum director who is appointed by and serves at  
14 the pleasure of the president of the university and shall  
15 report to the provost of the university or his or her  
16 designee. The museum director, with the approval of the  
17 provost or his or her designee, shall appoint other employees  
18 in accordance with Florida Statutes and rules; remove the same  
19 in accordance with Florida Statutes and rules; provide for the  
20 proper keeping of accounts and records and budgeting of funds;  
21 enter into contracts for professional programs of the museum  
22 and for the support and maintenance of the museum; secure  
23 public liability insurance; and do and perform every other  
24 matter or thing requisite to the proper management,  
25 maintenance, support, and control of the museum at the highest  
26 efficiency economically possible, while taking into  
27 consideration the purposes of the museum.

28 (d) Notwithstanding the provision of s. 287.057, the  
29 John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art direct-support  
30 organization may enter into contracts or agreements with or  
31 without competitive bidding, in its discretion, for the

1 restoration of objects of art in the museum collection or for  
2 the purchase of objects of art that are to be added to the  
3 collection.

4 (e) Notwithstanding s. 273.055, the university may  
5 sell any art object in the museum collection, which object has  
6 been acquired after 1936, if the director and the  
7 direct-support organization recommend such sale to the  
8 president of the university and if they first determine that  
9 the object is no longer appropriate for the collection. The  
10 proceeds of the sale shall be deposited in the Ringling Museum  
11 Art Acquisition, Restoration, and Conservation Trust Fund. The  
12 university also may exchange any art object in the collection,  
13 which object has been acquired after 1936, for an art object  
14 or objects that the director and the museum direct-support  
15 organization recommend to the university after judging these  
16 to be of equivalent or greater value to the museum.

17 (f) An employee or member of the museum direct-support  
18 organization may not receive a commission, fee, or financial  
19 benefit in connection with the sale or exchange of a work of  
20 art and may not be a business associate of any individual,  
21 firm, or organization involved in the sale or exchange.

22 (g) The university, in consultation with the  
23 direct-support organization, shall establish policies and may  
24 adopt rules for the sale or exchange of works of art.

25 (h) The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art  
26 direct-support organization shall provide for an annual  
27 financial audit in accordance with s. 1004.28(5). Florida  
28 State University is authorized to require and receive from the  
29 direct-support organization, or from its independent auditor,  
30 any detail or supplemental data relative to the operation of  
31 such organization. Information that, if released, would

1 identify donors who desire to remain anonymous, is  
2 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).  
3 Information that, if released, would identify prospective  
4 donors is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.  
5 119.07(1) when the direct-support organization has identified  
6 the prospective donor itself and has not obtained the name of  
7 the prospective donor by copying, purchasing, or borrowing  
8 names from another organization or source. Identities of such  
9 donors and prospective donors shall not be revealed in the  
10 auditor's report.

11 (i) The direct-support organization is given authority  
12 to make temporary loans of paintings and other objects of art  
13 or artifacts belonging to the John and Mable Ringling Museum  
14 of Art for the purpose of public exhibition in art museums,  
15 other museums, or institutions of higher learning wherever  
16 located, including such museums or institutions in other  
17 states or countries. Temporary loans may also be made to the  
18 executive mansion in Tallahassee, chapters and affiliates of  
19 the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, and, for education  
20 purposes, to schools, public libraries, or other institutions  
21 in the state, if such exhibition will benefit the general  
22 public as the university deems wise and for the best interest  
23 of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art and under  
24 policies established by Florida State University for the  
25 protection of the paintings and other objects of art and  
26 artifacts. In making temporary loans, the direct-support  
27 organization shall give first preference to art museums, other  
28 museums, and institutions of higher learning.

29 (j) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the  
30 John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art direct-support  
31 organization is eligible to match state funds in the Major

1 Gifts Trust Fund established pursuant to s. 1011.94 as  
2 follows:

3 1. For the first \$1,353,750, matching shall be on the  
4 basis of 75 cents in state matching for each dollar of private  
5 funds.

6 2. For additional funds, matching shall be provided on  
7 the same basis as is authorized in s. 1011.94.

8 Section 193. Section 1004.46, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1004.46 Multidisciplinary Center for Affordable  
11 Housing.--

12 (1) The Multidisciplinary Center for Affordable  
13 Housing is established within the School of Building  
14 Construction of the College of Architecture of the University  
15 of Florida with the collaboration of other related disciplines  
16 such as agriculture, business administration, engineering,  
17 law, and medicine. The center shall work in conjunction with  
18 other state universities. The Multidisciplinary Center for  
19 Affordable Housing shall:

20 (a) Conduct research relating to the problems and  
21 solutions associated with the availability of affordable  
22 housing in the state for families who are below the median  
23 income level and widely disseminate the results of such  
24 research to appropriate public and private audiences in the  
25 state. Such research shall emphasize methods to improve the  
26 planning, design, and production of affordable housing,  
27 including, but not limited to, the financial, maintenance,  
28 management, and regulatory aspects of residential development.

29 (b) Provide public services to local, regional, and  
30 state agencies, units of government, and authorities by  
31 helping them create regulatory climates that are amenable to

1 the introduction of affordable housing within their  
2 jurisdictions.

3 (c) Conduct special research relating to firesafety.

4 (d) Provide a focus for the teaching of new technology  
5 and skills relating to affordable housing in the state.

6 (e) Develop a base of informational and financial  
7 support from the private sector for the activities of the  
8 center.

9 (f) Develop prototypes for both multifamily and  
10 single-family units.

11 (g) Establish a research agenda and general work plan  
12 in cooperation with the Department of Community Affairs which  
13 is the state agency responsible for research and planning for  
14 affordable housing and for training and technical assistance  
15 for providers of affordable housing.

16 (h) Submit a report to the Governor, the President of  
17 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by  
18 January 1 of each year. The annual report shall include  
19 information relating to the activities of the center,  
20 including collaborative efforts with public and private  
21 entities, affordable housing models, and any other findings  
22 and recommendations related to the production of safe, decent,  
23 and affordable housing.

24 (2) The Director of the Multidisciplinary Center for  
25 Affordable Housing shall be appointed by the Dean of the  
26 College of Architecture of the University of Florida.

27 Section 194. Section 1004.47, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1004.47 Research activities relating to solid and  
30 hazardous waste management.--Research, training, and service  
31 activities related to solid and hazardous waste management

1 conducted by state universities shall be coordinated by the  
2 State Board of Education. Proposals for research contracts and  
3 grants; public service assignments; and responses to requests  
4 for information and technical assistance by state and local  
5 government, business, and industry shall be addressed by a  
6 formal Type I Center process involving an advisory board of  
7 university personnel appointed by the Commissioner of  
8 Education and chaired and directed by an individual appointed  
9 by the Commissioner of Education. The State Board of Education  
10 shall consult with the Department of Environmental Protection  
11 in developing the research programs and provide the department  
12 with a copy of the proposed research program for review and  
13 comment before the research is undertaken. Research contracts  
14 shall be awarded to independent nonprofit colleges and  
15 universities within the state which are accredited by the  
16 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools on the same basis  
17 as those research contracts awarded to the state universities.  
18 Research activities shall include, but are not limited to, the  
19 following areas:

20 (1) Methods and processes for recycling solid and  
21 hazardous waste.

22 (2) Methods of treatment for detoxifying hazardous  
23 waste.

24 (3) Technologies for disposing of solid and hazardous  
25 waste.

26 Section 195. Section 1004.48, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1004.48 Research protocols to determine most  
29 appropriate pollutant dispersal agents.--The Center for Solid  
30 and Hazardous Waste Management shall coordinate the research  
31 protocols for projects to determine the most appropriate

1 dispersal agents that can be used in an environmentally safe  
2 manner in Florida waters as part of a pollutant cleanup  
3 activity. Such research shall be used by the Department of  
4 Environmental Protection in approving the use of such agents  
5 by pollutant spill cleanup contractors and others who may be  
6 required to use such agents in containing and cleaning up  
7 pollutant spills in the waters of the state.

8 Section 196. Section 1004.49, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1004.49 Florida LAKEWATCH Program.--The Florida  
11 LAKEWATCH Program is hereby created within the Department of  
12 Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Institute of Food and  
13 Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida. The  
14 purpose of the program is to provide public education and  
15 training with respect to the water quality of Florida's lakes.  
16 The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture may, in  
17 implementing the LAKEWATCH program:

18 (1) Train, supervise, and coordinate volunteers to  
19 collect water quality data from Florida's lakes.

20 (2) Compile the data collected by volunteers.

21 (3) Disseminate information to the public about the  
22 LAKEWATCH program.

23 (4) Provide or loan equipment to volunteers in the  
24 program.

25 (5) Perform other functions as may be necessary or  
26 beneficial in coordinating the LAKEWATCH program.

27  
28 Data collected and compiled shall be used to establish trends  
29 and provide general background information and shall in no  
30 instance be used in a regulatory proceeding.  
31

1           Section 197. Section 1004.50, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1004.50 Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce.--

4           (1) There is created the Institute on Urban Policy and  
5 Commerce as a Type I Institute at Florida Agricultural and  
6 Mechanical University to improve the quality of life in urban  
7 communities through research, teaching, and outreach  
8 activities.

9           (2) The major purposes of the institute are to pursue  
10 basic and applied research on urban policy issues confronting  
11 the inner-city areas and neighborhoods in the state; to  
12 influence the equitable allocation and stewardship of federal,  
13 state, and local financial resources; to train a new  
14 generation of civic leaders and university students interested  
15 in approaches to community planning and design; to assist with  
16 the planning, development, and capacity building of urban area  
17 nonprofit organizations and government agencies; to develop  
18 and maintain a database relating to inner-city areas; and to  
19 support the community development efforts of inner-city areas,  
20 neighborhood-based organizations, and municipal agencies.

21           (3) The institute shall research and recommend  
22 strategies concerning critical issues facing the underserved  
23 population in urban communities, including, but not limited  
24 to, transportation and physical infrastructure; affordable  
25 housing; tourism and commerce; environmental restoration; job  
26 development and retention; child care; public health; lifelong  
27 learning; family intervention; public safety; and community  
28 relations.

29           (4) The institute may establish regional urban centers  
30 to be located in the inner cities of St. Petersburg, Tampa,  
31 Jacksonville, Orlando, West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale,

1 Miami, Daytona Beach, and Pensacola to assist urban  
2 communities on critical economic, social, and educational  
3 problems affecting the underserved population.

4 (5) Before January 1 of each year, the institute shall  
5 submit a report of its critical findings and recommendations  
6 for the prior year to the President of the Senate, the Speaker  
7 of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate  
8 committees of the Legislature. The report shall be titled "The  
9 State of Unmet Needs in Florida's Urban Communities" and shall  
10 include, but is not limited to, a recommended list of  
11 resources that could be made available for revitalizing urban  
12 communities; significant accomplishments and activities of the  
13 institute; and recommendations concerning the expansion,  
14 improvement, or termination of the institute.

15 (6) The Governor shall submit an annual report to the  
16 Legislature on the unmet needs in the state's urban  
17 communities.

18 Section 198. Section 1004.51, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1004.51 Community and Faith-based Organizations  
21 Initiative; Community and Library Technology Access  
22 Partnership.--

23 (1) CREATION.--There is created the Community and  
24 Faith-based Organizations Initiative which shall be  
25 administered by the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at  
26 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and the  
27 Community and Library Technology Access Partnership which  
28 shall be administered by the Division of Library and  
29 Information Services of the Department of State.

30 (2) INTENT.--The purpose of the initiative is to  
31 promote community development in low-income communities

1 through partnerships with not-for-profit community and  
2 faith-based organizations. The purpose of the partnership is  
3 to encourage public libraries eligible for e-rate discounted  
4 telecommunications services to partner with community and  
5 faith-based organizations to provide technology access and  
6 training to assist other state efforts to close the digital  
7 divide.

8 (3) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.--

9 (a) Authorized activities of the initiative.--The  
10 Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida Agricultural  
11 and Mechanical University may conduct the following activities  
12 as part of the Community and Faith-based Organizations  
13 Initiative:

14 1. Create and operate training programs to enhance the  
15 professional skills of individuals in community and  
16 faith-based organizations.

17 2. Create and operate a program to select and place  
18 students and recent graduates from business and related  
19 professional schools as interns with community and faith-based  
20 organizations for a period not to exceed 1 year, and provide  
21 stipends for such interns.

22 3. Organize an annual conference for community and  
23 faith-based organizations to discuss and share information on  
24 best practices regarding issues relevant to the creation,  
25 operation, and sustainability of these organizations.

26 4. Provide funding for the development of materials  
27 for courses on topics in the area of community development,  
28 and for research on economic, operational, and policy issues  
29 relating to community development.

30 5. Provide financial assistance to community and  
31 faith-based organizations through small grants for

1 partnerships with universities and the operation of programs  
2 to build strong communities and future community development  
3 leaders. The Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida  
4 Agricultural and Mechanical University shall develop selection  
5 criteria for awarding such grants which are based on the goals  
6 of the initiative.

7  
8 The institute, to the maximum extent possible, shall leverage  
9 state funding for the initiative with any federal funding that  
10 the institute may receive to support similar community-based  
11 activities.

12 (b) Authorized activities of the partnership.--The  
13 Division of Library and Information Services of the Department  
14 of State may conduct the following activities as part of the  
15 Community and Library Technology Access Partnership:

16 1. Provide funding for e-rate eligible public  
17 libraries to provide technology access and training to  
18 community and faith-based organizations. Funding provided  
19 under this subparagraph must be for eligible public libraries  
20 in distressed communities in the state. The division shall  
21 consult with the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce to  
22 identify such communities and to develop criteria to be used  
23 in evaluating funding proposals. The division shall coordinate  
24 with the institute to ensure that, to the maximum extent  
25 possible, the division and the institute leverage their  
26 resources under the programs authorized by this section in  
27 order to focus efforts on addressing the most distressed  
28 communities in the state. The division shall include a  
29 representative of the institute on a review team to evaluate  
30 funding proposals under this subparagraph.

31

1           2. Provide a method of assessment and outcome  
2 measurement for e-rate eligible public libraries to assess  
3 progress in closing the digital divide and in training for  
4 individuals to succeed in the emerging information economy.

5           (4) ELIGIBILITY.--A community or faith-based  
6 organization receiving funding or other assistance under the  
7 Community and Faith-based Organizations Initiative or the  
8 Community Library Technology Access Partnership must be a  
9 nonprofit organization holding a current exemption from  
10 federal taxation under s. 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal  
11 Revenue Code. Funding under this section shall not be used for  
12 religious or sectarian purposes.

13           Section 199. Section 1004.52, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15           1004.52 Community computer access grant program.--

16           (1) The Legislature finds that there is a growing  
17 digital divide in the state, manifested in the fact that many  
18 youths from distressed urban communities do not possess the  
19 degree and ease of access to computers and information  
20 technologies which youths in other communities in the state  
21 possess. This disparity in access to rapidly changing and  
22 commercially significant technologies has a negative impact on  
23 the educational, workforce development, and employment  
24 competitiveness of these needy youths, and thereby impedes the  
25 economic development of the distressed urban communities in  
26 which these youths reside. Although many public libraries  
27 offer users access to computers and are increasingly making  
28 library materials available to the public through electronic  
29 means, many youths from distressed urban communities do not  
30 live near a library that has such technology and do not have  
31 computers to access Internet-based virtual libraries.

1 Neighborhood organizations, such as churches, are more likely,  
2 however, to be located in closer proximity to the homes of  
3 these youths than are educational institutions or libraries,  
4 and these youths are more likely to gain the desirable  
5 computer access at church-related or other neighborhood  
6 facilities than at other institutions. The Legislature  
7 therefore finds that a public purpose is served in enhancing  
8 the ability of youths from these communities to have access to  
9 computers and the Internet within the neighborhoods in which  
10 they reside.

11 (2) Subject to legislative appropriation, there is  
12 created the Community High-Technology Investment Partnership  
13 (CHIP) program to assist distressed urban communities in  
14 securing computers for access by youths between the ages of 5  
15 years and 18 years who reside in these communities. The  
16 program shall be administered by the Institute on Urban Policy  
17 and Commerce at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University  
18 pursuant to a performance-based contract with the Division of  
19 Library and Information Services of the Department of State.  
20 The division shall develop performance measures, standards,  
21 and sanctions for the program. Performance measures must  
22 include, but are not limited to: the number of youths  
23 obtaining access to computers purchased under this program;  
24 the number of hours computers are made available to youths;  
25 and the number of hours spent by youths on computers purchased  
26 under this program for educational purposes. The  
27 administrative costs for administration of this program cannot  
28 exceed 10 percent of the amount appropriated to the division  
29 for the program.

30 (3)(a) Under this program, neighborhood facilities,  
31 through their governing bodies, may apply to the institute for

1 grants to purchase computers that will be available for use by  
2 eligible youths who reside in the immediate vicinity of the  
3 neighborhood facility. For purposes of this program, eligible  
4 neighborhood facilities include, but are not limited to,  
5 facilities operated by:

6 1. Units of local government, including school  
7 districts.

8 2. Nonprofit, faith-based organizations, including  
9 neighborhood churches.

10 3. Nonprofit civic associations or homeowners'  
11 associations.

12 4. Nonprofit organizations, the missions of which  
13 include improving conditions for residents of distressed urban  
14 communities.

15  
16 To be eligible for funding under this program, a nonprofit  
17 organization or association must hold a current exemption from  
18 federal taxation under s. 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal  
19 Revenue Code.

20 (b) Notwithstanding the eligibility of the  
21 organizations identified in paragraph (a), the institute shall  
22 give priority consideration for funding under this program to  
23 applications submitted by neighborhood churches or by  
24 neighborhood-based, nonprofit organizations that have as a  
25 principal part of their missions the improvement of conditions  
26 for residents of the same neighborhoods in which the  
27 organizations are located. The institute also shall give  
28 priority consideration to organizations that demonstrate that  
29 they have not been awarded community enhancement or similar  
30 community support grants from state or local government on a  
31 regular basis in the past. The institute shall develop

1 weighted criteria to be used in evaluating applications from  
2 such churches or organizations. Funding under this section  
3 shall not be used for religious or sectarian purposes.

4 (4) The institute shall develop guidelines governing  
5 the administration of this program and shall establish  
6 criteria to be used in evaluating an application for funding.  
7 At a minimum, the institute must find that:

8 (a) The neighborhood that is to be served by the grant  
9 suffers from general economic distress.

10 (b) Eligible youths who reside in the vicinity of the  
11 neighborhood facility have difficulty obtaining access to a  
12 library or schools that have sufficient computers.

13 (c) The neighborhood facility has developed a detailed  
14 plan, as required under subsection (5), for:

15 1. Providing youths who reside in the vicinity of the  
16 facility with access to any computer purchased with grant  
17 funds, including evening and weekend access when libraries and  
18 schools are closed.

19 2. Promoting the maximum participation of neighborhood  
20 youths in use of any computers purchased with grant funds.

21 (5) As part of an application for funding, the  
22 neighborhood facility must submit a plan that demonstrates:

23 (a) The manner in which eligible youths who reside in  
24 the immediate vicinity of the facility will be provided with  
25 access to any computer purchased with grant funds, including  
26 access during hours when libraries and schools are closed.

27 (b) The existence of safeguards to ensure that any  
28 computer purchased with grant funds is reserved for the  
29 educational use of eligible youths who reside in the immediate  
30 vicinity of the facility and is not used to support the  
31

1 business operations of the neighborhood facility or its  
2 governing body.

3 (c) The existence, in the neighborhood facility, of  
4 telecommunications infrastructure necessary to guarantee  
5 access to the Internet through any computer purchased with  
6 grant funds.

7 (6) To the maximum extent possible, funding shall be  
8 awarded under this program in a manner designed to ensure the  
9 participation of distressed urban communities from regions  
10 throughout the state.

11 (7) The maximum amount of a grant which may be awarded  
12 to any single neighborhood facility under this program is  
13 \$25,000.

14 (8) Before the institute may allocate funds for a  
15 grant under this program, the institute and the eligible  
16 neighborhood facility must execute a grant agreement that  
17 governs the terms and conditions of the grant.

18 (9) The institute, based upon guidance from the State  
19 Technology Office and the state's Chief Information Officer,  
20 shall establish minimum requirements governing the  
21 specifications and capabilities of any computers purchased  
22 with funds awarded under this grant program.

23 Section 200. Section 1004.53, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25 1004.53 Interdisciplinary Center for Brownfield  
26 Rehabilitation Assistance.--The Center for Brownfield  
27 Rehabilitation Assistance in the Environmental Sciences and  
28 Policy Program is established in the College of Arts and  
29 Sciences at the University of South Florida with the  
30 collaboration of other related disciplines such as business  
31 administration, environmental science, and medicine. The

1 center shall work in conjunction with other state  
2 universities. The Center for Brownfield Rehabilitation  
3 Assistance shall:  
4       (1) Conduct research relating to problems and  
5 solutions associated with rehabilitation and restoration of  
6 brownfield areas as defined in s. 376.79. The research must  
7 include identifying innovative solutions to removing  
8 contamination from brownfield sites to reduce the threats to  
9 drinking water supplies and other potential public health  
10 threats from contaminated sites.  
11       (2) Provide public service to local, regional, and  
12 state agencies, units of government, and authorities by  
13 helping them to create workable mechanisms, partnerships with  
14 public and private sectors, and other techniques for  
15 rehabilitating brownfield areas.  
16       (3) Conduct special research relating to risk-based  
17 corrective actions for rehabilitation of brownfield areas.  
18       (4) Develop a base of informational and financial  
19 support from the private sector for the activities of the  
20 center.  
21       Section 201. Section 1004.54, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:  
23       1004.54 Learning Development and Evaluation Center.--  
24       (1) For the purpose of providing academic support for  
25 learning disabled students, the verbal communications  
26 laboratory at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University  
27 is established as the Learning Development and Evaluation  
28 Center. The university shall provide housing, equipment, and  
29 utilities for the center.  
30       (2) The primary objective of the center shall be to  
31 provide learning disabled students with accessibility to

1 learning by providing a program for building student  
2 self-acceptance, self-esteem, and faculty acceptance. The  
3 program shall also provide for diagnosing and clarifying the  
4 nature of the disability and for identifying strategies that  
5 can be used to enhance learning. Services shall include:  
6       (a) Problem identification.  
7       (b) Diagnostic evaluation, including neurological,  
8 psychological, speech, and hearing diagnoses.  
9       (c) Training, including tutoring and study.  
10       (d) Academic, psychological, social, and career  
11 counseling.  
12       (e) Followup.  
13       (f) Maintenance of academic course requirements with  
14 provision for support services to identified students.  
15       (g) Modifications of methods of reaching course  
16 requirements which do not detract from the course purpose.  
17       (3) Participants in the program shall be students with  
18 specific learning disabilities who meet eligibility criteria  
19 as defined by Rule 6A-6.03018.  
20       (4) An outreach component shall be established which  
21 shall include:  
22           (a) Notifying secondary schools, community colleges,  
23 career education centers, and community agencies of the  
24 program.  
25           (b) Working with community colleges, technical  
26 centers, and community agencies to identify students who may  
27 benefit from the program.  
28           (c) Providing secondary schools, community colleges,  
29 technical centers, and community agencies with a description  
30 of methods used by the program for identification of students  
31 who have learning disabilities.

1           ~~(d)~~ Providing secondary schools, community colleges,  
2 technical centers, and community agencies with a description  
3 of program services and the support services available.

4           ~~(e)~~ Providing on-campus and off-campus activities for  
5 students, administrators, faculty, and staff to enhance  
6 learning of the disabled secondary students.

7           ~~(f)~~ Providing training for school district personnel  
8 to enable them to develop a better understanding of the needs  
9 of learning disabled students.

10           ~~(g)~~ Designing, developing, and implementing, in  
11 cooperation with Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
12 University, public school districts, community colleges, and  
13 technical centers within the Department of Education, model  
14 programs for the learning disabled student.

15           ~~(h)~~ Providing assistance to community colleges and  
16 state universities in designing, developing, and evaluating  
17 model programs for learning disabled students.

18           ~~(i)~~ Establishing a procedure for the annual review and  
19 update of model programs developed for the learning disabled.

20           ~~(j)~~ Providing precollegiate residential experiences.

21           ~~(5)~~ On or before November 1, the president of the  
22 university shall submit to the State Board of Education and  
23 the Legislature a report on program effectiveness, which  
24 report shall include:

25           ~~(a)~~ The number of students participating in the  
26 program.

27           ~~(b)~~ An ongoing analysis of overall student performance  
28 as a result of participation in the program.

29           ~~(c)~~ A description of the methods used in identifying  
30 students with learning disabilities.

31

1           (d) A description of methods and materials prescribed  
 2 to meet the specific learning needs of each participant.

3           (e) The number and types of disabilities of students  
 4 in the program.

5           (f) How the program accomplished its objectives.

6           (g) Procedures used to counsel and advise students  
 7 that would build self-acceptance and enhance learning.

8           (h) Procedures for promoting faculty acceptance of the  
 9 program and its participants.

10           (i) A detailed description of each program objective  
 11 and the results.

12           (j) Projections of future participation by learning  
 13 disabled students based on enrollment, queries, and program  
 14 results.

15           (k) The number of postsecondary and secondary students  
 16 participating in the program and the type of service provided.

17           (6) Funding of this program shall be provided for in  
 18 the General Appropriations Act.

19           Section 202. Section 1004.55, Florida Statutes, is  
 20 created to read:

21           1004.55 Regional autism centers.--

22           (1) Six regional autism centers are established to  
 23 provide nonresidential resource and training services for  
 24 persons of all ages and of all levels of intellectual  
 25 functioning who have autism, as defined in s. 393.063; who  
 26 have a pervasive developmental disorder that is not otherwise  
 27 specified; who have an autistic-like disability; who have a  
 28 dual sensory impairment; or who have a sensory impairment with  
 29 other handicapping conditions. Each center shall be  
 30 operationally and fiscally independent and shall provide  
 31 services within its geographical region of the state. Each

1 center shall coordinate services within and between state and  
2 local agencies and school districts but may not duplicate  
3 services provided by those agencies or school districts. The  
4 respective locations and service areas of the centers are:

5 (a) The Department of Communication Disorders at  
6 Florida State University, which serves Bay, Calhoun, Escambia,  
7 Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon,  
8 Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla,  
9 Walton, and Washington Counties.

10 (b) The College of Medicine at the University of  
11 Florida, which serves Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia,  
12 Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Levy, Marion,  
13 Putnam, Suwannee, and Union Counties.

14 (c) The University of Florida Health Science Center at  
15 Jacksonville, which serves Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler,  
16 Nassau, and St. Johns Counties.

17 (d) The Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health  
18 Institute at the University of South Florida, which serves  
19 Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands,  
20 Hillsborough, Indian River, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Okeechobee,  
21 Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, St. Lucie, and Sarasota Counties.

22 (e) The Mailman Center for Child Development at the  
23 University of Miami, which serves Broward, Dade, Monroe, and  
24 Palm Beach Counties.

25 (f) The College of Health and Public Affairs at the  
26 University of Central Florida, which serves Brevard, Lake,  
27 Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia Counties.

28 (2) There is established for each center a  
29 constituency board, which shall work collaboratively with the  
30 center. Each board shall consist of no fewer than six  
31 members, each of whom is either an individual who has a

1 disability that is described in subsection (1) or is a member  
2 of a family that includes a person who has such a disability,  
3 who are selected by each university president from a list that  
4 has been developed by the Autism Society of Florida and other  
5 relevant constituency groups that represent persons who have  
6 sensory impairments as described in subsection (1). As  
7 representatives of the center's constituencies, these boards  
8 shall meet quarterly with the staff of each of the centers to  
9 provide advice on policies, priorities, and activities. Each  
10 board shall submit to the university president and to the  
11 Department of Education an annual report that evaluates the  
12 activities and accomplishments of its center during the year.

13 (3) To promote statewide planning and coordination, a  
14 conference must be held annually for staff from each of the  
15 five centers and representatives from each center's  
16 constituency board. The purpose of the conference is to  
17 facilitate coordination, networking, cross-training, and  
18 feedback among the staffs and constituency boards of the  
19 centers.

20 (4) Each center shall provide:

21 (a) A staff that has expertise in autism and  
22 autistic-like behaviors and in sensory impairments.

23 (b) Individual and direct family assistance in the  
24 home, community, and school. A center's assistance should not  
25 supplant other responsibilities of state and local agencies,  
26 and each school district is responsible for providing an  
27 appropriate education program for clients of a center who are  
28 school age.

29 (c) Technical assistance and consultation services,  
30 including specific intervention and assistance for a client of  
31

1 the center, the client's family, and the school district, and  
2 any other services that are appropriate.

3 (d) Professional training programs that include  
4 developing, providing, and evaluating preservice and inservice  
5 training in state-of-the-art practices for personnel who work  
6 with the populations served by the centers and their families.

7 (e) Public education programs to increase awareness of  
8 the public about autism, autistic-related disabilities of  
9 communication and behavior, dual sensory impairments, and  
10 sensory impairments with other handicapping conditions.

11 (5) The State Board of Education, in cooperation with  
12 the regional autism centers, shall adopt the necessary rules  
13 to carry out the purposes of this section.

14 Section 203. Section 1004.56, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 1004.56 Florida Museum of Natural History;  
17 functions.--

18 (1) The functions of the Florida Museum of Natural  
19 History, located at the University of Florida, are to make  
20 scientific investigations toward the sustained development of  
21 natural resources and a greater appreciation of human cultural  
22 heritage, including, but not limited to, biological surveys,  
23 ecological studies, environmental impact assessments, in-depth  
24 archaeological research, and ethnological analyses, and to  
25 collect and maintain a depository of biological,  
26 archaeological, and ethnographic specimens and materials in  
27 sufficient numbers and quantities to provide within the state  
28 and region a base for research on the variety, evolution, and  
29 conservation of wild species; the composition, distribution,  
30 importance, and functioning of natural ecosystems; and the  
31 distribution of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites

1 and an understanding of the aboriginal and early European  
2 cultures that occupied them. State institutions, departments,  
3 and agencies may deposit type collections from archaeological  
4 sites in the museum, and it shall be the duty of each state  
5 institution, department, and agency to cooperate by depositing  
6 in the museum voucher and type biological specimens collected  
7 as part of the normal research and monitoring duties of its  
8 staff and to transfer to the museum those biological specimens  
9 and collections in its possession but not actively being  
10 curated or used in the research or teaching of that  
11 institution, department, or agency. The Florida Museum of  
12 Natural History is empowered to accept, preserve, maintain, or  
13 dispose of these specimens and materials in a manner which  
14 makes each collection and its accompanying data available for  
15 research and use by the staff of the museum and by cooperating  
16 institutions, departments, agencies, and qualified independent  
17 researchers. The biological, archaeological, and ethnographic  
18 collections shall belong to the state with the title vested in  
19 the Florida Museum of Natural History, except as provided in  
20 s. 267.12(3). In collecting or otherwise acquiring these  
21 collections, the museum shall comply with pertinent state  
22 wildlife, archaeological, and agricultural laws and rules.  
23 However, all collecting, quarantine, and accreditation permits  
24 issued by other institutions, departments, and agencies shall  
25 be granted routinely for said museum research study or  
26 collecting effort on state lands or within state jurisdiction  
27 which does not pose a significant threat to the survival of  
28 endangered wild species, habitats, or ecosystems. In  
29 addition, the museum shall develop exhibitions and conduct  
30 programs which illustrate, interpret, and explain the natural  
31 history of the state and region and shall maintain a library

1 of publications pertaining to the work as herein provided.  
2 The exhibitions, collections, and library of the museum shall  
3 be open, free to the public, under suitable rules to be  
4 promulgated by the director of the museum and approved by the  
5 University of Florida.

6 (2) Any gifts, transfers, bequests, or other  
7 conveyances made to the Florida State Museum are deemed to  
8 have been made to the Florida Museum of Natural History.

9 Section 204. Section 1004.57, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11 1004.57 Vertebrate paleontological sites and remains;  
12 legislative intent and state policy.--

13 (1) It is the declared intention of the Legislature  
14 that vertebrate paleontological sites be protected and  
15 preserved and that, pursuant thereto, vertebrate  
16 paleontological field investigation activities, including, but  
17 not limited to, collection, excavation, salvage, restoration,  
18 and cataloging of fossils, be discouraged except when such  
19 activities are carried on in accordance with both the  
20 provisions and the spirit of this act. However, it is not the  
21 intention of the Legislature that the provisions of this act  
22 impede mining or quarrying for rock, gravel, fill, phosphate,  
23 and other minerals, or the construction of canals or similar  
24 excavations, when such activities are permitted by law.  
25 Rather, it is the intent of the Legislature that mine and  
26 heavy equipment operators be encouraged to cooperate with the  
27 state in preserving its vertebrate paleontological heritage  
28 and vertebrate fossils by notifying the Florida Museum of  
29 Natural History whenever vertebrate fossils are discovered  
30 during mining or digging operations and by allowing such  
31 fossils to be properly salvaged and that persons having

1 knowledge of vertebrate paleontological sites be encouraged to  
2 communicate such information to the museum.

3 (2) It is hereby declared to be the public policy of  
4 this state to protect and preserve vertebrate paleontological  
5 sites containing vertebrate fossils, including bones, teeth,  
6 natural casts, molds, impressions, and other remains of  
7 prehistoric fauna, and to provide for the collection,  
8 acquisition, and study of the vertebrate fossils of the state  
9 which offer documentation of the diversity of life on this  
10 planet.

11 (3) It is further declared to be the public policy of  
12 the state that all vertebrate fossils found on state-owned  
13 lands, including submerged lands and uplands, belong to the  
14 state with title to the fossils vested in the Florida Museum  
15 of Natural History for the purpose of administration of this  
16 section and ss. 1004.575-1004.577.

17 Section 205. Section 1004.575, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1004.575 Program of vertebrate paleontology within  
20 Florida Museum of Natural History.--There is established  
21 within the Florida Museum of Natural History a program of  
22 vertebrate paleontology, which program has the following  
23 responsibilities:

24 (1) Encouraging the study of the vertebrate fossils  
25 and vertebrate paleontological heritage of the state and  
26 providing exhibits and other educational materials on the  
27 vertebrate fauna to the universities and schools of the state.

28 (2) Developing a statewide plan, to be submitted to  
29 the director of the Florida Museum of Natural History, for  
30 preserving the vertebrate paleontological resources of the  
31 state in a manner which is consistent with the state policies

1 in s. 1004.57 and which will not unduly hamper development in  
2 this state, including mining and excavating operations.

3 (3) Locating, surveying, acquiring, collecting,  
4 salvaging, conserving, and restoring vertebrate fossils;  
5 conducting research on the history and systematics of the  
6 fossil fauna of the state; and maintaining the official state  
7 depository of vertebrate fossils.

8 (4) Locating, surveying, acquiring, excavating, and  
9 operating vertebrate paleontological sites and properties  
10 containing vertebrate fossils, which sites and properties have  
11 great significance to the scientific study of such vertebrate  
12 fossils or to public representation of the faunal heritage of  
13 the state.

14 (5) Enlisting the aid of professional vertebrate  
15 paleontologists, mine and quarry operators, heavy digging  
16 equipment operators, and qualified amateurs in carrying out  
17 the provisions of subsections (1)-(4), and authorizing their  
18 active support and cooperation by issuing permits to them as  
19 provided in s. 1004.576.

20 (6) Cooperating and coordinating activities with the  
21 Department of Environmental Protection under the provisions of  
22 ss. 375.021 and 375.031 and the Department of State under  
23 chapter 267 in the acquisition, preservation, and operation of  
24 significant vertebrate paleontological sites and properties of  
25 great and continuing scientific value, so that such sites and  
26 properties may be utilized to conserve the faunal heritage of  
27 this state and to promote an appreciation of that heritage.

28 (7) Designating areas as "state vertebrate  
29 paleontological sites" pursuant to the provisions of this  
30 section, which areas are of great and continuing significance  
31 to the scientific study and public understanding of the faunal

1 history of the state. However, no privately owned site or  
2 grouping of sites shall be so designated without the express  
3 written consent of the private owner of the site or group of  
4 sites. Upon designation of a state vertebrate paleontological  
5 site, the owners and occupants of such site shall be given  
6 written notification of such designation by the program. Once  
7 such site has been so designated, no person may conduct  
8 paleontological field investigation activities on the site  
9 without first securing a permit for such activities as  
10 provided in s. 1004.576.

11 (8) Arranging for the disposition of the vertebrate  
12 fossils by accredited institutions and for the temporary or  
13 permanent loan of such fossils for the purpose of further  
14 scientific study, interpretative display, and curatorial  
15 responsibilities by such institutions.

16 Section 206. Section 1004.576, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18 1004.576 Destruction, purchase, and sale of vertebrate  
19 fossils prohibited, exceptions; field investigation permits  
20 required; penalty for violation.--

21 (1) The destruction, defacement, purchase, and sale of  
22 vertebrate fossils found on or under land owned or leased by  
23 the state and on land in state-designated vertebrate  
24 paleontological sites are prohibited, except that the Florida  
25 Museum of Natural History may sell vertebrate fossils and may  
26 adopt rules defining "nonessential vertebrate fossils" and  
27 prescribing the conditions under which such fossils may be  
28 sold or otherwise disposed of by a person holding a permit  
29 issued by the Florida Museum of Natural History. Field  
30 investigations of vertebrate fossils, including, but not  
31 limited to, the systematic collection, acquisition,

1 excavation, salvage, exhumation, or restoration of such  
2 fossils, are prohibited on all lands owned or leased by the  
3 state and on lands in state-designated vertebrate  
4 paleontological sites, unless such activities are conducted  
5 under the authority of permits issued by the Florida Museum of  
6 Natural History. A permit may be granted by the Florida  
7 Museum of Natural History upon application for the permit  
8 accompanied by an application fee not to exceed \$5. The  
9 privileges authorized pursuant to the grant of a permit as  
10 provided in this subsection may not be assigned or sublet to  
11 any other party.

12 (2) Any person who, in violation of this section,  
13 engages in any of the activities described in subsection (1)  
14 without first having obtained a permit to engage in such  
15 activity commits a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to  
16 exceed \$500 or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period  
17 not to exceed 6 months, or both; and, in addition, he or she  
18 shall forfeit to the state all specimens, objects, and  
19 materials collected and excavated in violation of this  
20 section, together with all photographs and records relating to  
21 such materials.

22 (3) The Florida Museum of Natural History may  
23 institute a civil action in the appropriate circuit court for  
24 recovery of any unlawfully taken vertebrate fossil. The  
25 fossil shall be forfeited to the state if the Florida Museum  
26 of Natural History shows by the greater weight of the evidence  
27 that the fossil has been taken from a particular site within  
28 this state and that the person found in possession of the  
29 fossil is not authorized by law to possess such fossil.

30 Section 207. Section 1004.577, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1004.577 Certain rights of mine or quarry operators  
2 and dragline or heavy equipment operators preserved.--Nothing  
3 in ss. 1004.57-1004.576 shall infringe upon the right of a  
4 legitimate mine or quarry operator to extract rock, gravel,  
5 fill, phosphate, or other minerals or infringe upon the right  
6 of a legitimate operator of draglines or similar heavy  
7 dredging, trenching, or digging equipment to construct  
8 drainage canals or other excavations because of the actual or  
9 potential destruction of vertebrate fossils.

10           Section 208. Section 1004.58, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12           1004.58 Leadership Board for Applied Research and  
13 Public Service.--

14           (1) There is created the Leadership Board for Applied  
15 Research and Public Service to be staffed by the Institute of  
16 Science and Public Affairs at Florida State University. The  
17 purpose of the board is to focus, coordinate, and maximize  
18 university resources on current issues and events affecting  
19 Florida's residents and elected officials. Emphasis shall be  
20 placed on being responsive to and providing accurate, timely,  
21 useful, and relevant information to decisionmakers in state  
22 and local governments. The board shall set forth a process to  
23 provide comprehensive guidance and advice for improving the  
24 types and quality of services to be delivered by the state  
25 universities. Specifically, the board shall better identify  
26 and define the missions and roles of existing institutes and  
27 centers at each state university, work to eliminate  
28 duplication and confusion over conflicting roles and missions,  
29 involve more students in learning with applied research and  
30 public service activities, and be organizationally separate  
31 from academic departments. The board shall meet at least

1 quarterly. The board may create internal management councils  
2 that may include working institute and center directors. The  
3 board is responsible for, but is not limited to:  
4 (a) Providing strategic direction, planning, and  
5 accompanying decisions that support a coordinated applied  
6 public service and research approach in the state.  
7 (b) Addressing state university policy matters and  
8 making recommendations to the State Board of Education as they  
9 relate to applied public service and research.  
10 (c) Serving as a clearinghouse for services requested  
11 by public officials.  
12 (d) Providing support for funding and fiscal  
13 initiatives involving applied public service and research.  
14 (2) Membership of the board shall be:  
15 (a) The Commissioner of Education, or the  
16 commissioner's designee, who shall serve as chair.  
17 (b) The director of the Office of Planning and  
18 Budgeting of the Executive Office of the Governor.  
19 (c) The secretary of the Department of Management  
20 Services.  
21 (d) The director of Economic and Demographic Research.  
22 (e) The director of the Office of Program Policy  
23 Analysis and Government Accountability.  
24 (f) The President of the Florida League of Cities.  
25 (g) The President for the Florida Association of  
26 Counties.  
27 (h) The President of the Florida School Board  
28 Association.  
29 (i) Five additional university president members,  
30 designated by the commissioner, to rotate annually.  
31

1           (3) The board shall prepare a report for the State  
2 Board of Education to be submitted to the Governor and the  
3 Legislature by January 1 of each year which summarizes the  
4 work and recommendations of the board in meeting its purpose  
5 and mission.

6           Section 209. Section 1004.59, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8           1004.59 Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium.--It is  
9 the intent of the Legislature to reduce the public and private  
10 costs of litigation; resolve public disputes, including those  
11 related to growth management issues, more quickly and  
12 effectively; and improve intergovernmental communications,  
13 cooperation, and consensus building. The Legislature hereby  
14 formally establishes the Florida Conflict Resolution  
15 Consortium as a statewide center based at Florida State  
16 University, or at another campus as may be designated by the  
17 Commissioner of Education. The purpose of the consortium is  
18 to serve as a neutral resource to assist citizens and public  
19 and private interests in Florida to seek cost-effective  
20 solutions to public disputes and problems through the use of  
21 alternative dispute resolution and consensus building.

22           Section 210. Section 1004.60, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24           1004.60 Research of Rosewood incident.--State  
25 universities shall continue the research of the Rosewood  
26 incident and the history of race relations in Florida and  
27 develop materials for the educational instruction of these  
28 events.

29           Section 211. Section 1004.61, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31

1           1004.61 Partnerships to develop child protection  
2 workers.--The Department of Children and Family Services is  
3 directed to form partnerships with the schools of social work  
4 of the state universities in order to encourage the  
5 development of graduates trained to work in child protection.  
6 The department shall give hiring preferences for child  
7 protection jobs to graduates who have earned bachelor's and  
8 master's degrees from these programs with a concentration in  
9 child protection. The partnership between the Department of  
10 Children and Family Services and the schools of social work  
11 shall include, but not be limited to, modifying existing  
12 graduate and undergraduate social work curricula, providing  
13 field placements for students into child protection  
14 internships in the department, and collaborating in the design  
15 and delivery of advanced levels of social work practice.

16           Section 212. Section 1004.62, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18           1004.62 Incentives for urban or socially and  
19 economically disadvantaged area internships.--The Legislature  
20 establishes incentives for urban or socially and economically  
21 disadvantaged area internships to give university students the  
22 opportunity to study the social, economic, educational, and  
23 political life of inner cities in metropolitan or socially and  
24 economically disadvantaged areas of the state. The incentives  
25 are for internships that are open to students in all  
26 disciplines, including business, education, physical science,  
27 social science, the liberal arts, and the fine arts.  
28 Incentives may be given to any state university. Incentives  
29 must be for one semester's duration, or more, in which an  
30 intern may earn up to 12 hours of credit for the internship.  
31 Student interns must work in teams to address a specific urban

1 or socially and economically disadvantaged area social problem  
2 or carry out an urban or socially and economically  
3 disadvantaged area social program. The results of each team's  
4 work must be published in a report and distributed to the  
5 colleges of education at each state university.

6 Section 213. Part III of chapter 1004, Florida  
7 Statutes, shall be entitled "Community Colleges" and shall  
8 consist of ss. 1004.65-1004.81.

9 Section 214. Part III.a. of chapter 1004, Florida  
10 Statutes, shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall  
11 consist of ss. 1004.65-1004.726.

12 Section 215. Section 1004.65, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14 1004.65 Community colleges; definition, mission, and  
15 responsibilities.--

16 (1) Community colleges shall consist of all public  
17 educational institutions operated by community college  
18 district boards of trustees under statutory authority and  
19 rules of the State Board of Education.

20 (2) Each community college district authorized by law  
21 and the Department of Education is an independent, separate,  
22 legal entity created for the operation of a community college.

23 (3) A community college may provide adult education  
24 services, including adult basic education, adult general  
25 education, adult secondary education, and general educational  
26 development test instruction.

27 (4) The community colleges are locally based and  
28 governed entities with statutory and funding ties to state  
29 government. As such, the community colleges' mission reflects  
30 a commitment to be responsive to local educational needs and  
31 challenges. In achieving this mission, the community colleges

1 strive to maintain sufficient local authority and flexibility  
2 while preserving appropriate legal accountability to the  
3 state.

4 (5) As comprehensive institutions, the community  
5 colleges shall provide high-quality, affordable education and  
6 training opportunities, shall foster a climate of excellence,  
7 and shall provide opportunities to all while combining high  
8 standards with an open-door admission policy. The community  
9 colleges shall, as open-access institutions, serve all who can  
10 benefit, without regard to age, race, gender, creed, or ethnic  
11 or economic background, while emphasizing the achievement of  
12 social and educational equity so that all can be prepared for  
13 full participation in society.

14 (6) The primary mission and responsibility of  
15 community colleges is responding to community needs for  
16 postsecondary academic education and technical degree  
17 education. This mission and responsibility includes being  
18 responsible for:

19 (a) Providing lower level undergraduate instruction  
20 and awarding associate degrees.

21 (b) Preparing students directly for vocations  
22 requiring less than baccalaureate degrees. This may include  
23 preparing for job entry, supplementing of skills and  
24 knowledge, and responding to needs in new areas of technology.  
25 Career and technical education in the community college shall  
26 consist of technical certificates, credit courses leading to  
27 associate in science degrees and associate in applied science  
28 degrees, and other programs in fields requiring substantial  
29 academic work, background, or qualifications. A community  
30 college may offer career and technical education programs in  
31 fields having lesser academic or technical requirements.

1           ~~(c) Providing student development services, including~~  
2 assessment, student tracking, support for disabled students,  
3 advisement, counseling, financial aid, career development, and  
4 remedial and tutorial services, to ensure student success.

5           ~~(d) Promoting economic development for the state~~  
6 within each community college district through the provision  
7 of special programs, including, but not limited to, the:

8           1. Enterprise Florida-related programs.

9           2. Technology transfer centers.

10          3. Economic development centers.

11          4. Workforce literacy programs.

12          ~~(e) Providing dual enrollment instruction.~~

13          ~~(7) A separate and secondary role for community~~  
14 colleges includes:

15          ~~(a) Providing upper level instruction and awarding~~  
16 baccalaureate degrees as specifically authorized by law.

17          ~~(b) The offering of programs in:~~

18           1. Community services that are not directly related to  
19 academic or occupational advancement.

20           2. Adult general education.

21           3. Recreational and leisure services.

22          ~~(8) Funding for community colleges shall reflect their~~  
23 mission as follows:

24          ~~(a) Postsecondary academic and career and technical~~  
25 education programs and adult general education programs shall  
26 have first priority in community college funding.

27          ~~(b) Community service programs shall be presented to~~  
28 the Legislature with rationale for state funding. The  
29 Legislature may identify priority areas for use of these  
30 funds.

31

1           (9) Community colleges are authorized to offer such  
2 programs and courses as are necessary to fulfill their mission  
3 and are authorized to grant associate in arts degrees,  
4 associate in science degrees, associate in applied science  
5 degrees, certificates, awards, and diplomas. Each community  
6 college is also authorized to make provisions for the general  
7 educational development test. Each community college may  
8 provide access to baccalaureate degrees in accordance with  
9 law.

10           Section 216. Section 1004.66, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12           1004.66 "Community college" and "junior college" used  
13 interchangeably.--Whenever the terms "community college" and  
14 "junior college" appear in the Florida Statutes in reference  
15 to a tax-supported institution, they shall be construed  
16 identically.

17           Section 217. Section 1004.67, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19           1004.67 Community colleges; legislative intent.--It is  
20 the legislative intent that community colleges, constituted as  
21 political subdivisions of the state, continue to be operated  
22 by community college boards of trustees as provided in s.  
23 1001.63 and that no department, bureau, division, agency, or  
24 subdivision of the state exercise any responsibility and  
25 authority to operate any community college of the state except  
26 as specifically provided by law or rules of the State Board of  
27 Education.

28           Section 218. Section 1004.68, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30           1004.68 Community college; degrees and certificates;  
31 tests for certain skills.--

1       (1) Each community college board of trustees shall  
2 adopt rules establishing student performance standards for the  
3 award of degrees and certificates.

4       (2) Each community college board of trustees shall  
5 require the use of scores on tests for college-level  
6 communication and computation skills provided in s.  
7 1008.345(8) as a condition for graduation with an associate in  
8 arts degree.

9           Section 219. Section 1004.70, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11       1004.70 Community college direct-support  
12 organizations.--

13       (1) DEFINITIONS.--For the purposes of this section:

14       (a) "Community college direct-support organization"  
15 means an organization that is:

16       1. A Florida corporation not for profit, incorporated  
17 under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved by the  
18 Department of State.

19       2. Organized and operated exclusively to receive,  
20 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures  
21 to, or for the benefit of, a community college in this state.

22       3. An organization that the community college board of  
23 trustees, after review, has certified to be operating in a  
24 manner consistent with the goals of the community college and  
25 in the best interest of the state. Any organization that is  
26 denied certification by the board of trustees may not use the  
27 name of the community college that it serves.

28       (b) "Personal services" includes full-time or  
29 part-time personnel as well as payroll processing.

30       (2) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.--The chair of the board of  
31 trustees shall appoint a representative to the board of

1 directors and the executive committee of each direct-support  
2 organization established under this section, including those  
3 established before July 1, 1998. The president of the  
4 community college for which the direct-support organization is  
5 established, or the president's designee, shall also serve on  
6 the board of directors and the executive committee of the  
7 direct-support organization, including any direct-support  
8 organization established before July 1, 1998.

9 (3) USE OF PROPERTY.--

10 (a) The board of trustees is authorized to permit the  
11 use of property, facilities, and personal services at any  
12 community college by any community college direct-support  
13 organization, subject to the provisions of this section.

14 (b) The board of trustees is authorized to prescribe  
15 by rule any condition with which a community college  
16 direct-support organization must comply in order to use  
17 property, facilities, or personal services at any community  
18 college.

19 (c) The board of trustees may not permit the use of  
20 property, facilities, or personal services at any community  
21 college by any community college direct-support organization  
22 that does not provide equal employment opportunities to all  
23 persons regardless of race, color, national origin, gender,  
24 age, or religion.

25 (4) ACTIVITIES; RESTRICTIONS.--

26 (a) A direct-support organization may, at the request  
27 of the board of trustees, provide residency opportunities on  
28 or near campus for students.

29 (b) A direct-support organization that constructs  
30 facilities for use by a community college or its students must  
31 comply with all requirements of law relating to the

1 construction of facilities by a community college, including  
2 requirements for competitive bidding.

3 (c) Any transaction or agreement between one  
4 direct-support organization and another direct-support  
5 organization or between a direct-support organization and a  
6 center of technology innovation designated under s. 1004.77  
7 must be approved by the board of trustees.

8 (d) A community college direct-support organization is  
9 prohibited from giving, either directly or indirectly, any  
10 gift to a political committee or committee of continuous  
11 existence as defined in s. 106.011 for any purpose other than  
12 those certified by a majority roll call vote of the governing  
13 board of the direct-support organization at a regularly  
14 scheduled meeting as being directly related to the educational  
15 mission of the community college.

16 (5) ANNUAL BUDGETS AND REPORTS.--Each direct-support  
17 organization shall submit to the board of trustees its federal  
18 Internal Revenue Service Application for Recognition of  
19 Exemption form (Form 1023) and its federal Internal Revenue  
20 Service Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax form  
21 (Form 990).

22 (6) ANNUAL AUDIT.--Each direct-support organization  
23 shall provide for an annual financial audit in accordance with  
24 rules adopted by the Auditor General pursuant to s. 11.45(8).  
25 The annual audit report must be submitted, within 9 months  
26 after the end of the fiscal year, to the Auditor General, the  
27 State Board of Education, and the board of trustees for  
28 review. The board of trustees, the Auditor General, and the  
29 Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government  
30 Accountability may require and receive from the organization  
31 or from its independent auditor any detail or supplemental

1 data relative to the operation of the organization. The  
 2 identity of donors who desire to remain anonymous shall be  
 3 protected, and that anonymity shall be maintained in the  
 4 auditor's report. All records of the organization, other than  
 5 the auditor's report, any information necessary for the  
 6 auditor's report, any information related to the expenditure  
 7 of funds, and any supplemental data requested by the board of  
 8 trustees, the Auditor General, and the Office of Program  
 9 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, shall be  
 10 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

11 Section 220. Section 1004.71, Florida Statutes, is  
 12 created to read:

13 1004.71 Statewide community college direct-support  
 14 organizations.--

15 (1) DEFINITIONS.--For the purposes of this section:

16 (a) "Statewide community college direct-support  
 17 organization" means an organization that is:

18 1. A Florida corporation not for profit, incorporated  
 19 under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved by the  
 20 Department of State.

21 2. Organized and operated exclusively to receive,  
 22 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures  
 23 to, or for the benefit of, the community colleges in this  
 24 state.

25 3. An organization that the State Board of Education,  
 26 after review, has certified to be operating in a manner  
 27 consistent with the goals of the community colleges and in the  
 28 best interest of the state.

29 (b) "Personal services" includes full-time or  
 30 part-time personnel as well as payroll processing.

31

1           (2) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.--The chair of the State Board  
2 of Education may appoint a representative to the board of  
3 directors and the executive committee of any statewide,  
4 direct-support organization established under this section or  
5 s. 1004.70. The chair of the State Board of Education, or the  
6 chair's designee, shall also serve on the board of directors  
7 and the executive committee of any direct-support organization  
8 established to benefit the community colleges of Florida.

9           (3) USE OF PROPERTY.--

10           (a) The State Board of Education may permit the use of  
11 property, facilities, and personal services of the Department  
12 of Education by any statewide community college direct-support  
13 organization, subject to the provisions of this section.

14           (b) The State Board of Education may prescribe by rule  
15 any condition with which a statewide community college  
16 direct-support organization must comply in order to use  
17 property, facilities, or personal services of the Department  
18 of Education.

19           (c) The State Board of Education may not permit the  
20 use of property, facilities, or personal services of the  
21 Department of Education by any statewide community college  
22 direct-support organization that does not provide equal  
23 employment opportunities to all persons regardless of race,  
24 color, national origin, gender, age, or religion.

25           (4) RESTRICTIONS.--

26           (a) A statewide, direct-support organization may not  
27 use public funds to acquire, construct, maintain, or operate  
28 any facilities.

29           (b) Any transaction or agreement between a statewide,  
30 direct-support organization and any other direct-support  
31 organization or between a statewide, direct-support

1 organization and a center of technology innovation designated  
2 under s. 1004.77 must be approved by the State Board of  
3 Education.

4 (c) A statewide community college direct-support  
5 organization is prohibited from giving, either directly or  
6 indirectly, any gift to a political committee or committee of  
7 continuous existence as defined in s. 106.011 for any purpose  
8 other than those certified by a majority roll call vote of the  
9 governing board of the direct-support organization at a  
10 regularly scheduled meeting as being directly related to the  
11 educational mission of the State Board of Education.

12 (5) ANNUAL BUDGETS AND REPORTS.--Each direct-support  
13 organization shall submit to the State Board of Education its  
14 federal Internal Revenue Service Application for Recognition  
15 of Exemption form (Form 1023) and its federal Internal Revenue  
16 Service Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax form  
17 (Form 990).

18 (6) ANNUAL AUDIT.--A statewide community college  
19 direct-support organization shall provide for an annual  
20 financial audit in accordance with s. 1004.70. The identity of  
21 a donor or prospective donor who desires to remain anonymous  
22 and all information identifying such donor or prospective  
23 donor are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.  
24 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Such  
25 anonymity shall be maintained in the auditor's report.

26 Section 221. Section 1004.725, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1004.725 Expenditures for self-insurance services;  
29 special account.--

30 (1) The community college boards of trustees, singly  
31 or collectively, are authorized to contract with an

1 administrator or service company approved by the Department of  
2 Insurance pursuant to chapter 626 to provide self-insurance  
3 services, including, but not limited to, the evaluation,  
4 settlement, and payment of self-insurance claims on behalf of  
5 the board of trustees or a consortium of boards of trustees.

6 (2) Pursuant to such a contract, a board of trustees  
7 may advance moneys to the administrator or service company to  
8 be deposited in a special account for paying claims against  
9 the board of trustees under its self-insurance program. The  
10 special account shall be maintained in a designated depository  
11 as provided by s. 136.01. The board of trustees may replenish  
12 such account as often as necessary upon the presentation by  
13 the administrator or service company of documentation for  
14 claims paid in an amount equal to the amount of the requested  
15 reimbursement. Any contract for disbursement of funds from the  
16 special account shall ensure that the payments are subject to  
17 proper disbursement controls and accounting procedures.

18 Section 222. Section 1004.726, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1004.726 Trademarks, copyrights, or patents.--Each  
21 community college board of trustees may develop and produce  
22 work products relating to educational endeavors that are  
23 subject to trademark, copyright, or patent statutes. To this  
24 end, the board of trustees shall consider the relative  
25 contribution by the personnel employed in the development of  
26 such work products and shall enter into binding agreements  
27 with such personnel, organizations, corporations, or  
28 government entities, which agreements shall establish the  
29 percentage of ownership of such trademarks, copyrights, or  
30 patents. Any other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the  
31 board of trustees may in its own name:

1       (1) Perform all things necessary to secure letters of  
2 patent, copyrights, and trademarks on any such work products  
3 and enforce its rights therein.

4       (2) License, lease, assign, or otherwise give written  
5 consent to any person, firm, or corporation for the  
6 manufacture or use of its work products on a royalty basis or  
7 for such other consideration as the board of trustees deems  
8 proper.

9       (3) Take any action necessary, including legal action,  
10 to protect its work products against improper or unlawful use  
11 of infringement.

12       (4) Enforce the collection of any sums due the board  
13 of trustees for the manufacture or use of its work products by  
14 any other party.

15       (5) Sell any of its work products and execute all  
16 instruments necessary to consummate any such sale.

17       (6) Do all other acts necessary and proper for the  
18 execution of powers and duties provided by this section.

19       Section 223. Part III.b. of chapter 1004, Florida  
20 Statutes, shall be entitled "Special Programs; Centers" and  
21 shall consist of ss. 1004.73-1004.81.

22       Section 224. Section 1004.73, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24       1004.73 St. Petersburg College.--

25       (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Legislature intends to  
26 create an innovative means to increase access to baccalaureate  
27 degree level education in populous counties that are  
28 underserved by public baccalaureate degree granting  
29 institutions. This education is intended to address the  
30 state's workforce needs, especially the need for teachers,  
31

1 nurses, and business managers in agencies and firms that  
2 require expertise in technology.

3 (2) ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE; MISSION; POLICIES.--St.  
4 Petersburg College shall immediately seek accreditation from  
5 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as a  
6 baccalaureate degree granting college.

7 (a) The primary mission of St. Petersburg College is  
8 to provide high-quality undergraduate education at an  
9 affordable price for students and the state. The purpose is to  
10 promote economic development by preparing people for  
11 occupations that require a bachelor's degree and are in demand  
12 by existing or emerging public and private employers in this  
13 state.

14 (b) St. Petersburg College shall maintain the mission  
15 and policies of a Florida community college, including the  
16 open-door admissions policy and the authority to offer all  
17 programs consistent with a community college's authority.

18 (c) St. Petersburg College shall maintain the  
19 distinction between the college and its university center. St.  
20 Petersburg College is limited to community college programs  
21 and to selected baccalaureate degree level programs that meet  
22 community needs and are authorized as provided by this  
23 section. The University Center may make available more diverse  
24 program offerings, but those programs are offered by a  
25 participating college or university and are not to be  
26 classified or funded as programs of St. Petersburg College.

27 (d) The academic policies of the upper-division  
28 program at St. Petersburg College must be in accordance with  
29 policies of the State Board of Education.

30 (e) Sections 1013.39 and 1013.82 apply to St.  
31 Petersburg College.

1           (3) STUDENTS; FEES.--

2           (a) St. Petersburg College shall maintain separate  
3 records for students who are enrolled in courses classified in  
4 the upper division and lower division of a baccalaureate  
5 program, according to the statewide course numbering system. A  
6 student shall be reported as a community college student for  
7 enrollment in a lower-division course and as a baccalaureate  
8 degree program student for enrollment in an upper-division  
9 course.

10           (b) The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College  
11 shall establish the level of tuition and other authorized  
12 student fees consistent with law and proviso in the General  
13 Appropriations Act.

14           1. For each credit hour of enrollment in a certificate  
15 level course or lower-division level college credit course,  
16 tuition and fees must be within the range authorized in law  
17 and rule for a community college student at that level.

18           2. For each credit hour of enrollment in an  
19 upper-division level course, matriculation and tuition fees  
20 must be in an amount established by the Board of Trustees of  
21 St. Petersburg College. However, fees for upper-division  
22 students must reflect the fact that the college does not incur  
23 the costs of major research programs. Therefore, the board of  
24 trustees shall establish fees for upper-division students  
25 within a range that is lower than the fees established for  
26 students at a state university but higher than the fees for  
27 community college students.

28           3. Other mandatory fees and local fees must be at the  
29 same level for all lower-division students. For upper-division  
30 students, other mandatory fees and local fees must be at a  
31 level less than fees established for University of South

1 Florida students, regardless of program enrollment or level.  
2 However, students in workforce development education courses  
3 maintain the authorized fee exemptions described in s. 1009.25  
4 and may be exempt from local fees imposed by the board of  
5 trustees, at the board's discretion.

6 (4) DEGREES.--

7 (a) In addition to the certificates, diplomas, and  
8 degrees authorized in s. 1004.65, St. Petersburg College may  
9 offer selected baccalaureate degrees. Initially, the college  
10 may offer programs that lead to a baccalaureate degree in the  
11 following fields:

12 1. Bachelor of Science in Nursing. This program must  
13 be designed to articulate with the associate in science degree  
14 in nursing. St. Petersburg College shall continue to offer the  
15 associate in science degree in nursing.

16 2. Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in  
17 Elementary Education.

18 3. Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Special  
19 Education.

20 4. Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in  
21 Secondary Education.

22 5. Bachelor of Applied Science in fields selected by  
23 the Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College. The board of  
24 trustees shall base the selection on an analysis of workforce  
25 needs and opportunities in the following counties: Pinellas,  
26 Pasco, Hernando, and other counties approved by the Department  
27 of Education. For each program selected, St. Petersburg  
28 College must offer a related associate in science or associate  
29 in applied science degree program, and the baccalaureate  
30 degree level program must be designed to articulate fully with  
31 at least one associate in science degree program. The college

1 is encouraged to develop articulation agreements for  
2 enrollment of graduates of related associate in applied  
3 science degree programs.

4 (b) St. Petersburg College may offer courses that  
5 enable teachers to qualify for certification and  
6 recertification as required by law or rule.

7 (c) St. Petersburg College may offer programs to  
8 provide opportunities for a person who holds a baccalaureate  
9 degree, but is not certified to teach, to obtain any  
10 additional courses required for teacher certification.

11 (d) Master's degree level programs and doctoral  
12 programs may be provided by agreement with a college or  
13 university participating in the University Center of St.  
14 Petersburg College.

15 (e) For those students living outside Pinellas County,  
16 St. Petersburg College shall recruit for the upper division  
17 only those students who have earned an associate degree. In  
18 recruiting upper-division students in Pasco and Hernando  
19 Counties, St. Petersburg College shall work cooperatively with  
20 Pasco-Hernando Community College and shall seek to offer  
21 courses and programs at Pasco-Hernando Community College when  
22 feasible. The nursing programs, in particular, must be  
23 conducted cooperatively, and programs at St. Petersburg  
24 College shall not conflict with Pasco-Hernando Community  
25 College's and the University of South Florida's cooperative  
26 nursing program.

27 (5) BOARDS.--

28 (a) The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College  
29 serves as the college's governing board. The Governor shall  
30 appoint members as provided in s. 1001.61, and the board has  
31

1 the duties and authorities granted in ss. 1001.63 and 1001.64  
2 and by rules of the State Board of Education.

3 (b) The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College  
4 may authorize direct-support organizations as authorized in  
5 ss. 1004.28 and 1004.70.

6 (c) The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College  
7 may continue to award degrees, diplomas, and certificates as  
8 authorized for St. Petersburg Junior College, and in the name  
9 of St. Petersburg Junior College, until St. Petersburg College  
10 receives its accreditation.

11 (d) A coordinating board shall assist the board of  
12 trustees in its deliberations concerning issues that affect  
13 the upper division of St. Petersburg College. The coordinating  
14 board consists of the President of the University of South  
15 Florida, the President of St. Petersburg College, the  
16 President of Pasco-Hernando Community College, and the chairs  
17 of the boards of trustees of those institutions.

18 (e) Beginning 4 years after the college receives  
19 accreditation to offer baccalaureate degrees, the Board of  
20 Trustees of St. Petersburg College may determine additional  
21 programs to be offered, with the approval of the coordinating  
22 board. The determination must consider community needs and  
23 economic opportunities.

24 (f) The coordinating board shall meet at the request  
25 of the President of the University of South Florida or the  
26 President of St. Petersburg College.

27 (g) If the coordinating board cannot decide an issue  
28 of importance to the programs designed for upper-division  
29 students, the State Board of Education shall resolve the  
30 issue.

31 (6) EMPLOYEES.--

1           (a) Employment at St. Petersburg College is governed  
2 by the same laws that govern community colleges, except that  
3 upper-division faculty are eligible for continuing contracts  
4 upon the completion of the fifth year of teaching.

5           (b) Employee records for all personnel shall be  
6 maintained as required by s. 1012.81.

7           (7) FACILITIES.--St. Petersburg College may request  
8 funding from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt  
9 Service Trust Fund as a community college and as a university.  
10 The municipalities in Pinellas County, the Board of County  
11 Commissioners of Pinellas County, and all other governmental  
12 entities are authorized to cooperate with the Board of  
13 Trustees of St. Petersburg College in establishing this  
14 institution. The acquisition and donation of lands, buildings,  
15 and equipment for the use of St. Petersburg College are  
16 authorized as a public purpose. The Board of County  
17 Commissioners of Pinellas County and all municipalities in  
18 Pinellas County may exercise the power of eminent domain to  
19 acquire lands, buildings, and equipment for the use of St.  
20 Petersburg College, regardless of whether such lands,  
21 buildings, and equipment are located in a community  
22 redevelopment area.

23           (8) STATE FUNDING.--

24           (a) The Legislature intends to fund St. Petersburg  
25 College as a community college for its workforce development  
26 education programs and for its lower-division level college  
27 credit courses and programs.

28           (b) The Legislature intends to fund St. Petersburg  
29 College as a baccalaureate degree level institution for its  
30 upper-division level courses and programs.

31

1           Section 225. Section 1004.74, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1004.74 Florida School of the Arts.--

4           (1) As the state strives to achieve excellence in all  
5 aspects of public education, it is the intent of the  
6 Legislature that specific attention be given to the needs of  
7 artistically talented high school and college students. It is  
8 further intended that such students who are occupationally  
9 oriented to the arts be provided with the means for achieving  
10 both an academic education and artistic training appropriate  
11 to their gifts.

12           (2) There is created the Florida School of the Arts.  
13 The school shall offer a program of academic and artistic  
14 studies in the visual and performing arts, which program shall  
15 be available to talented high school and college students in  
16 the state.

17           (3) The Florida School of the Arts is assigned to the  
18 District Board of Trustees of the St. Johns River Community  
19 College for purposes of administration and governance; but the  
20 Florida School of the Arts, within appropriations and  
21 limitations established annually by the Legislature, shall  
22 serve as a professional school on a statewide basis for all  
23 qualified students.

24           (4) The Council for the Florida School of the Arts  
25 shall be established to advise the community college district  
26 board of trustees on matters pertaining to the operation of  
27 the school. The council shall consist of nine members,  
28 appointed by the Commissioner of Education for 4-year terms. A  
29 member may serve three terms and may serve until replaced.

30           Section 226. Section 1004.75, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1004.75 Training school consolidation pilot  
2 projects.--  
3           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.--To consolidate and more  
4 efficiently use state and taxpayer resources by combining  
5 training programs, pilot training centers are established to  
6 provide public criminal justice training in Leon and St. Johns  
7 Counties. The following pilot training centers are  
8 established:  
9           (a) The Pat Thomas Center at Tallahassee Community  
10 College.  
11           (b) The Criminal Justice Academy at St. Johns River  
12 Community College.  
13           (2) EXISTING PUBLIC CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING  
14 PROGRAMS.--Notwithstanding ss. 1001.31, 1001.33, and 1007.25,  
15 or any other provision of law to the contrary, criminal  
16 justice training programs in the pilot counties will transfer  
17 to community colleges, effective July 1, 1999, at which time  
18 responsibility for the provision of basic recruit, advanced,  
19 career development, and continuing training courses and  
20 programs offered in public criminal justice training programs  
21 and for the operation of existing public criminal justice  
22 training programs will be shifted from the school district to  
23 the community college in whose service area the public  
24 criminal justice training program is located. Certification of  
25 the program granted by the Criminal Justice Standards and  
26 Training Commission will be transferred to the respective  
27 community college and the college must continue to meet the  
28 requirements of the commission.  
29           (3) FACILITIES.--  
30           (a) Criminal justice training program educational  
31 facilities, educational plants, and related equipment as

1 defined in s. 1013.01(6) and (7) which are owned by the state  
2 and paid for with only state funds shall be transferred to the  
3 community college, except that, if such an educational  
4 facility or educational plant or part of such facility or  
5 plant is used for other purposes in addition to public  
6 criminal justice training, the Criminal Justice Standards and  
7 Training Commission shall mediate the transfer or a suitable  
8 multiuse arrangement.

9       (b) Criminal justice training program educational  
10 facilities, educational plants, and related equipment as  
11 defined in s. 1013.01(6) and (7) which are owned by the school  
12 district and paid for in whole or in part with local tax funds  
13 shall be leased to the community college. However, if such an  
14 educational facility or educational plant, or part of such  
15 facility or plant, is used for other purposes in addition to  
16 public criminal justice training, the Criminal Justice  
17 Standards and Training Commission shall mediate a suitable  
18 lease agreement. If a school district and a community college  
19 cannot agree on the terms and conditions of the lease  
20 agreement, the Criminal Justice Standards and Training  
21 Commission shall finalize the agreement and report its  
22 decision to the Legislature. The Department of Education,  
23 Office of Educational Facilities, shall conduct an analysis,  
24 by December 31, 1999, to determine the amount of local tax  
25 contribution used in the construction of a  
26 school-district-owned criminal justice training program,  
27 educational facility, or educational plant affected by the  
28 transfer. This analysis shall be used to establish a purchase  
29 price for the facility or plant. The community college board  
30 of trustees may make a legislative budget request through the  
31

1 State Board of Education to purchase the facility or plant, or  
2 it may continue to lease the facility or plant.

3 (4) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.--Each pilot training center  
4 will be regional in nature, as defined by the Criminal Justice  
5 Standards and Training Commission. Each community college with  
6 responsibility for a public criminal justice training program  
7 must:

8 (a) Establish a pilot training center advisory  
9 committee made up of professionals from the field of each  
10 training program included in the pilot project.

11 (b) Provide certificate and noncredit options for  
12 students and training components of the pilot training center  
13 that so require.

14 (c) Develop an articulation agreement with state  
15 universities to facilitate the transfer of graduates of a  
16 community college degree training program to the upper  
17 division of a state university with a corresponding program.

18 (5) STAFFING.--The community college board of trustees  
19 may provide for school district public criminal justice  
20 training staff employed in full-time budgeted positions to be  
21 transferred into the community college personnel system at the  
22 same rate of salary. Retirement and leave provisions will be  
23 transferred according to law.

24 (6) FUNDING.--The Department of Education shall shift  
25 funds generated by students in the pilot training centers  
26 established by this section, including workforce development  
27 recurring and nonrecurring funds, from the appropriate school  
28 district to the respective community college. The community  
29 college shall qualify for future facilities funding upon  
30 transfer of the facility.

31

1       (a) Consistent with s. 1011.62(7), school districts  
2 that transfer programs will receive an amount equal to 15  
3 percent of the funding generated for the program under the  
4 FEFP in 1996-1997.

5       (b) Reflecting the lower program costs in community  
6 colleges, notwithstanding the funding generated in paragraph  
7 (a), community colleges will receive 90 percent of the funding  
8 generated for the program under the FEFP in 1996-1997. The  
9 school district will retain the remaining 10 percent.

10       (c) Notwithstanding ss. 1011.80(5)(a) and  
11 1009.22(3)(a), or any other provision of law to the contrary,  
12 fees for continuing workforce education for public law  
13 enforcement officers at these pilot centers shall not exceed  
14 25 percent of the cost of the course, and state funding shall  
15 not under any circumstances exceed 50 percent of the cost of  
16 the course.

17       Section 227. Section 1004.76, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19       1004.76 Florida Martin Luther King, Jr., Institute for  
20 Nonviolence.--

21       (1) As used in this section:

22       (a) "Board" means the advisory board of the institute.

23       (b) "Institute" means the Florida Martin Luther King,  
24 Jr., Institute for Nonviolence.

25       (2) There is hereby created the Florida Martin Luther  
26 King, Jr., Institute for Nonviolence to be established at  
27 Miami-Dade Community College. The institute shall have an  
28 advisory board consisting of 13 members as follows: the  
29 Attorney General, the Commissioner of Education, and 11  
30 members to be appointed by the Governor, such members to  
31 represent the population of the state based on its ethnic,

1 gender, and socioeconomic diversity. Of the members appointed  
2 by the Governor, one shall be a member of the Senate appointed  
3 by the Governor on the recommendation of the President of the  
4 Senate; one shall be a member of the Senate appointed by the  
5 Governor on the recommendation of the minority leader; one  
6 shall be a member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
7 the Governor on the recommendation of the Speaker of the House  
8 of Representatives; one shall be a member of the House of  
9 Representatives appointed by the Governor on the  
10 recommendation of the minority leader; and seven shall be  
11 members appointed by the Governor, no more than three of whom  
12 shall be members of the same political party. The following  
13 groups shall be represented by the seven members: the Florida  
14 Sheriffs Association; the Florida Association of Counties; the  
15 Florida League of Cities; state universities human services  
16 agencies; community relations or human relations councils; and  
17 youth. A chairperson shall be elected by the members and  
18 shall serve for a term of 3 years. Members of the board shall  
19 serve the following terms of office which shall be staggered:  
20 (a) A member of the Legislature appointed to the board  
21 shall serve for a single term not to exceed 5 years and shall  
22 serve as a member only while he or she is a member of the  
23 Legislature.  
24 (b) Of the seven members who are not members of the  
25 Legislature, three shall serve for terms of 4 years, two shall  
26 serve for terms of 3 years, and one shall serve for a term of  
27 1 year. Thereafter, each member, except for a member  
28 appointed to fill an unexpired term, shall serve for a 5-year  
29 term. No member shall serve on the board for more than 10  
30 years.  
31

1 In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of a member  
2 of the board by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Governor  
3 shall appoint a successor to serve for the balance of the  
4 unexpired term.

5 (3)(a) The board shall provide for the holding of  
6 regular and special meetings. A majority of the members shall  
7 constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, and  
8 the acts of a majority of the members present at a meeting at  
9 which a quorum is present shall be deemed to be the acts of  
10 the board.

11 (b) An executive director shall be appointed by the  
12 board and shall be the chief administrative and operational  
13 officer of the board. The executive director shall direct and  
14 supervise administrative affairs and the general management of  
15 the board. The executive director may contract with or employ  
16 legal and technical experts and such other employees,  
17 permanent and temporary, as shall be authorized by the board.

18 (c) Members of the board shall serve without  
19 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for per diem and travel  
20 expenses in accordance with s. 112.061.

21 (4) The institute shall have the following powers and  
22 duties:

23 (a) To conduct training, provide symposia, and develop  
24 continuing education and programs to promote skills in  
25 nonviolent conflict resolution for persons in government,  
26 private enterprise, community groups, and voluntary  
27 associations.

28 (b) To enter into formal and informal relationships  
29 with other public or private institutions for purposes of  
30 fulfilling the goals of the institute and to ensure geographic  
31 dispersion of services to all regions of the state.

1        (c) To establish a clearinghouse to provide materials,  
2 including publications, handbooks, training manuals, and  
3 audiovisual materials, on the programs, studies, research,  
4 training, and educational opportunities of the institute.

5        (d) To adopt, amend, and alter bylaws not inconsistent  
6 with the laws of the state.

7        (e) To charge and collect subscription and other  
8 participation costs and fees for its services, including  
9 publications and courses of study.

10       (f) To receive and accept from any federal, state, or  
11 local agency grants, or advances for, or in aid of, the  
12 purposes of this act and to receive and accept contributions  
13 from any source of either money, property, labor, or other  
14 things of value, to be held, used, and applied for said  
15 purposes.

16       (g) To do any and all lawful acts and things necessary  
17 or desirable to carry out the objectives and purposes of this  
18 act.

19       (5) The institute may establish fellowships through  
20 the awarding of financial assistance to individuals and  
21 organizations to enable them to pursue scholarly inquiry and  
22 study other appropriate forms of strategies for peace and  
23 nonviolent conflict resolution.

24       Section 228. Section 1004.77, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26       1004.77 Centers of technology innovation.--

27       (1) The State Board of Education may designate centers  
28 of technology innovation at single community colleges,  
29 consortia of community colleges, or consortia of community  
30 colleges with other educational institutions. The state board  
31 shall adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of

1 this section. The state board shall cooperate with the  
2 Workforce Florida, Inc., in the designation of the centers as  
3 it relates to the centers of applied technology.

4 (2) Centers shall be designated when a community  
5 college or consortia provides evidence that it has developed  
6 expertise in one or more specialized technologies. To be  
7 designated, the community college or consortia must provide  
8 benefits to the state, which may include, but are not limited  
9 to:

10 (a) Curriculum development.

11 (b) Faculty development.

12 (c) Research, testing, and technology transfer.

13 (d) Instructional equipment and materials  
14 identification and development.

15 (e) Partnerships with industries dependent upon  
16 staying current in the related technologies and in the  
17 development of workforce capabilities.

18 (f) Partnerships with industries needing to convert  
19 their existing technology base to other technologies in order  
20 to continue conducting business in Florida, including  
21 converting defense-related technologies to other technologies.

22 (3) Centers may provide services to their service area  
23 and receive funding through:

24 (a) Serving as a technology transfer center, as  
25 created in s. 1004.78.

26 (b) Serving as an incubator facility for small  
27 business concerns, as created in s. 1004.79.

28 (c) Serving as an economic development center, as  
29 created in s. 1004.80.

30 (4) Centers may provide instruction, as follows:  
31

1        (a) To students enrolled in the community college,  
2 especially for purposes of providing training for technicians  
3 in areas that support the employers involved in the technology  
4 specialization.

5        (b) To students enrolled at the undergraduate and  
6 graduate level in a university, college, or community college  
7 which is a member of the designated consortia. Such enrollment  
8 shall be funded by the enrolling institution.

9        (c) To employees in the service area needing training  
10 and retraining in the technology of specialization, which may  
11 include, but is not limited to, the retraining necessary to  
12 convert defense-related technologies to other technologies.

13        (d) To secondary school students and teachers where  
14 such instruction will stimulate interest in further education.

15        (5) The State Board of Education shall give priority  
16 in the designation of centers to those community colleges that  
17 specialize in technology in environmental areas and in areas  
18 related to target industries of Enterprise Florida. Priority  
19 in designation shall also be given to community colleges that  
20 develop new and improved manufacturing techniques and related  
21 business practices.

22        (6) Centers, including the facilities of the center,  
23 may be made available to the public agencies of the state, the  
24 counties and cities of the service area, and the employers of  
25 the state and service area. Centers may also be used for  
26 applied research in the area of specialization.

27        (7) Each center shall have a board of directors with  
28 at least five members who shall be appointed by the district  
29 board of trustees. The board of directors is responsible for  
30 overseeing the operation of the center, approval of the annual  
31 budget, and setting policy to guide the director in the

1 operation of the center. The board of directors shall consist  
2 of at least the following:  
3 (a) The director of the center.  
4 (b) The vice president of academic affairs, or the  
5 equivalent, of the community college.  
6 (c) The vice president of business affairs, or the  
7 equivalent, of the community college.  
8 (d) Two members designated by the president of the  
9 community college.  
10 (8) Each center shall establish a schedule of fees or  
11 rates to be charged to all who use the facilities of the  
12 center. In addition, each center may negotiate user contracts  
13 with governmental users, industrial users, researchers, public  
14 or private educational institutions, or individuals for use of  
15 the facilities. It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
16 centers of technology innovation established pursuant to this  
17 act shall not seek any additional state funding. Centers may  
18 solicit and accept grants and donations, including, but not  
19 limited to, federal and state grants to assist companies in  
20 converting defense-related technologies to other technologies.  
21 (9) The State Board of Education may award grants to  
22 designated centers for the purposes of this section. Grants  
23 awarded shall be in accordance with rules established by the  
24 State Board of Education, which rules shall require an annual  
25 report.  
26 Section 229. Section 1004.78, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:  
28 1004.78 Technology transfer centers at community  
29 colleges.--  
30 (1) Each community college may establish a technology  
31 transfer center for the purpose of providing institutional

1 support to local business and industry and governmental  
2 agencies in the application of new research in technology.  
3 The primary responsibilities of such centers may include:  
4 identifying technology research developed by universities,  
5 research institutions, businesses, industries, the United  
6 States Armed Forces, and other state or federal governmental  
7 agencies; determining and demonstrating the application of  
8 technologies; training workers to integrate advanced equipment  
9 and production processes; and determining for business and  
10 industry the feasibility and efficiency of accommodating  
11 advanced technologies.

12 (2) The community college board of trustees shall set  
13 such policies to regulate the activities of the technology  
14 transfer center as it may consider necessary to effectuate the  
15 purposes of this section and to administer the programs of the  
16 center in a manner which assures efficiency and effectiveness,  
17 producing the maximum benefit for the educational programs and  
18 maximum service to the state. To this end, materials that  
19 relate to methods of manufacture or production, potential  
20 trade secrets, potentially patentable material, actual trade  
21 secrets, business transactions, or proprietary information  
22 received, generated, ascertained, or discovered during the  
23 course of activities conducted within the community colleges  
24 shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.  
25 119.07(1), except that a community college shall make  
26 available upon request the title and description of a project,  
27 the name of the investigator, and the amount and source of  
28 funding provided for such project.

29 (3) A technology transfer center created under the  
30 provisions of this section shall be under the supervision of  
31 the board of trustees of that community college, which is

1 authorized to appoint a director; to employ full-time and  
2 part-time staff, research personnel, and professional  
3 services; to employ on a part-time basis personnel of the  
4 community college; and to employ temporary employees whose  
5 salaries are paid entirely from the permanent technology  
6 transfer fund or from that fund in combination with other  
7 nonstate sources, with such positions being exempt from the  
8 requirements of the Florida Statutes relating to salaries,  
9 except that no such appointment shall be made for a total  
10 period of longer than 1 year.

11 (4) The board of trustees of the community college in  
12 which a technology transfer center is created, or its  
13 designee, may negotiate, enter into, and execute contracts;  
14 solicit and accept grants and donations; and fix and collect  
15 fees, other payments, and donations that may accrue by reason  
16 thereof for technology transfer activities. The board of  
17 trustees or its designee may negotiate, enter into, and  
18 execute contracts on a cost-reimbursement basis and may  
19 provide temporary financing of such costs prior to  
20 reimbursement from moneys on deposit in the technology  
21 transfer fund, except as may be prohibited elsewhere by law.

22 (5) A technology transfer center shall be financed  
23 from the Academic Improvement Program or from moneys of a  
24 community college which are on deposit or received for use in  
25 the activities conducted in the center. Such moneys shall be  
26 deposited by the community college in a permanent technology  
27 transfer fund in a depository or depositories approved for the  
28 deposit of state funds and shall be accounted for and  
29 disbursed subject to audit by the Auditor General.

30 (6) The fund balance in any existing research trust  
31 fund of a community college at the time a technology transfer

1 center is created shall be transferred to a permanent  
2 technology transfer fund established for the community  
3 college, and thereafter the fund balance of the technology  
4 transfer fund at the end of any fiscal period may be used  
5 during any succeeding period pursuant to this section.

6 (7) Moneys deposited in the permanent technology  
7 transfer fund of a community college shall be disbursed in  
8 accordance with the terms of the contract, grant, or donation  
9 under which they are received. Moneys received for overhead  
10 or indirect costs and other moneys not required for the  
11 payment of direct costs shall be applied to the cost of  
12 operating the technology transfer center.

13 (8) All purchases of a technology transfer center  
14 shall be made in accordance with the policies and procedures  
15 of the community college.

16 (9) The community college board of trustees may  
17 authorize the construction, alteration, or remodeling of  
18 buildings when the funds used are derived entirely from the  
19 technology transfer fund of a community college or from that  
20 fund in combination with other nonstate sources, provided that  
21 such construction, alteration, or remodeling is for use  
22 exclusively by the center. It also may authorize the  
23 acquisition of real property when the cost is entirely from  
24 said funds. Title to all real property shall vest in the  
25 board of trustees.

26 (10) The State Board of Education may award grants to  
27 community colleges, or consortia of public and private  
28 colleges and universities and other public and private  
29 entities, for the purpose of supporting the objectives of this  
30 section. Grants awarded pursuant to this subsection shall be  
31

1 in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education.

2 Such rules shall include the following provisions:

3 (a) The number of centers established with state funds  
4 provided expressly for the purpose of technology transfer  
5 shall be limited, but shall be geographically located to  
6 maximize public access to center resources and services.

7 (b) Grants to centers funded with state revenues  
8 appropriated specifically for technology transfer activities  
9 shall be reviewed and approved by the State Board of Education  
10 using proposal solicitation, evaluation, and selection  
11 procedures established by the state board in consultation with  
12 Enterprise Florida, Inc. Such procedures may include  
13 designation of specific areas or applications of technology as  
14 priorities for the receipt of funding.

15 (c) Priority for the receipt of state funds  
16 appropriated specifically for the purpose of technology  
17 transfer shall be given to grant proposals developed jointly  
18 by community colleges and public and private colleges and  
19 universities.

20 (11) Each technology transfer center established under  
21 the provisions of this section shall establish a technology  
22 transfer center advisory committee. Each committee shall  
23 include representatives of a university or universities  
24 conducting research in the area of specialty of the center.  
25 Other members shall be determined by the community college  
26 board of trustees.

27 Section 230. Section 1004.79, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1004.79 Incubator facilities for small business  
30 concerns.--

31

1           (1) Each community college established pursuant to s.  
2 1004.02(2) may provide incubator facilities to eligible small  
3 business concerns. As used in this section, "small business  
4 concern" shall be defined as an independently owned and  
5 operated business concern incorporated in Florida which is not  
6 an affiliate or a subsidiary of a business dominant in its  
7 field of operation, and which employs 25 or fewer full-time  
8 employees. "Incubator facility" shall be defined as a facility  
9 in which small business concerns share common space,  
10 equipment, and support personnel and through which such  
11 concerns have access to professional consultants for advice  
12 related to the technical and business aspects of conducting a  
13 commercial enterprise. The community college board of trustees  
14 shall authorize concerns for inclusion in the incubator  
15 facility.

16           (2) Each community college that provides an incubator  
17 facility shall provide the following:

18           (a) Management and maintenance of the incubator  
19 facility.

20           (b) Secretarial and other support personnel,  
21 equipment, and utilities.

22           (c) Mechanisms to assist with the acquisition of  
23 technical, management, and entrepreneurial expertise to  
24 resident and other local small business concerns.

25           (3) The incubator facility and any improvements to the  
26 facility shall be owned or leased by the community college.  
27 The community college may charge residents of the facility all  
28 or part of the cost for facilities, utilities, and support  
29 personnel and equipment. No small business concern shall  
30 reside in the incubator facility for more than 5 calendar  
31 years. The state shall not be liable for any act or failure

1 to act of any small business concern residing in an incubator  
2 facility pursuant to this section or of any such concern  
3 benefiting from the incubator facilities program.

4 (4) Community colleges are encouraged to establish  
5 incubator facilities through which emerging small businesses  
6 supportive of spaceport endeavors and other high-technology  
7 enterprises may be served.

8 (5) Community colleges are encouraged to establish  
9 incubator facilities through which emerging small businesses  
10 supportive of development of content and technology for  
11 digital broadband media and digital broadcasting may be  
12 served.

13 Section 231. Section 1004.80, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15 1004.80 Economic development centers.--

16 (1) Community colleges may establish economic  
17 development centers for the purpose of serving as liaisons  
18 between community colleges and the business sector. The  
19 responsibilities of each center shall include:

20 (a) Promoting the economic well-being of businesses  
21 and industries.

22 (b) Coordinating, with chambers of commerce,  
23 government agencies, district school boards, and other  
24 organizations, efforts to provide educational programs which  
25 promote economic development, including, but not limited to,  
26 business incubators, industrial development and research  
27 parks, industry recruitment efforts, publication of business  
28 research and resource guides, and sponsorship of workshops,  
29 conferences, seminars, and consultation services.

30 (2) The board of trustees of a community college in  
31 which an economic development center is created, or its

1 designee, may negotiate, enter into, and execute contracts;  
2 solicit and accept grants and donations; and fix and collect  
3 fees, other payments, and donations that may accrue by reason  
4 of activities of the center and its staff.

5 (3) Economic development centers shall operate under  
6 policies and procedures established by the community college  
7 board of trustees.

8 (4) The State Board of Education may award grants to  
9 economic development centers for the purposes of this section.  
10 Grants awarded pursuant to this subsection shall be in  
11 accordance with rules established by the State Board of  
12 Education.

13 Section 232. Section 1004.81, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15 1004.81 Establishment of child development training  
16 centers at community colleges.--

17 (1) The Legislature recognizes the importance of  
18 preschool developmental education and the need for adult  
19 students with limited economic resources to have access to  
20 high-quality, affordable child care at variable hours for  
21 their children. It is therefore the intent of the Legislature  
22 that community colleges provide high-quality, affordable child  
23 care to the children of adult students enrolled in community  
24 colleges. The primary purpose of these child development  
25 training centers is to provide affordable child care for  
26 children of adult students, particularly those who demonstrate  
27 financial need, as well as for employees and staff of the  
28 institution. Further, the child development training centers  
29 are intended to provide both preschool instruction to the  
30 children and clinical experiences for prospective child care  
31 and early childhood instructional and administrative

1 personnel. A secondary mission of the centers shall be to  
2 provide instruction in parenting skills for the clients of the  
3 center as well as for the community.

4 (2) In consultation with the student government  
5 association or a recognized student group representing the  
6 student body, a community college board of trustees may  
7 establish a child development training center in accordance  
8 with this section. Each child development training center  
9 shall be a child care center established to provide child care  
10 during the day and at variable hours, including evenings and  
11 weekends, for the children of students. Emphasis should be  
12 placed on serving students who demonstrate financial need as  
13 defined by the board of trustees. At least 50 percent of the  
14 child care slots must be made available to students, and  
15 financially needy students, as defined by the board of  
16 trustees, shall receive child care slots first. The center may  
17 serve the children of staff, employees, and faculty; however,  
18 a designated number of child care slots shall not be allocated  
19 for employees. Whenever possible, the center shall be located  
20 on the campus of the community college. However, the board may  
21 elect to provide child care services for students through  
22 alternative mechanisms, which may include contracting with  
23 private providers.

24 (3) There shall be a board of directors of each child  
25 development training center, consisting of the president or  
26 his or her designee, the student government president or his  
27 or her designee, the chair of the department participating in  
28 the center or his or her designee, and one parent for each 25  
29 children enrolled in the center, elected by the parents of the  
30 children enrolled in the center. There shall be a director of  
31 each center, selected by the board of directors of the center.

1 The director shall be an ex officio, nonvoting member of the  
2 board. The board of trustees shall establish local policies  
3 and perform local oversight and operational guidance for the  
4 center.

5       (4) Each center may charge fees for the care and  
6 services it provides. Each board of trustees shall establish  
7 mechanisms to facilitate access to center services for  
8 students with financial need, which shall include a sliding  
9 fee scale and other methods adopted by the board of trustees  
10 to reduce or defray payment of fees for students. The board of  
11 trustees is authorized to seek and receive grants and other  
12 resources to support the operation of the child development  
13 center.

14       (5) In addition to revenues derived from child care  
15 fees charged to parents and other external resources, each  
16 child development training center may be funded by a portion  
17 of funds from the student activity and service fee authorized  
18 by s. 1009.23(7) and the capital improvement fee authorized by  
19 s. 1009.23(11). Community colleges are authorized to transfer  
20 funds as necessary from the community college's general fund  
21 to support the operation of the child development training  
22 center.

23       (6) This section does not preclude the continuation of  
24 or in any way affect child care centers operated by community  
25 colleges that were established by the district board of  
26 trustees prior to July 1, 1994.

27       Section 233. Part IV of chapter 1004, Florida  
28 Statutes, shall be entitled "Workforce Development Education"  
29 and shall consist of ss. 1004.91-1004.98.

30       Section 234. Section 1004.91, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1004.91 Vocational-preparatory instruction.--

2           (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt, by rule,  
3 standards of basic skill mastery for certificate technical  
4 education programs. Each school district and community college  
5 that conducts programs that confer technical credit shall  
6 provide vocational-preparatory instruction through which  
7 students receive the basic skills instruction required  
8 pursuant to this section.

9           (2) Students who enroll in a program offered for  
10 technical credit of 450 hours or more shall complete an  
11 entry-level examination within the first 6 weeks of admission  
12 into the program. The State Board of Education shall  
13 designate examinations that are currently in existence, the  
14 results of which are comparable across institutions, to assess  
15 student mastery of basic skills. Any student found to lack the  
16 required level of basic skills for such program shall be  
17 referred to vocational-preparatory instruction or adult basic  
18 education for a structured program of basic skills  
19 instruction. Such instruction may include English for speakers  
20 of other languages. A student may not receive a technical  
21 certificate of completion without first demonstrating the  
22 basic skills required in the state curriculum frameworks for  
23 the program.

24           (3) An adult student with a disability may be exempted  
25 from the provisions of this section. A student who possesses a  
26 college degree at the associate in applied science level or  
27 higher is exempt from this section. A student who has  
28 completed or who is exempt from the college-level  
29 communication and computation skills examination pursuant to  
30 s. 1008.29, or who is exempt from the college entry-level  
31 examination pursuant to s. 1008.29 is exempt from the

1 provisions of this section. Students who have passed a state,  
2 national or industry licensure exam are exempt from this  
3 section.

4 Section 235. Section 1004.92, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1004.92 Purpose and responsibilities for career and  
7 technical education.--

8 (1) The purpose of career and technical education is  
9 to enable students who complete career and technical programs  
10 to attain and sustain employment and realize economic  
11 self-sufficiency. The purpose of this section is to identify  
12 issues related to career and technical education for which  
13 school boards and community college boards of trustees are  
14 accountable. It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
15 standards articulated in subsection (2) be considered in the  
16 development of accountability standards for public schools  
17 pursuant to ss. 1000.03, 1008.345, and 1001.42(16) and for  
18 community colleges pursuant to s. 1008.45.

19 (2) School board, superintendent, and technical  
20 center, and community college board of trustees and president,  
21 accountability for career and technical education programs  
22 includes, but is not limited to:

23 1. Student demonstration of the academic skills  
24 necessary to enter an occupation.

25 2. Student preparation to enter an occupation in an  
26 entry-level position or continue postsecondary study.

27 3. Career and technical program articulation with  
28 other corresponding postsecondary programs and job training  
29 experiences.

30  
31

1           4. Employer satisfaction with the performance of  
2 students who complete career and technical education or reach  
3 occupational completion points.

4           5. Student completion, placement, and retention rates  
5 pursuant to s. 1008.43.

6           (c) Department of Education accountability for career  
7 and technical education includes, but is not limited to:

8           1. The provision of timely, accurate technical  
9 assistance to school districts and community colleges.

10           2. The provision of timely, accurate information to  
11 the State Board of Education, the Legislature, and the public.

12           3. The development of policies, rules, and procedures  
13 that facilitate institutional attainment of the accountability  
14 standards and coordinate the efforts of all divisions within  
15 the department.

16           4. The development of program standards and  
17 industry-driven benchmarks for career and technical, adult,  
18 and community education programs, which must be updated every  
19 3 years. The standards must include technical, academic, and  
20 workplace skills; viability of distance learning for  
21 instruction; and work/learn cycles that are responsive to  
22 business and industry.

23           5. Overseeing school district and community college  
24 compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

25           6. Ensuring that the educational outcomes for the  
26 technical component of career and technical programs and are  
27 uniform and designed to provide a graduate who is capable of  
28 entering the workforce on an equally competitive basis  
29 regardless of the institution of choice.

30           (3) Each technical center operated by a district  
31 school board shall establish a center advisory council

1 pursuant to s. 1001.452. The center advisory council shall  
2 assist in the preparation and evaluation of center improvement  
3 plans required pursuant to s. 1001.42(16) and may provide  
4 assistance, upon the request of the center director, in the  
5 preparation of the center's annual budget and plan as required  
6 by s. 1008.385(1).

7 Section 236. Section 1004.93, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9 1004.93 Adult general education.--

10 (1)(a) The intent of this section is to encourage the  
11 provision of educational services that will enable adults to  
12 acquire:

13 1. The basic skills necessary to attain basic and  
14 functional literacy.

15 2. A high school diploma or successfully complete the  
16 general educational development test.

17 3. An educational foundation that will enable them to  
18 become more employable, productive, and self-sufficient  
19 citizens.

20 (b) It is further intended that educational  
21 opportunities be available for adults who have earned a  
22 diploma or high school equivalency diploma but who lack the  
23 basic skills necessary to function effectively in everyday  
24 situations, to enter the job market, or to enter technical  
25 certificate instruction.

26 (2) The adult education program must provide academic  
27 services to students in the following priority:

28 (a) Students who demonstrate skills at less than a  
29 fifth grade level, as measured by tests approved for this  
30 purpose by the State Board of Education, and who are studying  
31 to achieve basic literacy.

- 1           (b) Students who demonstrate skills at the fifth grade  
2 level or higher, but below the ninth grade level, as measured  
3 by tests approved for this purpose by the State Board of  
4 Education, and who are studying to achieve functional  
5 literacy.
- 6           (c) Students who are earning credit required for a  
7 high school diploma or who are preparing for the general  
8 educational development test.
- 9           (d) Students who have earned high school diplomas and  
10 require specific improvement in order to:
- 11           1. Obtain or maintain employment or benefit from  
12 certificate technical education programs;
- 13           2. Pursue a postsecondary degree; or
- 14           3. Develop competence in the English language to  
15 qualify for employment.
- 16           (e) Students who enroll in lifelong learning courses  
17 or activities that seek to address community social and  
18 economic issues that consist of health and human relations,  
19 government, parenting, consumer economics, and senior  
20 citizens.
- 21           (f) Students who enroll in courses that relate to the  
22 recreational or leisure pursuits of the students. The cost of  
23 courses conducted pursuant to this paragraph shall be borne by  
24 the enrollees.
- 25           (3)(a) Each district school board or community college  
26 board of trustees shall negotiate with the regional workforce  
27 board for basic and functional literacy skills assessments for  
28 participants in the welfare transition employment and training  
29 programs. Such assessments shall be conducted at a site  
30 mutually acceptable to the district school board or community  
31 college board of trustees and the regional workforce board.

1        (b) State employees who are employed in local or  
2 regional offices of state agencies shall inform clients of the  
3 availability of adult basic and secondary programs in the  
4 region. The identities of clients who do not possess high  
5 school diplomas or who demonstrate skills below the level of  
6 functional literacy shall be conveyed, with their consent, to  
7 the local school district or community college, or both.

8        (c) To the extent funds are available, the Department  
9 of Children and Family Services shall provide for day care and  
10 transportation services to clients who enroll in adult basic  
11 education programs.

12        (4)(a) Adult general education shall be evaluated and  
13 funded as provided in s. 1011.80.

14        (b) Fees adult basic instruction are to be charged in  
15 accordance with chapter 1009.

16        (c) The State Board of Education shall define, by  
17 rule, the levels and courses of instruction to be funded  
18 through the college-preparatory program. The state board shall  
19 coordinate the establishment of costs for college-preparatory  
20 courses, the establishment of statewide standards that define  
21 required levels of competence, acceptable rates of student  
22 progress, and the maximum amount of time to be allowed for  
23 completion of college-preparatory instruction.  
24 College-preparatory instruction is part of an associate in  
25 arts degree program and may not be funded as an adult and  
26 technical education program.

27        (d) Expenditures for college-preparatory and lifelong  
28 learning students shall be reported separately. Allocations  
29 for college-preparatory courses shall be based on proportional  
30 full-time equivalent enrollment. Program review results shall  
31 be included in the determination of subsequent allocations. A

1 student shall be funded to enroll in the same  
2 college-preparatory class within a skill area only twice,  
3 after which time the student shall pay 100 percent of the full  
4 cost of instruction to support the continuous enrollment of  
5 that student in the same class; however, students who withdraw  
6 or fail a class due to extenuating circumstances may be  
7 granted an exception only once for each class, provided  
8 approval is granted according to policy established by the  
9 board of trustees. Each community college shall have the  
10 authority to review and reduce payment for increased fees due  
11 to continued enrollment in a college-preparatory class on an  
12 individual basis contingent upon the student's financial  
13 hardship, pursuant to definitions and fee levels established  
14 by the State Board of Education. College-preparatory and  
15 lifelong learning courses do not generate credit toward an  
16 associate or baccalaureate degree.

17 (e) A district school board or a community college  
18 board of trustees may negotiate a contract with the regional  
19 workforce board for specialized services for participants in  
20 the welfare transition program, beyond what is routinely  
21 provided for the general public, to be funded by the regional  
22 workforce board.

23 (5) If students who have been determined to be adults  
24 with disabilities are enrolled in workforce development  
25 programs, the funding formula must provide additional  
26 incentives for their achievement of performance outputs and  
27 outcomes.

28 (6) The commissioner shall recommend the level of  
29 funding for public school and community college adult  
30 education within the legislative budget request and make other  
31

1 recommendations and reports considered necessary or required  
2 by rules of the State Board of Education.

3 (7) Buildings, land, equipment, and other property  
4 owned by a district school board or community college board of  
5 trustees may be used for the conduct of the adult education  
6 program. Buildings, land, equipment, and other property owned  
7 or leased by cooperating public or private agencies,  
8 organizations, or institutions may also be used for the  
9 purposes of this section.

10 (8) The State Board of Education may adopt rules  
11 necessary for the implementation of this section.

12 Section 237. Section 1004.94, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14 1004.94 Adult literacy.--

15 (1)(a) An adult, individualized literacy instruction  
16 program is created for adults who possess literacy skills  
17 below the ninth grade level. The purpose of the program is to  
18 provide self-paced, competency-based, individualized tutorial  
19 instruction. The commissioner shall administer this section in  
20 coordination with community college boards of trustees, local  
21 school boards, and the Division of Library and Information  
22 Services of the Department of State.

23 (b) Local adult, individualized literacy instruction  
24 programs may be coordinated with local public library systems  
25 and with public or private nonprofit agencies, organizations,  
26 or institutions. A local public library system and a public  
27 or private nonprofit agency, organization, or institution may  
28 use funds appropriated for the purposes of this section to  
29 hire program coordinators. Such coordinators shall offer  
30 training activities to volunteer tutors and oversee the  
31 operation of local literacy programs. A local public library

1 system and a public or private nonprofit agency, organization,  
2 or institution may also purchase student instructional  
3 materials and modules that instruct tutors in the teaching of  
4 basic and functional literacy and English for speakers of  
5 other languages. To the extent funds are appropriated,  
6 cooperating local library systems shall purchase, and make  
7 available for loan, reading materials of high interest and  
8 with a vocabulary appropriate for use by students who possess  
9 literacy skills below the ninth grade level and students of  
10 English for speakers of other languages.

11 (2)(a) The adult literacy program is intended to  
12 increase adult literacy as prescribed in the agency functional  
13 plan of the Department of Education. The commissioner shall  
14 establish guidelines for the purpose of determining  
15 achievement of this goal.

16 (b) Each participating local sponsor shall submit an  
17 annual report to the commissioner which must contain  
18 information to demonstrate the extent to which there has been  
19 progress toward increasing the percentage of adults within the  
20 service area who possess literacy skills.

21 (c) Based on the information provided from the local  
22 reports, the commissioner shall develop an annual status  
23 report on literacy and adult education.

24 (3) Funds appropriated for the purposes of this  
25 section shall be allocated as grants for implementing adult  
26 literacy programs. Such funds may not be used to supplant  
27 funds used for activities that would otherwise be conducted in  
28 the absence of literacy funding. A grant awarded pursuant to  
29 this section may not exceed \$50,000. Priority for the use of  
30 such funds shall be given to paying expenses related to the  
31 instruction of volunteer tutors, including materials and the

1 salary of the program coordinator. Local sponsors may also  
2 accept funds from private sources for the purposes of this  
3 section.

4 (4)(a) The commissioner shall submit a state adult  
5 literacy plan to the State Board of Education to serve as a  
6 reference for district school boards and community colleges  
7 boards of trustees to increase adult literacy in their service  
8 areas as prescribed in the agency functional plan of the  
9 Department of Education. The plan must include, at a minimum:

10 1. Policies and objectives for adult literacy  
11 programs, including evaluative criteria.

12 2. Strategies for coordinating adult literacy  
13 activities with programs and services provided by other state  
14 and local nonprofit agencies, as well as strategies for  
15 maximizing other funding, resources, and expertise.

16 3. Procedures for identifying, recruiting, and  
17 retaining adults who possess literacy skills below the ninth  
18 grade level.

19 4. Sources of relevant demographic information and  
20 methods of projecting the number of adults who possess  
21 literacy skills below the ninth grade level.

22 5. Acceptable methods of demonstrating compliance with  
23 the provisions of this section.

24 6. Guidelines for the development and implementation  
25 of local adult literacy plans. At a minimum, such guidelines  
26 must address:

27 a. The recruitment and preparation of volunteer  
28 tutors.

29 b. Interagency and intraagency cooperation and  
30 coordination, especially with public libraries and other  
31 sponsors of literacy programs.

1           c. Desirable learning environments, including class  
2 size.

3           d. Program evaluation standards.

4           e. Methods for identifying, recruiting, and retaining  
5 adults in literacy programs.

6           f. Adult literacy through family literacy and  
7 workforce literacy programs.

8           (b) Every 3 years, the district school board or  
9 community college board of trustees shall develop and maintain  
10 a local adult literacy plan.

11           Section 238. Section 1004.95, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13           1004.95 Adult literacy centers.--

14           (1) The Commissioner of Education shall select  
15 community colleges and public school districts to establish  
16 and operate adult literacy centers to complement existing  
17 public and private instructional adult literacy programs. The  
18 centers shall identify, contact, counsel, and refer persons  
19 considered to be lacking basic or functional literacy skills  
20 or competencies related to prose, document, and quantitative  
21 literacy skills to the appropriate private and public  
22 agencies, including human service agencies. The centers may  
23 not duplicate or supplant the existing services provided by  
24 public and private agencies operating within the district.

25           (2) In selecting program participants, the  
26 Commissioner of Education shall, at a minimum, consider the  
27 extent to which:

28           (a) Cooperative arrangements with other state and  
29 local agreements and innovative approaches will be used for  
30 carrying out the role of the center;

31

1        (b) Similar services are provided within the service  
2 delivery area;

3        (c) The program objectives may be accomplished within  
4 the budget request;

5        (d) Provisions are made for monitoring program  
6 performance; and

7        (e) Fiscal controls and fund accounting procedures  
8 exist to ensure proper use of, and accounting for, the program  
9 funds.

10        (3) The activities and funding of center operations  
11 shall be reported in a separate and distinct manner.

12        (4) The State Board of Education shall develop rules  
13 for implementing this section, including criteria for  
14 evaluating the performance of the centers, and shall submit an  
15 evaluation report of the centers to the Legislature on or  
16 before February 1 of each year.

17        Section 239. Section 1004.96, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19        1004.96 Community education.--

20        (1) Pursuant to this section and State Board of  
21 Education rule, each school board and the Board of Trustees  
22 for the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind may apply to the  
23 Department of Education for a community education grant. An  
24 applicant shall include in the grant application a description  
25 of the community education program and process through which  
26 the program is developed.

27        (2) The department shall give priority to applications  
28 that include:

29        (a) Centers that serve the most students within  
30 available resources.

31

1           (b) Programs for which funds are matched by the  
2 Federal Government or other nonstate sources and which are  
3 appropriate within the context of community education.

4           (c) Programs that provide before-school and  
5 after-school activities for children.

6           Section 240. Section 1004.97, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8           1004.97 Florida Literacy Corps.--

9           (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that eligible  
10 postsecondary students be offered an opportunity to perform  
11 public service by serving as volunteer tutors for adults who  
12 do not possess basic or functional literacy skills.

13           (2) There is created a Florida Literacy Corps to be  
14 administered by the Department of Education pursuant to this  
15 section and rules of the State Board of Education.

16 Participating students earn college credit for tutoring adults  
17 who do not possess basic or functional literacy skills  
18 pursuant to an agreement between the institution in which the  
19 student is enrolled and the district school board, community  
20 college board of trustees, public library, or nonprofit  
21 organization offering literacy instruction to adults pursuant  
22 to s. 1004.94. The district school board, community college  
23 board of trustees, public library, or nonprofit organization  
24 is solely responsible for providing literacy programs and  
25 instructing participating postsecondary students.

26           (3) In order to be eligible to participate in the  
27 Florida Literacy Corps, a student must:

28           (a) Be enrolled in an eligible state university or  
29 community college at least half time and be in good standing,  
30 as defined by the institution.

31

1           (b) Have completed at least 12 semester hours of  
2 college-level coursework that applies toward an associate in  
3 arts or baccalaureate degree.

4           (c) Have attained a passing score on one of the  
5 postsecondary entry-level examinations approved pursuant to  
6 State Board of Education rule, be exempt from the  
7 administration of such examination, or have successfully  
8 completed any required college-preparatory instruction.

9           (4) In order to be eligible to participate in the  
10 Florida Literacy Corps, a state university or community  
11 college must:

12           (a) Establish one or more undergraduate or graduate  
13 courses, or both, in which participating students may earn a  
14 maximum of 3 credit hours per semester, and a maximum of 6  
15 credit hours over two or more semesters, by tutoring adults  
16 who do not possess basic or functional literacy skills. The  
17 institution shall establish such courses in the common course  
18 designation and numbering system. The courses must require  
19 students to complete instruction for prospective tutors, tutor  
20 adults for at least 25 hours per semester for each hour of  
21 credit awarded, and satisfy any other requirements imposed by  
22 the institution.

23           (b) Submit a proposal to the Department of Education  
24 for review and approval. The proposal must include, but is not  
25 limited to:

26           1. Identification of the school district, community  
27 college, public library, or nonprofit organization with which  
28 participating students will be working.

29           2. Demonstration of the need for literacy tutors by  
30 the school district, community college, public library, or  
31 nonprofit organization.

1           3. Demonstration of commitment by the public school,  
2 community college, public library, or nonprofit organization  
3 to provide instruction for tutors.

4           4. Description of the literacy program.

5           5. Demonstration of student interest in program  
6 participation.

7           6. Designation of one or more faculty to conduct the  
8 Florida Literacy Corps course and identification of the  
9 qualifications of such faculty.

10           (5) From funds appropriated for the purposes of this  
11 section, the department shall allocate an amount for each  
12 approved proposal based on the number of students approved for  
13 enrollment and subsequently enrolled in Florida Literacy Corps  
14 courses.

15           (6) Each participating state university and community  
16 college shall submit an annual report to the Commissioner of  
17 Education which includes, but is not limited to:

18           (a) The number of hours of tutoring conducted by  
19 participating students.

20           (b) The number of students enrolled in the courses.

21           (c) The number of students who successfully complete  
22 the courses.

23           (d) An evaluation of the tutors' effectiveness as  
24 judged by the participating school district, community  
25 college, public library, or nonprofit organization. The  
26 department shall develop a common evaluation form for this  
27 purpose.

28           (e) The number of full-time equivalent enrollments  
29 generated by the participating students.

30

31

1           (7) The department shall compile the annual reports  
2 into a single, annual programmatic report to be submitted to  
3 the State Board of Education by December 1 of each year.

4           Section 241. Section 1004.98, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1004.98 Workforce literacy programs.--

7           (1) The workforce literacy program is established  
8 within the community colleges and school districts to ensure  
9 the existence of sufficient numbers of employees who possess  
10 the skills necessary to perform in entry-level occupations and  
11 to adapt to technological advances in the workplace.

12 Workforce literacy programs are intended to support economic  
13 development by increasing adult literacy and producing an  
14 educated workforce.

15           (2) Each community college and school district may  
16 conduct courses and programs through which adults gain the  
17 communication and computation skills necessary to complete a  
18 career and technical program, to gain or maintain entry-level  
19 employment, or to upgrade employment. Courses may not be  
20 conducted until the community college or school district  
21 identifies current and prospective employees who do not  
22 possess the skills necessary to enter career and technical  
23 programs or to obtain or maintain employment.

24           (3) A community college or school district may be  
25 eligible to fund a workforce literacy program pursuant to the  
26 provisions of s. 1004.94.

27           Section 242. Chapter 1005, Florida Statutes, shall be  
28 entitled "Nonpublic Postsecondary Education" and shall consist  
29 of ss. 1005.01-1005.39.

30  
31

1           Section 243. Part I of chapter 1005, Florida Statutes,  
2 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of  
3 ss. 1005.01-1005.06.

4           Section 244. Section 1005.01, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1005.01 Purpose.--

7           (1) The Legislature encourages privately supported  
8 higher education and intends to aid in protecting the health,  
9 education, and welfare of persons who receive educational  
10 services from independent postsecondary educational  
11 institutions in this state; to aid in protecting employers and  
12 others who depend upon people whose educational credentials  
13 are from independent postsecondary educational institutions in  
14 this state; and to aid in protecting independent postsecondary  
15 educational institutions that currently operate or intend to  
16 begin operating in this state. The Legislature finds that both  
17 individuals and independent postsecondary educational  
18 institutions benefit from a state system that assures that all  
19 institutions satisfactorily meet minimum educational  
20 standards. The Legislature further recognizes the role of  
21 federally recognized accrediting associations in setting  
22 standards for independent postsecondary educational  
23 institutions and encourages the use of recognized  
24 accreditation standards as general guidelines for the  
25 licensure of independent postsecondary educational  
26 institutions.

27           (2) The Legislature recognizes that a degree, diploma,  
28 or other educational credential serves several purposes.  
29 Employers rely upon a person's educational credentials in  
30 judging that person's qualifications for employment. Educators  
31 rely upon a person's educational credentials to assess the

1 adequacy of that person's preparation for the pursuit of  
2 further education. Therefore, the Legislature intends that the  
3 provisions of this chapter aid in protecting the integrity of  
4 degrees, diplomas, and other educational credentials offered  
5 by independent postsecondary educational institutions by  
6 providing for the evaluation of minimum educational  
7 requirements.

8 (3) The Legislature intends to prohibit the granting  
9 of false or misleading educational credentials and to prohibit  
10 misleading literature, advertising, solicitation, or  
11 representations by independent postsecondary educational  
12 institutions or their agents.

13 Section 245. Section 1005.02, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15 1005.02 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, the  
16 term:

17 (1) "Accreditation" means accredited status awarded to  
18 an institution by an accrediting agency or association that is  
19 recognized by the United States Department of Education and  
20 that has standards comparable to the minimum standards  
21 required to operate an educational institution at that level  
22 in this state.

23 (2) "Agent" means a person who is employed by an  
24 independent postsecondary educational institution under the  
25 jurisdiction of the Commission for Independent Education, or  
26 by an out-of-state independent postsecondary educational  
27 institution, and who secures an application or accepts payment  
28 of fees from prospective students for the institution at any  
29 place other than the legal place of business of the  
30 institution.

31

- 1           (3) "Avocational" means a course or program the  
2 objective of which is not occupational but is only for  
3 personal enrichment or enjoyment. To be classified as  
4 avocational, a program must:
- 5           (a) Prior to enrollment, provide to each enrollee, and  
6 maintain a record copy of, a written statement that includes  
7 the following or substantially similar language: "This program  
8 is not designed or intended to qualify its participants and  
9 graduates for employment. It is intended solely for the  
10 avocation, personal enrichment, and enjoyment of its  
11 participants."
- 12           (b) Not make any other verbal or written statement  
13 that negates the required written statement by stating or  
14 implying that people who enroll in or complete the program  
15 have a more substantial likelihood of obtaining employment in  
16 the field to which the training pertains than people who do  
17 not.
- 18           (4) "College" or "university" means any incorporated  
19 postsecondary educational entity, and its additional  
20 locations, offering a substantially complete program that  
21 confers or offers to confer at least an associate degree  
22 requiring at least 15 semester hours or the equivalent of  
23 general education, or that furnishes or offers to furnish  
24 instruction leading toward, or prerequisite to, college  
25 credit. The terms include any college-credit-granting  
26 independent educational institution that is chartered in this  
27 state and any center or branch campus within this state of an  
28 out-of-state institution at the college-credit level.
- 29           (5) "Commission" means the Commission for Independent  
30 Education.  
31

1           (6) "Contract training" means instruction or training  
2 provided through a written contract with an independent  
3 contractor whose fees and any other charges are entirely paid  
4 by a company, trade or professional association, or group of  
5 employers to provide the instruction exclusively to bona fide  
6 employees of the entity that engaged the contractor. The term  
7 applies only when those receiving training are selected by  
8 their employer and are not recruited by the contractor.

9           (7) "Degree" means any educational credential that is  
10 generally taken to signify satisfactory completion of the  
11 requirements of an undergraduate, graduate, academic,  
12 educational, or professional program of study or any honorary  
13 credential conferred for meritorious recognition. At the  
14 undergraduate level, an institution may not award a degree for  
15 a program unless it includes a general education component as  
16 established by rule and at least 60 semester hours or 90  
17 quarter hours of study or the equivalent.

18           (8) "Diploma" means a credential that is not a degree  
19 but is any of the following: a certificate, transcript,  
20 report, document, or title; a designation, mark, or  
21 appellation; or a series of letters, numbers, or words that  
22 generally are taken to signify satisfactory completion of the  
23 requirements of an educational, technical, or career program  
24 of study or training or course of study.

25           (9) "Examination preparation course" means a course or  
26 program that does not offer to confer a diploma, that is  
27 offered by a person or entity that discloses in all  
28 advertising that the course or program is for test  
29 preparation, and that does not include any expression or  
30 implication in writing or orally regarding salaries, job  
31 placement, or career advancement.

1           (10) "Governmental" means an institution provided,  
2 operated, and supported by a federal, state, or county  
3 government or any of its political subdivisions.

4           (11) "Independent postsecondary educational  
5 institution" means any postsecondary educational institution  
6 that operates in this state or makes application to operate in  
7 this state, and is not provided, operated, and supported by  
8 the State of Florida, its political subdivisions, or the  
9 Federal Government.

10           (12) "In-service, continuing education, or  
11 professional development" means training provided by:

12           (a) A trade or professional association or a group of  
13 employers in the same or related business who offer training  
14 and provide only professional-development programs to bona  
15 fide employees or contractors of an employer who is a member  
16 of the association or employers who qualify for membership;

17           (b) A labor union or group of labor unions that offer  
18 training to and trains only those persons who are dues-paying  
19 members of the participating labor union;

20           (c) An independent contractor engaged by the labor  
21 union or group of labor unions, by written contract, to  
22 provide the training on its behalf exclusively to those who  
23 are selected by the labor union or group of labor unions that  
24 engaged the contractor and who are dues-paying members of that  
25 union; or

26           (d) A person or entity offering only  
27 continuing-education programs to persons who engage in an  
28 occupation or profession whose practitioners are subject to  
29 licensure, certification, or registration by a state agency  
30 that recognizes the programs for continuing-education purposes  
31 and provides a written statement of the recognition.

1           (13) "License" means a certificate signifying that an  
2 independent postsecondary educational institution meets  
3 standards prescribed in statute or rule and is permitted to  
4 operate in this state.

5           (14) "Operating in this state" means any of the  
6 following:

7           (a) Maintaining for any purpose related to offering a  
8 degree, diploma, or credit a physical location in this state,  
9 a mailing address in this state, a telephone or facsimile  
10 number in this state, or a mail forwarding service or  
11 telephone answering or relay service in this state or  
12 advertising any such presence; or

13           (b) By any means or device, facilitating in this state  
14 any part of a scheme to offer a degree, diploma, or credit, or  
15 any activity connected with the administration, promotion,  
16 recruitment, placement, instruction, fee collection or  
17 receipt, or any other function of a purported independent  
18 postsecondary educational institution, other than periodic and  
19 customary contact with the institution's own alumni.

20           (15) "Out-of-state college" or "out-of-state school"  
21 means any independent postsecondary educational institution  
22 where the place of instruction, the legal place of residence,  
23 or the place of evaluation of instruction or work by  
24 correspondence or distance education is not within the legal  
25 boundaries of this state.

26           (16) "School" means any nonpublic postsecondary  
27 noncollegiate educational institution, association,  
28 corporation, person, partnership, or organization of any type  
29 which:

30           (a) Offers to provide or provides any complete, or  
31 substantially complete, postsecondary program of instruction

1 through the student's personal attendance; in the presence of  
2 an instructor; in a classroom, clinical, or other practicum  
3 setting; or through correspondence or other distance  
4 education;

5 (b) Represents, directly or by implication, that the  
6 instruction will qualify the student for employment in an  
7 occupation for which a degree is not required in order to  
8 practice in this state;

9 (c) Receives remuneration from the student or any  
10 other source based on the enrollment of a student or the  
11 number of students enrolled; or

12 (d) Offers to award or awards a diploma, regardless of  
13 whether it conducts instruction or receives remuneration.

14 Section 246. Section 1005.03, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 1005.03 Designation "college" or "university".--

17 (1) The use of the designation "college" or  
18 "university" in combination with any series of letters,  
19 numbers, or words is restricted in this state to colleges or  
20 universities as defined in s. 1005.02 that offer degrees as  
21 defined in s. 1005.02 and fall into at least one of the  
22 following categories:

23 (a) A Florida public college.

24 (b) A Florida or out-of-state college that has been in  
25 active operation and using the designation "college" or  
26 "university" since April 1, 1970.

27 (c) A college for which the commission has issued a  
28 license pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

29 (d) A college that is under the jurisdiction of the  
30 Division of Colleges and Universities of the Department of  
31 Education, whose students are eligible for the William L.

1 Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant, and that is a  
 2 nonprofit independent college or university located and  
 3 chartered in this state and accredited by the Commission on  
 4 Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
 5 to grant baccalaureate degrees.

6 (e) A college that meets the description of either s.  
 7 1005.06(1)(e) or s. 1005.06(1)(f).

8 (2) If a college is approved under subsection (1) to  
 9 use the designation "college" or "university," a branch or  
 10 extension of that college may use the name of the parent  
 11 college, but shall include an indication of the location of  
 12 the branch or extension.

13 (3) Any entity offering postsecondary educational  
 14 courses or programs of study in Florida, whether or not  
 15 college credit is awarded, shall be subject to the provisions  
 16 of this section.

17 (4) An entity shall not use the designation "college"  
 18 or "university" in its name in Florida without approval by the  
 19 commission, unless the commission determines that its name is  
 20 clearly and accurately descriptive of the services provided by  
 21 the entity and is not one that may mislead the public.

22 Section 247. Section 1005.04, Florida Statutes, is  
 23 created to read:

24 1005.04 Fair consumer practices.--

25 (1) Every institution that is under the jurisdiction  
 26 of the commission or is exempt from the jurisdiction or  
 27 purview of the commission pursuant to s. 1005.06(1)(c) or  
 28 (1)(f) and that either directly or indirectly solicits for  
 29 enrollment any student shall:

30 (a) Disclose to each prospective student a statement  
 31 of the purpose of such institution, its educational programs

1 and curricula, a description of its physical facilities, its  
2 status regarding licensure, its fee schedule and policies  
3 regarding retaining student fees if a student withdraws, and a  
4 statement regarding the transferability of credits to and from  
5 other institutions. The institution shall make the required  
6 disclosures in writing at least 1 week prior to enrollment or  
7 collection of any tuition from the prospective student. The  
8 required disclosures may be made in the institution's current  
9 catalog.

10 (b) Use a reliable method to assess, before accepting  
11 a student into a program, the student's ability to complete  
12 successfully the course of study for which he or she has  
13 applied;

14 (c) Inform each student accurately about financial  
15 assistance and obligations for repayment of loans; describe  
16 any employment placement services provided and the limitations  
17 thereof; and refrain from promising or implying guaranteed  
18 placement, market availability, or salary amounts;

19 (d) Provide to prospective and enrolled students  
20 accurate information regarding the relationship of its  
21 programs to state licensure requirements for practicing  
22 related occupations and professions in Florida;

23 (e) Ensure that all advertisements are accurate and  
24 not misleading;

25 (f) Publish and follow an equitable prorated refund  
26 policy for all students, and follow both the federal refund  
27 guidelines for students receiving federal financial assistance  
28 and the minimum refund guidelines set by commission rule;

29 (g) Follow the requirements of state and federal laws  
30 that require annual reporting with respect to crime statistics  
31

1 and physical plant safety and make those reports available to  
2 the public; and

3 (h) Publish and follow procedures for handling student  
4 complaints, disciplinary actions, and appeals.

5 (2) In addition, institutions that are required to be  
6 licensed by the commission shall disclose to prospective  
7 students that additional information regarding the institution  
8 may be obtained by contacting the Commission for Independent  
9 Education, Department of Education, Tallahassee.

10 Section 248. Section 1005.05, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1005.05 Certificate and diploma programs.--No  
13 nonpublic college shall continue to conduct or begin to  
14 conduct any diploma program as defined in s. 1005.02, unless  
15 the college applies for and obtains approval for such program.  
16 Colleges under the jurisdiction of the Commission for  
17 Independent Education shall apply to the commission. Colleges  
18 that are not under the jurisdiction of the commission shall  
19 apply to the Department of Education.

20 Section 249. Section 1005.06, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22 1005.06 Institutions not under the jurisdiction or  
23 purview of the commission.--

24 (1) Except as otherwise provided in law, the following  
25 institutions are not under the jurisdiction or purview of the  
26 commission and are not required to obtain licensure:

27 (a) Any postsecondary educational institution  
28 provided, operated, or supported by this state, its political  
29 subdivisions, or the Federal Government.

30 (b) Any college, school, or course licensed or  
31 approved for establishment and operation under part I of

1 chapter 464, chapter 466, or chapter 475, or any other chapter  
2 of the Florida Statutes requiring licensing or approval as  
3 defined in this chapter.

4 (c) Any institution that is under the jurisdiction of  
5 the Division of Colleges and Universities of the Department of  
6 Education, whose students are eligible for the William L.  
7 Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant, and that is a  
8 nonprofit independent college or university located and  
9 chartered in this state and accredited by the Commission on  
10 Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
11 to grant baccalaureate degrees.

12 (d) Any institution that offers only avocational  
13 programs or courses, examination preparation programs or  
14 courses, contract training programs or courses, continuing  
15 education, or professional development programs or courses.

16 (e) Any institution that was exempt from licensure in  
17 2001 under s. 246.085(1)(b), Florida Statutes 2001, as long as  
18 it maintains these qualifying criteria: the institution is  
19 incorporated in this state, the institution's credits or  
20 degrees are accepted for credit by at least three colleges  
21 that are fully accredited by an agency recognized by the  
22 United States Department of Education, the institution was  
23 exempt under that category prior to July 1, 1982, and the  
24 institution does not enroll any students who receive state or  
25 federal financial aid for education. Such an institution shall  
26 notify the commission and apply for licensure if it no longer  
27 meets these criteria.

28 (f) A religious college may operate without  
29 governmental oversight if the college annually verifies by  
30 sworn affidavit to the commission that:  
31

1           1. The name of the institution includes a religious  
2 modifier or the name of a religious patriarch, saint, person,  
3 or symbol of the church.

4           2. The institution offers only educational programs  
5 that prepare students for religious vocations as ministers,  
6 professionals, or laypersons in the categories of ministry,  
7 counseling, theology, education, administration, music, fine  
8 arts, media communications, or social work.

9           3. The titles of degrees issued by the institution  
10 cannot be confused with secular degree titles. For this  
11 purpose, each degree title must include a religious modifier  
12 that immediately precedes, or is included within, any of the  
13 following degrees: Associate of Arts, Associate of Science,  
14 Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts, Master  
15 of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, and Doctor of Education. The  
16 religious modifier must be placed on the title line of the  
17 degree, on the transcript, and whenever the title of the  
18 degree appears in official school documents or publications.

19           4. The duration of all degree programs offered by the  
20 institution is consistent with the standards of the  
21 commission.

22           5. The institution's consumer practices are consistent  
23 with those required by s. 1005.04.

24  
25 The commission may provide such a religious institution a  
26 letter stating that the institution has met the requirements  
27 of state law and is not subject to governmental oversight.

28           (g) Any institution that is regulated by the Federal  
29 Aviation Administration, another agency of the Federal  
30 Government, or an agency of the state whose regulatory laws  
31 are similar in nature and purpose to those of the commission

1 and require minimum educational standards, for at least  
2 curriculum, instructors, and academic progress and provide  
3 protection against fraudulent, deceptive, and substandard  
4 education practices.

5 (2) The Department of Education may contract with the  
6 Commission on Independent Education to provide services for  
7 independent postsecondary educational institutions not under  
8 the jurisdiction of the commission relating to licensure of  
9 postsecondary technical certificate and diploma programs that  
10 such institutions may wish to offer and preliminary review of  
11 programs such institutions may wish to offer which are beyond  
12 the scope of the institutions's current accreditation status.  
13 Upon completion of its review, the commission shall forward  
14 its recommendation to the department for final action. The  
15 department shall assess the institution seeking such services  
16 the cost to the commission of providing such services.  
17 Revenues collected pursuant to this provision shall be  
18 deposited in the Institutional Assessment Trust Fund.

19 Section 250. Part II of chapter 1005, Florida  
20 Statutes, shall be entitled "Commission for Independent  
21 Education" and shall consist of ss. 1005.21-1005.22.

22 Section 251. Section 1005.21, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1005.21 Commission for Independent Education.--

25 (1) There is established in the Department of  
26 Education the Commission for Independent Education. The  
27 department shall serve as the administrative agent of the  
28 commission by providing services, including payroll,  
29 procurement, and legal counsel. The commission shall exercise  
30 independently all powers, duties, and functions prescribed by  
31 law. The commission shall authorize the granting of diplomas

1 and degrees by any independent postsecondary educational  
2 institution under its jurisdiction.

3 (2) The Commission for Independent Education shall  
4 consist of seven members who are residents of this state. The  
5 commission shall function in matters concerning independent  
6 postsecondary educational institutions in consumer protection,  
7 program improvement, and licensure for institutions under its  
8 purview. The Governor shall appoint the members of the  
9 commission who are subject to confirmation by the Senate. The  
10 membership of the commission shall consist of:

11 (a) Two representatives of independent colleges or  
12 universities licensed by the commission.

13 (b) Two representatives of independent,  
14 nondegree-granting schools licensed by the commission.

15 (c) One member from a public school district or  
16 community college who is an administrator of career and  
17 technical education.

18 (d) One representative of a college that meets the  
19 criteria of s. 1005.06(1)(f).

20 (e) One lay member who is not affiliated with an  
21 independent postsecondary educational institution.

22 (3) The members of the commission shall be appointed  
23 to 3-year terms and until their successors are appointed and  
24 qualified. If a vacancy on the commission occurs before the  
25 expiration of a term, the Governor shall appoint a successor  
26 to serve the unexpired portion of the term.

27 (4) The commission shall meet at least four times each  
28 fiscal year.

29 (5) Members of the commission are entitled to  
30 reimbursement for travel and per diem expenses, as provided in  
31 s. 112.061, while performing their duties.

1           (6) Each member is accountable to the Governor for the  
 2 proper performance of the duties of his or her office. The  
 3 Governor may remove from office any member for cause.

4           Section 252. Section 1005.22, Florida Statutes, is  
 5 created to read:

6           1005.22 Powers and duties of commission.--

7           (1) The commission shall:

8           (a) Hold meetings as necessary to administer its  
 9 duties.

10           (b) Annually select a chairperson and a vice  
 11 chairperson, appoint and review an executive director, and  
 12 authorize the executive director to appoint employees of the  
 13 commission.

14           (c) Adopt and use an official seal in the  
 15 authentication of its acts.

16           (d) Make rules for its own governance.

17           (e) Administer the provisions of this chapter. To this  
 18 end, the commission has the following administrative powers  
 19 and responsibilities:

20           1. The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to ss.  
 21 120.536(1) and 120.54 for the operation and establishment of  
 22 independent postsecondary educational institutions. The  
 23 commission shall submit the rules to the State Board of  
 24 Education for approval or disapproval. If the state board does  
 25 not act on a rule within 60 days after receiving it, the rule  
 26 shall be filed immediately with the Department of State.

27           2. The commission shall submit an annual budget to the  
 28 State Board of Education.

29           3. The commission shall transmit all fees, donations,  
 30 and other receipts of money to the Institutional Assessment  
 31 Trust Fund.

1           4. The commission shall expend funds as necessary to  
2 assist in the application and enforcement of its powers and  
3 duties. The Chief Financial Officer shall pay out all moneys  
4 and funds as directed under this chapter upon vouchers  
5 approved by the Department of Education for all lawful  
6 purposes necessary to administering this chapter. The  
7 commission shall make annual reports to the State Board of  
8 Education showing in detail amounts received and all  
9 expenditures. The commission shall include in its annual  
10 report to the State Board of Education a statement of its  
11 major activities during the period covered by the report.

12           (f) Maintain a record of its proceedings.

13           (g) Cooperate with other state and federal agencies  
14 and other nongovernmental agencies in administering its  
15 duties.

16           (h) Cause to be investigated criminal justice  
17 information, as defined in s. 943.045, for each owner,  
18 administrator, and agent employed by an institution applying  
19 for licensure from the commission.

20           (i) Serve as a central agency for collecting and  
21 distributing current information regarding institutions  
22 licensed by the commission.

23           (j) Inform independent postsecondary educational  
24 institutions of laws adopted by the Legislature and rules  
25 adopted by the State Board of Education and the commission and  
26 of their responsibility to follow those laws and rules.

27           (k) Establish and publicize the procedures for  
28 receiving and responding to complaints from students, faculty,  
29 and others concerning institutions or programs under the  
30 purview of the commission, and keep records of such complaints  
31

- 1 in order to determine the frequency and nature of complaints  
2 with respect to specific institutions of higher education.
- 3 (l) Provide annually to the Office of Student  
4 Financial Assistance of the Department of Education  
5 information and documentation that can be used to determine an  
6 institution's eligibility to participate in state student  
7 financial assistance programs.
- 8 (m) Coordinate and convey annual reports to the  
9 Commissioner of Education relating to campus crime statistics,  
10 the assessment of physical plant safety, and the antihazing  
11 policies of nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions  
12 eligible to receive state-funded student assistance, as  
13 required by law.
- 14 (n) Identify and report to the Office of Student  
15 Financial Assistance the accrediting associations recognized  
16 by the United States Department of Education which have  
17 standards that are comparable to the minimum standards  
18 required to operate an institution at that level in this  
19 state.
- 20 (o) Assure that an institution is not required to  
21 operate without a current license because of the schedule of  
22 commission meetings or application procedures, if the  
23 institution has met the commission's requirements for  
24 licensure or license renewal.
- 25 (2) The commission may:
- 26 (a) Sue or be sued.
- 27 (b) Enter into contracts with the Federal Government,  
28 with other departments of the state, or with individuals.
- 29 (c) Receive bequests and gifts, subject to any  
30 restrictions upon which the commission and the donor agree.  
31

1        (d) Appoint standing or special committees to assist  
 2 it in carrying out its responsibilities. Committees may  
 3 include members who are not commission members or  
 4 representatives of licensed postsecondary institutions.

5        (e) Advise the Governor, the Legislature, the State  
 6 Board of Education, the Council for Education Policy Research  
 7 and Improvement, and the Commissioner of Education on issues  
 8 relating to private postsecondary education.

9        (f) Delegate to the chairperson of the commission the  
 10 responsibility for signing final orders.

11        (g) Assist independent postsecondary educational  
 12 institutions in formulating articulation agreements with  
 13 public and other independent institutions.

14        (h) Establish and operate additional offices in the  
 15 central and southern part of the state if the concentration of  
 16 licensed institutions renders such an office economically  
 17 feasible.

18        (i) Establish and administer the Student Protection  
 19 Fund pursuant to s. 1005.37.

20        Section 253. Part III of chapter 1005, Florida  
 21 Statutes, shall be entitled "Licensure of Nonpublic  
 22 Postsecondary Educational Institutions" and shall consist of  
 23 ss. 1005.31-1005.39.

24        Section 254. Section 1005.31, Florida Statutes, is  
 25 created to read:

26        1005.31 Licensure of institutions.--

27        (1) Each college or school operating within this state  
 28 must obtain licensure from the commission unless the  
 29 institution is not under the commission's purview or  
 30 jurisdiction as provided in s. 1005.06.  
 31

1           (2) The commission shall develop minimum standards by  
2 which to evaluate institutions for licensure. These standards  
3 must include at least the institution's name, financial  
4 stability, purpose, administrative organization, admissions  
5 and recruitment, educational programs and curricula,  
6 retention, completion, career placement, faculty, learning  
7 resources, student personnel services, physical plant and  
8 facilities, publications, and disclosure statements about the  
9 status of the institution with respect to professional  
10 certification and licensure. The commission may adopt rules to  
11 ensure that institutions licensed under this section meet  
12 these standards in ways that are appropriate to achieve the  
13 stated intent of this chapter, including provisions for  
14 nontraditional or distance education programs and delivery.

15           (3) The commission shall recognize an institution  
16 based on the institution's highest educational offering and  
17 shall adopt rules for licensure that include reporting  
18 requirements for each level of licensure.

19           (4) Approved-applicant status shall be extended to all  
20 institutions that have submitted a complete application, as  
21 defined in rule, for provisional licensure and paid all  
22 attendant fees. In granting approved-applicant status, the  
23 commission shall provide to commission staff and the  
24 institution a list of specific omissions or deficiencies.  
25 Institutions granted approved-applicant status may not  
26 advertise, offer programs of study, collect tuition or fees,  
27 or engage in any other activities not specifically approved by  
28 the commission. If the commission, or the commission staff if  
29 specifically directed by the commission, determines that the  
30 omissions or deficiencies have been provided for or corrected,  
31 the institution may be awarded a provisional license.

1           (5) Provisional licensure shall be granted to an  
2 applicant for initial licensure for a period not to exceed 1  
3 year when the commission determines that the applicant is in  
4 substantial compliance with the standards for licensure. A  
5 provisional license granted for initial licensure may be  
6 extended for up to 1 additional year. A licensed institution  
7 that has undergone a substantive change, as defined by rule,  
8 must be granted a provisional license for a period of time  
9 determined by the commission, after which period the  
10 institution may apply for a different status. A provisional  
11 license may include conditions required by the commission, and  
12 all conditions must be met before the institution may receive  
13 a different licensure status.

14           (6) An annual license shall be granted to an  
15 institution holding a provisional license, or seeking a  
16 renewal of an annual license, upon demonstrating full  
17 compliance with licensure standards. An annual license may be  
18 extended for up to 1 year if the institution meets the  
19 requirements set by rule for such an extension.

20           (7) An institution may not conduct a program unless  
21 specific authority is granted in its license.

22           (8) A license granted by the commission is not  
23 transferable to another institution or to another agent, and  
24 an institution's license does not transfer when the  
25 institution's ownership changes.

26           (a) A licensed institution must notify the commission  
27 prior to a change of ownership or control. The commission  
28 shall adopt procedures for interim executive approval of a  
29 change of ownership or control if the next scheduled meeting  
30 of the commission occurs after the scheduled date of the  
31 change of ownership or control.

1           **(b) The commission may adopt rules governing changes**  
2 **of ownership or control.**

3           **(9) An independent postsecondary educational**  
4 **institution or any person acting on behalf of such an**  
5 **institution may not publish any advertisement soliciting**  
6 **students or offering a credential before the institution is**  
7 **duly licensed by the commission or while the institution is**  
8 **under an injunction against operating, soliciting students, or**  
9 **offering an educational credential.**

10           **(10) The commission shall establish minimum standards**  
11 **for the approval of agents. The commission may adopt rules to**  
12 **ensure that licensed agents meet these standards and uphold**  
13 **the intent of this chapter. An agent may not solicit**  
14 **prospective students in this state for enrollment in any**  
15 **independent postsecondary educational institution under the**  
16 **commission's purview or in any out-of-state independent**  
17 **postsecondary educational institution unless the agent has**  
18 **received a license as prescribed by the commission.**

19           **(11) A student of a foreign medical school may not**  
20 **engage in a clinical clerkship in this state unless the**  
21 **foreign medical school has received a license, in the case of**  
22 **a core clerkship or an ongoing regular program of clerkships,**  
23 **or has received individual approval, in the case of an**  
24 **occasional elective clerkship. The commission may adopt rules**  
25 **to administer this subsection.**

26           **(12) The granting of a license is not an**  
27 **accreditation.**

28           **(13) As a condition of licensure, an independent**  
29 **college or university must provide the commission with a copy**  
30 **of its antihazing policy.**

31

1           Section 255. Section 1005.32, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1005.32 Licensure by means of accreditation.--

4           (1) An independent postsecondary educational  
5 institution that meets the following criteria may apply for a  
6 license by means of accreditation from the commission:

7           (a) The institution has operated legally in this state  
8 for at least 5 consecutive years.

9           (b) The institution holds institutional accreditation  
10 by an accrediting agency evaluated and approved by the  
11 commission as having standards substantially equivalent to the  
12 commission's licensure standards.

13           (c) The institution has no unresolved complaints or  
14 actions in the past 12 months.

15           (d) The institution meets minimum requirements for  
16 financial responsibility as determined by the commission.

17           (e) The institution is a Florida corporation.

18           (2) An institution that was exempt from licensure in  
19 2001 under s. 246.085(1)(a), Florida Statutes 2001, may retain  
20 an exemption until the commission issues it a license by means  
21 of accreditation as provided in this section.

22           (3) The commission may not require an institution  
23 granted a license by means of accreditation to submit reports  
24 that differ from the reports required by its accrediting  
25 association, except that each institution must file with the  
26 commission an annual audit report and follow the commission's  
27 requirements for orderly closing, including provisions for  
28 trainout or refunds and arranging for the proper disposition  
29 of student and institutional records.

30           (4) An institution granted a license by means of  
31 accreditation must apply for and receive another level of

1 licensure before the institution may offer courses or programs  
2 that exceed the scope or level of its accreditation.

3 (5) Institutions granted a license by means of  
4 accreditation must comply with the standards of fair consumer  
5 practices as established in rule by the commission.

6 (6) A license by means of accreditation is valid for  
7 the same period as the qualifying grant of accreditation.

8 (7) A license by means of accreditation may be denied,  
9 placed on probation, or revoked for repeated failure to comply  
10 with the requirements of this section. The commission shall  
11 adopt rules for these actions. Revocation or denial of a  
12 license by means of accreditation requires that the  
13 institution immediately obtain an annual license.

14 Section 256. Section 1005.33, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 1005.33 License period and renewal.--

17 (1) As required by rule, the commission shall  
18 periodically review each license to determine if the  
19 institution is in compliance with this chapter and should have  
20 its license renewed. The commission may extend an annual or  
21 provisional license if a good-faith effort has been made by  
22 the institution and agent. The commission shall determine what  
23 constitutes compliance or a good-faith effort and may adopt  
24 rules to administer this section.

25 (2) A licensed independent postsecondary educational  
26 institution that seeks to expand or modify its programs or  
27 degrees to be conferred or to add new locations must seek  
28 prior approval from the commission. The commission shall adopt  
29 rules for the approval of modified or additional programs,  
30 degrees, and locations.

31

1       (3) On the effective date of this act, an institution  
2 that, in 2002, held the status of "Permission to Operate"  
3 under s. 246.093, Florida Statutes 2001, has 90 days to seek  
4 and obtain licensure from the commission. Ninety days after  
5 this act takes effect, that status no longer authorizes an  
6 institution to operate in Florida.

7           Section 257. Section 1005.34, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9           1005.34 Fair consumer practices; condition of  
10 operation.--The commission shall adopt rules to ensure the  
11 protection of students, including rules establishing fair  
12 consumer practices pursuant to s. 1005.04.

13           (1) The commission may not grant or renew a license  
14 unless the institution seeking the action provides the  
15 commission with a sworn statement of compliance with rules  
16 regarding fair consumer practices.

17           (2) The commission may examine any complaint against  
18 an institution under its jurisdiction and, if the institution  
19 is found to be routinely handling these matters correctly, the  
20 complaint shall be considered closed. Complaints under this  
21 subsection against accredited institutions, if not resolved,  
22 shall be forwarded to the accrediting agency for any  
23 appropriate action. The institution shall notify the  
24 commission of any and all actions taken by the accrediting  
25 agency in response to the complaint.

26           (3) Failure to comply with this section is cause for  
27 denial or revocation of a license.

28           Section 258. Section 1005.35, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30           1005.35 Fees.--  
31

- 1           (1) The Commission for Independent Education shall  
2 annually establish a fee schedule to generate, from fees, the  
3 amount of revenue appropriated for its operation.
- 4           (2) The commission shall include, as a part of its  
5 legislative budget request, a proposed fee schedule to  
6 generate the appropriated fee revenue required in the General  
7 Appropriations Act. The commission may adjust the fee amounts  
8 to generate the fee revenue required in the General  
9 Appropriations Act but may not add fee categories without the  
10 Legislature's approval. The fee schedule proposed in the  
11 legislative budget request takes effect unless the Legislature  
12 requires changes.
- 13           (3) The commission shall charge each licensed  
14 institution a base fee to cover the cost of routine services,  
15 such as data collection and dissemination. The base fee may be  
16 higher for institutions with a large enrollment but may not  
17 exceed one-half of 1 percent of the amount appropriated for  
18 the commission.
- 19           (4) The commission shall assess workload fees to  
20 institutions for specific services that relate to:
- 21           (a) Licensure.  
22           (b) Annual reviews.  
23           (c) Special reviews.  
24           (d) Site visits.  
25           (e) Resolution of complaints.  
26           (f) Approval to use the term "college" or  
27 "university."
- 28           (g) Participation in the Student Protection Fund  
29 established pursuant to s. 1005.37.
- 30           (h) Other workload activities as allowed by law.  
31

1       (5) The commission may assess late fees for an  
2 institution's failure to timely submit required materials.

3       (6) All fees shall be submitted through the Department  
4 of Education to the Chief Financial Officer, to be deposited  
5 in the Institutional Assessment Trust Fund.

6       (7) All fees authorized in this section are  
7 administrative fees and are not refundable unless paid in  
8 error. The commission may deduct from an institution's future  
9 fee collection any unintentional overpayment.

10       Section 259. Section 1005.36, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12       1005.36 Institutional closings.--

13       (1) The Legislature intends to protect students and  
14 the independent sector of postsecondary education from the  
15 detriment caused by licensed institutions that cease operation  
16 without providing for the proper completion of student  
17 training or for the appropriate refund of student fees. To  
18 serve this intention, the Commission for Independent Education  
19 may prevent the operation in this state of a licensed  
20 independent postsecondary educational institution by an owner  
21 who has unlawfully closed another institution and the  
22 commission may exercise control over student records upon  
23 closure of a licensed institution if the institution does not  
24 provide an orderly closure.

25       (2) At least 30 days prior to closing an institution,  
26 its owners, directors, or administrators shall notify the  
27 commission in writing of the closure of the institution. The  
28 owners, directors, and administrators must organize an orderly  
29 closure of the institution, which means at least providing for  
30 the completion of training of its students. The commission  
31 must approve any such plan. An owner, director, or

1 administrator who fails to notify the commission at least 30  
 2 days prior to the institution's closure, or who fails to  
 3 organize the orderly closure of the institution and the  
 4 trainout of the students, commits a misdemeanor of the second  
 5 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

6 (3) If the commission finds that an institution has  
 7 ceased operating without providing for the proper access to  
 8 student records, the commission may require the institution to  
 9 convey all student records to the commission office or to  
 10 another location designated by the commission or its staff.  
 11 The commission shall make copies of records available to  
 12 bankruptcy trustees upon request and to the student or those  
 13 designated by the student. Confidentiality of the records  
 14 shall be maintained to the extent required by law. The  
 15 commission may seek civil penalties not to exceed \$10,000 from  
 16 any owner, director, or administrator of an institution who  
 17 knowingly destroys, abandons, or fails to convey or provide  
 18 for the safekeeping of institutional and student records. The  
 19 commission may use moneys in the Student Protection Fund to  
 20 facilitate the retrieval or safekeeping of records from an  
 21 institution that has closed.

22 (4) The commission may refer matters it deems  
 23 appropriate to the Department of Legal Affairs or the state  
 24 attorney for investigation and prosecution.

25 Section 260. Section 1005.37, Florida Statutes, is  
 26 created to read:

27 1005.37 Student Protection Fund.--

28 (1) The commission shall establish and administer a  
 29 statewide, fee-supported financial program through which funds  
 30 will be available to complete the training of a student who  
 31 enrolls in a nonpublic school that terminates a program or

1 ceases operation before the student has completed his or her  
2 program of study. The financial program is named the Student  
3 Protection Fund.

4 (2) The commission is authorized to assess a fee from  
5 the schools within its jurisdiction for such purpose. The  
6 commission shall assess a licensed school an additional fee  
7 for its eligibility for the Student Protection Fund.

8 (3) If a licensed school terminates a program before  
9 all students complete it, the commission shall also assess  
10 that school a fee adequate to pay the full cost to the Student  
11 Protection Fund of completing the training of students.

12 (4) The fund shall consist entirely of fees assessed  
13 to licensed schools and shall not be funded under any  
14 circumstances by public funds, nor shall the commission make  
15 payments or be obligated to make payments in excess of the  
16 assessments actually received from licensed schools and  
17 deposited in the Institutional Assessment Trust Fund to the  
18 credit of the Student Protection Fund.

19 (5) At each commission meeting, the commission shall  
20 consider the need for and shall make required assessments,  
21 shall review the collection status of unpaid assessments and  
22 take all necessary steps to collect them, and shall review all  
23 moneys in the fund and expenses incurred since the last  
24 reporting period. This review must include administrative  
25 expenses, moneys received, and payments made to students or to  
26 lending institutions.

27 (6) Staff of the commission must immediately inform  
28 the commission upon learning of the closing of a licensed  
29 school or the termination of a program that could expose the  
30 fund to liability.

31

1           (7) The Student Protection Fund must be actuarially  
2 sound, periodically audited by the Auditor General in  
3 connection with his or her audit of the Department of  
4 Education, and reviewed to determine if additional fees must  
5 be charged to schools eligible to participate in the fund.

6           Section 261. Section 1005.38, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8           1005.38 Actions against a licensee and other  
9 penalties.--

10           (1) The commission may deny, place on probation, or  
11 revoke any provisional license, annual license, licence by  
12 means of accreditation, agent's license, or other  
13 authorization required by this chapter. The commission shall  
14 adopt rules for taking these actions. The commission may  
15 impose an administrative fine of not more than \$5,000 if an  
16 institution is on probation for a period under conditions that  
17 require oversight by the commission or its staff. The fine  
18 shall be deposited into the Institutional Assessment Trust  
19 Fund.

20           (2) The commission may conduct an investigation to  
21 determine if an applicant for a new institutional license, or  
22 the owners, directors, or administrators of the institution,  
23 previously closed an institution, failed to arrange for  
24 completion of student training or issue appropriate refunds,  
25 or had its license to operate an institution revoked or denied  
26 in this state or in another state or jurisdiction.

27           (3) Any person who has been convicted of, or entered a  
28 plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, a crime that relates to  
29 the unlawful operation or management of an institution is  
30 ineligible to own, operate, manage, or be a registered agent  
31 for a licensed institution in this state, and may not be a

1 director or an officer in a corporation that owns or operates  
2 a licensed institution. Such a person may not operate or serve  
3 in a management or supervisory position in a licensed  
4 institution.

5       (4) The commission may deny an application for any  
6 operating status if the commission determines that the  
7 applicant or its owners, officers, directors, or  
8 administrators were previously operating an institution in  
9 this state or in another state or jurisdiction in a manner  
10 contrary to the health, education, or welfare of the public.  
11 The commission may consider factors such as the previous  
12 denial or revocation of an institutional license; prior  
13 criminal or civil administrative proceedings regarding the  
14 operation and management of an institution; other types of  
15 criminal proceedings involving fraud, deceit, dishonesty, or  
16 moral turpitude; failure of the institution to be properly  
17 closed, including completing the training or providing for the  
18 trainout of its students; and failure to issue appropriate  
19 refunds. The commission may require an applicant or its  
20 owners, officers, directors, or administrators to provide the  
21 commission with information under oath regarding the prior  
22 operation of an institution and to provide criminal justice  
23 information, the cost of which must be borne by the applicant  
24 in addition to license fees.

25       (5) The commission may obtain an injunction or take  
26 any action it deems necessary against any institution or agent  
27 in violation of this chapter, but such proceedings and orders  
28 do not bar the imposition of any other penalties that may be  
29 imposed for the violation.

30       (6) The commission may conduct disciplinary  
31 proceedings through an investigation of any suspected

1 violation of this chapter, including a finding of probable  
2 cause and making reports to any law enforcement agency or  
3 regulatory agency.

4 (a) The commission shall notify an institution or  
5 individual of the substance of any complaint that is under  
6 investigation unless the executive director and chairperson of  
7 the board concur that notification would impede the  
8 investigation. The commission may also withhold notification  
9 to a person under investigation for an act that constitutes a  
10 criminal offense.

11 (b) The determination of probable cause shall be made  
12 by a majority vote of the probable-cause panel, the membership  
13 of which shall be provided by rule. After the panel declares a  
14 finding of probable cause, the commission may issue an  
15 administrative complaint and prosecute such complaint under  
16 chapter 120.

17 (c) A privilege against civil liability is granted to  
18 any informant or any witness who provides information in good  
19 faith for an investigation or proceeding conducted under this  
20 section.

21 (7) The commission may issue a cease and desist order  
22 in conjunction with an administrative complaint or notice of  
23 denial of licensure, if necessary to protect the health,  
24 safety, or welfare of students, prospective students, or the  
25 public. An unlicensed institution that advertises or causes  
26 advertisements to be made public through which students are  
27 solicited for enrollment or are offered diplomas or degrees is  
28 in violation of this chapter. The commission shall adopt rules  
29 that direct the issuance of an injunction against operating,  
30 advertising, or offering diplomas or degrees without a  
31 license. Each day of operation after a cease and desist letter

1 is delivered constitutes a separate violation for purposes of  
2 assessing fines or seeking civil penalties.

3 (a) A cease and desist order may be mandatory or  
4 prohibitory in form and may order a postsecondary institution  
5 to cease and desist from specified conduct or from failing to  
6 engage in specified conduct necessary to achieve the  
7 regulatory purposes of this chapter.

8 (b) A cease and desist order may include an order to  
9 cease enrollment of students whom the institution cannot  
10 adequately serve, to modify curricula or methods of  
11 instruction to ensure the education or training of the type  
12 and quality represented in the institutional catalog, or to  
13 cease from advertising or to publish or broadcast corrective  
14 or clarifying advertising to overcome the effects of previous  
15 allegedly deceptive or misleading advertising.

16 (c) A cease and desist order takes effect immediately  
17 upon issuance and remains in effect until the commission takes  
18 final agency action.

19 (d) The commission shall adopt rules to direct  
20 procedures by which an affected party is entitled to a formal  
21 or informal review of a cease and desist order and may request  
22 the commission or the Division of Administrative Hearings to  
23 modify or abate a cease and desist order. If a party is  
24 aggrieved by a cease and desist order after seeking to have  
25 the order abated or modified, the party may seek interlocutory  
26 judicial review by the appropriate district court of appeal  
27 pursuant to the applicable rules of appellate procedure.

28 (e) In addition to or in lieu of any remedy provided  
29 in this section, the commission may seek the imposition of a  
30 civil penalty through the circuit court for any violation for  
31

1 which the commission may issue a notice to cease and desist  
 2 under this section.

3 (8) The commission shall adopt rules to identify  
 4 grounds for imposing disciplinary actions, which must include  
 5 at least the following grounds:

6 (a) Attempting to obtain action from the commission by  
 7 fraudulent misrepresentation, bribery, or through an error of  
 8 the commission.

9 (b) Action against a license or operation imposed  
 10 under the authority of another state, territory, or country.

11 (c) Delegating professional responsibilities to a  
 12 person who is not qualified by training, experience, or  
 13 licensure to perform the responsibilities.

14 (d) False, deceptive, or misleading advertising.

15 (e) Conspiring to coerce, intimidate, or preclude  
 16 another licensee from lawfully advertising his or her  
 17 services.

18 Section 262. Section 1005.39, Florida Statutes, is  
 19 created to read:

20 1005.39 Continuing education and training for  
 21 administrators and faculty.--

22 (1) The commission is authorized to ensure that the  
 23 administrators of licensed institutions are qualified to  
 24 conduct the operations of their respective positions and to  
 25 require such administrators and faculty to receive continuing  
 26 education and training as adopted by rule of the commission.  
 27 The positions for which the commission may review  
 28 qualifications and require continuing education and training  
 29 may include the positions of chief administrator or officer,  
 30 director of education or training, placement director,  
 31

1 admissions director, and financial aid director and faculty  
2 members.

3 (2) The training of each administrator and faculty  
4 member shall be the type of training necessary to assure  
5 compliance with statutes and rules of the commission and the  
6 State Board of Education and with those of other state or  
7 federal agencies in relation to the responsibilities of the  
8 respective positions.

9 (3) The commission shall adopt general qualifications  
10 for each of the respective positions and establish guidelines  
11 for the minimum amount and type of continuing education and  
12 training to be required. The continuing education and training  
13 may be provided by the commission, appropriate state or  
14 federal agencies, or professional organizations familiar with  
15 the requirements of the particular administrative positions.  
16 The actual curricula should be left to the discretion of those  
17 agencies and organizations.

18 (4) Evidence of the administrator's and faculty  
19 member's compliance with the continuing education and training  
20 requirements established by the commission may be included in  
21 the initial and renewal application forms provided by the  
22 commission. Actual records of the continuing education and  
23 training received by administrators and faculty shall be  
24 maintained at the institution and available for inspection at  
25 all times.

26 (5) Qualifications of administrators and faculty in  
27 their respective fields, as well as continuing education and  
28 training, may be established by the commission as a condition  
29 of an application for licensure by a new institution or for  
30 renewal of a license.

31

1           Section 263. Chapter 1006, Florida Statutes, shall be  
2 entitled "Support for Learning" and shall consist of ss.  
3 1006.02-1006.71.

4           Section 264. Part I of chapter 1006, Florida Statutes,  
5 shall be entitled "Public K-12 Education Support for Learning  
6 and Student Services" and shall consist of ss.  
7 1006.02-1006.27.

8           Section 265. Part I.a. of chapter 1006, Florida  
9 Statutes, shall be entitled "Learning Services Generally" and  
10 shall consist of ss. 1006.02-1006.04.

11           Section 266. Section 1006.02, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13           1006.02 Provision of information to students and  
14 parents regarding school-to-work transition.--

15           (1) All public K-12 schools shall document the manner  
16 in which they have prepared students to enter the workforce,  
17 including information regarding the provision of accurate,  
18 timely career and curricular counseling to students. This  
19 information shall include a delineation of available career  
20 opportunities, educational requirements associated with each  
21 career, educational institutions that prepare students to  
22 enter each career, and student financial aid available to  
23 enable students to pursue any postsecondary instruction  
24 required to enter that career. This information shall also  
25 delineate school procedures for identifying individual student  
26 interests and aptitudes which enable students to make informed  
27 decisions about the curriculum that best addresses their  
28 individual interests and aptitudes while preparing them to  
29 enroll in postsecondary education and enter the workforce.  
30 This information shall include recommended high school  
31 coursework that prepares students for success in college-level

1 work. The information shall be made known to parents and  
2 students annually through inclusion in the school's handbook,  
3 manual, or similar documents or other communications regularly  
4 provided to parents and students.

5 (2) The information required by this section shall  
6 delineate the availability of applied instruction that uses  
7 concrete, real-world examples to elicit demonstrated student  
8 competence comparable to the student performance standards  
9 delineated for corresponding traditional college-preparatory  
10 courses, and shall also delineate the support services  
11 available for students who need assistance to successfully  
12 complete instruction necessary to enroll in postsecondary  
13 education or enter the workforce.

14 (3) The information required by this section shall  
15 delineate the availability of instruction that enables  
16 students to acquire the technical skills associated with  
17 specific clusters of occupations as well as employability  
18 skills that apply to most occupations, and shall describe and  
19 identify the availability of workplace-based learning  
20 experiences. Any school that conducts secondary career  
21 education programs shall identify any agreements through which  
22 each program articulates into corresponding postsecondary  
23 programs.

24 (4) Prior to each student's graduation from high  
25 school, the school shall assess the student's preparation to  
26 enter the workforce, in accordance with the commissioner's  
27 identification of the employability skills associated with  
28 successful entry into the workforce, and shall provide the  
29 student and the student's parent or guardian with the results  
30 of this assessment.

31

1           Section 267. Section 1006.03, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:  
3           1006.03 Diagnostic and learning resource centers.--  
4           (1) The department shall maintain regional diagnostic  
5 and learning resource centers for exceptional students, to  
6 assist in the provision of medical, physiological,  
7 psychological, and educational testing and other services  
8 designed to evaluate and diagnose exceptionalities, to make  
9 referrals for necessary instruction and services, and to  
10 facilitate the provision of instruction and services to  
11 exceptional students. The department shall cooperate with the  
12 Department of Children and Family Services in identifying  
13 service needs and areas.  
14           (2) Within its identified service area, each regional  
15 center shall:  
16           (a) Provide assistance to parents, teachers, and other  
17 school personnel and community organizations in locating and  
18 identifying exceptional children and planning educational  
19 programs for them.  
20           (b) Assist in the provision of services for  
21 exceptional children, using to the maximum, but not  
22 supplanting, the existing facilities and services of each  
23 district.  
24           (c) Provide orientation meetings at least annually for  
25 teachers, principals, supervisors, and community agencies to  
26 familiarize them with center facilities and services for  
27 exceptional children.  
28           (d) Plan, coordinate, and assist in the implementation  
29 of inservice training programs, consistent with each  
30 district's program of staff development, for the development  
31 and updating of attitudes, skills, and instructional practices

1 and procedures necessary to the education of exceptional  
 2 children.

3 (e) Assist districts in the identification, selection,  
 4 acquisition, use, and evaluation of media and materials  
 5 appropriate to the implementation of instructional programs  
 6 based on individual educational plans for exceptional  
 7 children.

8 (f) Provide for the dissemination and diffusion of  
 9 significant information and promising practices derived from  
 10 educational research, demonstration, and other projects.

11 (g) Assist in the delivery, modification, and  
 12 integration of instructional technology, including  
 13 microcomputer applications and adaptive and assistive devices,  
 14 appropriate to the unique needs of exceptional students.

15 (3) Diagnostic and resource centers may provide  
 16 testing and evaluation services to private school students and  
 17 other children who are not enrolled in public schools.

18 (4) Diagnostic and learning resource centers may  
 19 assist districts in providing testing and evaluation services  
 20 for infants and preschool children with or at risk of  
 21 developing disabilities, and may assist districts in providing  
 22 interdisciplinary training and resources to parents of infants  
 23 and preschool children with or at risk of developing  
 24 disabilities and to school readiness programs.

25 Section 268. Section 1006.035, Florida Statutes, is  
 26 created to read:

27 1006.035 Dropout reentry and mentor project.--

28 (1) There is created a dropout reentry and mentor  
 29 project to be coordinated on a pilot basis by the Florida  
 30 Agricultural and Mechanical University National Alumni  
 31

1 Association and implemented in Tallahassee, Jacksonville,  
2 Daytona Beach, and Miami.

3 (2) The project shall identify 15 black students in  
4 each location who have dropped out of high school but were not  
5 encountering academic difficulty when they left school.  
6 Students chosen to participate may not have a high school  
7 diploma, be enrolled in an adult general education program  
8 which includes a GED program or an adult high school, or be  
9 enrolled in a technical school. Students may be employed but  
10 must be able to adjust their work schedules to accommodate  
11 classes and project sessions. Priority must be given to  
12 students who have dropped out of school within the last 3  
13 years.

14 (3) In identifying participants, the following factors  
15 must be considered:

16 (a) The student's performance in school before  
17 dropping out.

18 (b) The student's performance on aptitude and  
19 achievement tests.

20 (c) The student's desire to reenter school.

21 (4) In each of the four locations, the project shall  
22 identify 15 high-achieving minority students to serve as  
23 one-on-one mentors to the students who are being reentered in  
24 school. An alumnus of Bethune-Cookman College, Florida  
25 Memorial College, Edward Waters College, or Florida  
26 Agricultural and Mechanical University shall be assigned to  
27 each pair of students. Student mentors and alumni must serve  
28 as role models and resource people for the students who are  
29 being reentered in school.

30 (5) Selected project participants shall be evaluated  
31 and enrolled in a GED program, regular high school, technical

1 school, or alternative school. In conjunction with school  
2 guidance personnel, project staff shall design a supplemental  
3 program to reinforce basic skills, provide additional  
4 counseling, and offer tutorial assistance. Weekly, project  
5 staff shall monitor students' attendance, performance,  
6 homework, and attitude toward school.

7 (6) The project shall use tests to identify students'  
8 interests and academic weaknesses. Based on the test results,  
9 an individualized study program shall be developed for each  
10 reentry student.

11 (7) The 15 alumni at each location must meet with  
12 their assigned reentry students and high achievers, together,  
13 at least once per week. All reentry students must meet as a  
14 group at least once per week for structured, organized  
15 activities that include instruction in test-taking skills,  
16 positive attitude, coping, study habits, budgeting time,  
17 setting goals, career choices, homework assistance, and  
18 conflict resolution.

19 (8) Followup interviews with both the reentry students  
20 and high achievers must be conducted after 1 year to determine  
21 the project's impact.

22 Section 269. Section 1006.04, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1006.04 Educational multiagency services for students  
25 with severe emotional disturbance.--

26 (1)(a) An intensive, integrated educational program; a  
27 continuum of mental health treatment services; and, when  
28 needed, residential services are necessary to enable students  
29 with severe emotional disturbance to develop appropriate  
30 behaviors and demonstrate academic and career education  
31 skills. The small incidence of severe emotional disturbance in

1 the total school population requires multiagency programs to  
2 provide access to appropriate services for all students with  
3 severe emotional disturbance. District school boards should  
4 provide educational programs, and state departments and  
5 agencies administering children's mental health funds should  
6 provide mental health treatment and residential services when  
7 needed, forming a multiagency network to provide support for  
8 students with severe emotional disturbance.

9       (b) The program goals for each component of the  
10 multiagency network are to enable students with severe  
11 emotional disturbance to learn appropriate behaviors, reduce  
12 dependency, and fully participate in all aspects of school and  
13 community living; to develop individual programs for students  
14 with severe emotional disturbance, including necessary  
15 educational, residential, and mental health treatment  
16 services; to provide programs and services as close as  
17 possible to the student's home in the least restrictive manner  
18 consistent with the student's needs; and to integrate a wide  
19 range of services necessary to support students with severe  
20 emotional disturbance and their families.

21       (2) The department may award grants to district school  
22 boards for statewide planning and development of the  
23 multiagency network for students with severe emotional  
24 disturbance. The educational services shall be provided in a  
25 manner consistent with the requirements of ss. 1003.57 and  
26 402.22.

27       (3) State departments and agencies may use appropriate  
28 funds for the multiagency network for students with severe  
29 emotional disturbance.

30  
31

1           Section 270. Part I.b. of chapter 1006, Florida  
2 Statutes, shall be entitled "Student Food and Health Services"  
3 and shall consist of ss. 1006.06-1006.063.

4           Section 271. Section 1006.06, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1006.06 School food service programs.--

7           (1) In recognition of the demonstrated relationship  
8 between good nutrition and the capacity of students to develop  
9 and learn, it is the policy of the state to provide standards  
10 for school food service and to require district school boards  
11 to establish and maintain an appropriate private school food  
12 service program consistent with the nutritional needs of  
13 students.

14           (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
15 covering the administration and operation of the school food  
16 service programs.

17           (3) Each district school board shall consider the  
18 recommendations of the district school superintendent and  
19 adopt policies to provide for an appropriate food and  
20 nutrition program for students consistent with federal law and  
21 State Board of Education rule.

22           (4) The state shall provide the state National School  
23 Lunch Act matching requirements. The funds provided shall be  
24 distributed in such a manner as to comply with the  
25 requirements of the National School Lunch Act.

26           (5)(a) Each district school board shall implement  
27 school breakfast programs in all elementary schools that make  
28 breakfast available to all students in kindergarten through  
29 grade 6 in each district school, unless the elementary school  
30 goes only through grade 5, in which case the requirement shall  
31 apply only through grade 5. Each district school board shall

1 implement breakfast programs in all elementary schools in  
2 which students are eligible for free and reduced price lunch  
3 meals, to the extent specifically funded in the General  
4 Appropriations Act. A district school board may operate a  
5 breakfast program providing for food preparation at the school  
6 site or in central locations with distribution to designated  
7 satellite schools or any combination thereof.

8 (b) The commissioner shall make every reasonable  
9 effort to ensure that any school designated a "severe need  
10 school" receives the highest rate of reimbursement to which it  
11 is entitled pursuant to 42 U.S.C. s. 1773 for each free and  
12 reduced price breakfast served.

13 (c) The department shall calculate and distribute a  
14 school district breakfast supplement for each school year by  
15 multiplying the state breakfast rate as specified in the  
16 General Appropriations Act by the number of free and reduced  
17 price breakfast meals served.

18 (d) The Legislature shall provide sufficient funds in  
19 the General Appropriations Act to reimburse participating  
20 school districts for the difference between the average  
21 federal reimbursement for free and reduced price breakfasts  
22 and the average statewide cost for breakfasts.

23 Section 272. Section 1006.0605, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25 1006.0605 Students' summer nutrition.--

26 (1) Each district school superintendent shall report  
27 to the department any activity or initiative that provides  
28 access to a food service program during school vacation  
29 periods of over 2 weeks to students who are eligible for free  
30 or reduced-price meals. The report shall include any  
31 developed or implemented plans for how the school district

1 will sponsor, host, or vend the federal Summer Food Service  
2 Program.

3 (2) The district school superintendent shall submit  
4 the report to the department by February 1, 2004. Prior to  
5 submitting the report to the department, the district school  
6 superintendent shall report this information to the district  
7 school board.

8 (3) By March 1, 2004, the department shall submit to  
9 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
10 Representatives, the chairs of the education committees in the  
11 Senate and the House of Representatives, and the State Board  
12 of Education a report compiling the school district  
13 information.

14 Section 273. Section 1006.061, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 1006.061 Child abuse, abandonment, and neglect  
17 policy.--Each district school board shall:

18 (1) Post in a prominent place in each school a notice  
19 that, pursuant to chapter 39, all employees and agents of the  
20 district school board have an affirmative duty to report all  
21 actual or suspected cases of child abuse, abandonment, or  
22 neglect; have immunity from liability if they report such  
23 cases in good faith; and have a duty to comply with child  
24 protective investigations and all other provisions of law  
25 relating to child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. The notice  
26 shall also include the statewide toll-free telephone number of  
27 the central abuse hotline.

28 (2) Require the district school superintendent, or the  
29 superintendent's designee, at the request of the Department of  
30 Children and Family Services, to act as a liaison to the  
31 Department of Children and Family Services and the child

1 protection team, as defined in s. 39.01, when in a case of  
2 suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect or an unlawful  
3 sexual offense involving a child the case is referred to such  
4 a team; except that this does not relieve or restrict the  
5 Department of Children and Family Services from discharging  
6 its duty and responsibility under the law to investigate and  
7 report every suspected or actual case of child abuse,  
8 abandonment, or neglect or unlawful sexual offense involving a  
9 child.

10 Section 274. Section 1006.062, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1006.062 Administration of medication and provision of  
13 medical services by district school board personnel.--

14 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Nurse  
15 Practice Act, part I of chapter 464, district school board  
16 personnel may assist students in the administration of  
17 prescription medication when the following conditions have  
18 been met:

19 (a) Each district school board shall include in its  
20 approved school health services plan a procedure to provide  
21 training, by a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, a  
22 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or chapter 459, or  
23 a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or  
24 chapter 459, to the school personnel designated by the school  
25 principal to assist students in the administration of  
26 prescribed medication. Such training may be provided in  
27 collaboration with other school districts, through contract  
28 with an education consortium, or by any other arrangement  
29 consistent with the intent of this subsection.

30 (b) Each district school board shall adopt policies  
31 and procedures governing the administration of prescription

1 medication by district school board personnel. The policies  
2 and procedures shall include, but not be limited to, the  
3 following provisions:

4 1. For each prescribed medication, the student's  
5 parent shall provide to the school principal a written  
6 statement which grants to the school principal or the  
7 principal's designee permission to assist in the  
8 administration of such medication and which explains the  
9 necessity for the medication to be provided during the school  
10 day, including any occasion when the student is away from  
11 school property on official school business. The school  
12 principal or the principal's trained designee shall assist the  
13 student in the administration of the medication.

14 2. Each prescribed medication to be administered by  
15 district school board personnel shall be received, counted,  
16 and stored in its original container. When the medication is  
17 not in use, it shall be stored in its original container in a  
18 secure fashion under lock and key in a location designated by  
19 the school principal.

20 (2) There shall be no liability for civil damages as a  
21 result of the administration of the medication when the person  
22 administering the medication acts as an ordinarily reasonably  
23 prudent person would have acted under the same or similar  
24 circumstances.

25 (3) Nonmedical district school board personnel shall  
26 not be allowed to perform invasive medical services that  
27 require special medical knowledge, nursing judgment, and  
28 nursing assessment, including, but not limited to:

29 (a) Sterile catheterization.  
30 (b) Nasogastric tube feeding.  
31

- 1           (c) Cleaning and maintaining a tracheostomy and deep  
2 suctioning of a tracheostomy.
- 3           (4) Nonmedical assistive personnel shall be allowed to  
4 perform health-related services upon successful completion of  
5 child-specific training by a registered nurse or advanced  
6 registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 464, a  
7 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or chapter 459, or  
8 a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or  
9 chapter 459. All procedures shall be monitored periodically  
10 by a nurse, advanced registered nurse practitioner, physician  
11 assistant, or physician, including, but not limited to:
- 12           (a) Intermittent clean catheterization.
- 13           (b) Gastrostomy tube feeding.
- 14           (c) Monitoring blood glucose.
- 15           (d) Administering emergency injectable medication.
- 16           (5) For all other invasive medical services not listed  
17 in this subsection, a registered nurse or advanced registered  
18 nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 464, a physician  
19 licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or chapter 459, or a  
20 physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or  
21 chapter 459 shall determine if nonmedical district school  
22 board personnel shall be allowed to perform such service.
- 23           (6) Each district school board shall establish  
24 emergency procedures in accordance with s. 381.0056(5) for  
25 life-threatening emergencies.
- 26           (7) District school board personnel shall not refer  
27 students to or offer students at school facilities  
28 contraceptive services without the consent of a parent or  
29 legal guardian. To the extent that this paragraph conflicts  
30 with any provision of chapter 381, the provisions of chapter  
31 381 control.

1           Section 275. Section 1006.063, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1006.063 Eye-protective devices required in certain  
4 laboratory courses.--

5           (1) Eye-protective devices shall be worn by students,  
6 teachers, and visitors in courses including, but not limited  
7 to, chemistry, physics, or chemical-physical laboratories, at  
8 any time at which the individual is engaged in or observing an  
9 activity or the use of hazardous substances likely to cause  
10 injury to the eyes. Activity or the use of hazardous  
11 substances likely to cause injury to the eye includes:

12           (a) Heat treatment; tempering or kiln firing of any  
13 metal or other materials;

14           (b) Working with caustic or explosive materials; or

15           (c) Working with hot liquids or solids, including  
16 chemicals which are flammable, caustic, toxic, or irritating.

17           (2) District school boards shall furnish plano safety  
18 glasses or devices for students, may provide such glasses to  
19 teachers, and shall furnish such equipment for all visitors to  
20 such classrooms or laboratories, or may purchase such plano  
21 safety glasses or devices in large quantities and sell them at  
22 cost to students and teachers, but shall not purchase,  
23 furnish, or dispense prescription glasses or lenses.

24           Section 276. Part I.c. of chapter 1006, Florida  
25 Statutes, shall be entitled "Student Discipline and School  
26 Safety" and shall consist of ss. 1006.07-1006.145.

27           Section 277. Section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29           1006.07 District school board duties relating to  
30 student discipline and school safety.--The district school  
31 board shall provide for the proper accounting for all

1 students, for the attendance and control of students at  
2 school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other  
3 matters relating to the welfare of students, including:  
4       (1) CONTROL OF STUDENTS.--  
5       (a) Adopt rules for the control, discipline, in-school  
6 suspension, suspension, and expulsion of students and decide  
7 all cases recommended for expulsion. Suspension hearings are  
8 exempted from the provisions of chapter 120. Expulsion  
9 hearings shall be governed by ss. 120.569 and 120.57(2) and  
10 are exempt from s. 286.011. However, the student's parent must  
11 be given notice of the provisions of s. 286.011 and may elect  
12 to have the hearing held in compliance with that section. The  
13 district school board may prohibit the use of corporal  
14 punishment, if the district school board adopts or has adopted  
15 a written program of alternative control or discipline.  
16       (b) Require each student at the time of initial  
17 registration for school in the school district to note  
18 previous school expulsions, arrests resulting in a charge, and  
19 juvenile justice actions the student has had, and have the  
20 authority as the district school board of a receiving school  
21 district to honor the final order of expulsion or dismissal of  
22 a student by any in-state or out-of-state public district  
23 school board or private school, or lab school, for an act  
24 which would have been grounds for expulsion according to the  
25 receiving district school board's code of student conduct, in  
26 accordance with the following procedures:  
27           1. A final order of expulsion shall be recorded in the  
28 records of the receiving school district.  
29           2. The expelled student applying for admission to the  
30 receiving school district shall be advised of the final order  
31 of expulsion.

1           3. The district school superintendent of the receiving  
2 school district may recommend to the district school board  
3 that the final order of expulsion be waived and the student be  
4 admitted to the school district, or that the final order of  
5 expulsion be honored and the student not be admitted to the  
6 school district. If the student is admitted by the district  
7 school board, with or without the recommendation of the  
8 district school superintendent, the student may be placed in  
9 an appropriate educational program at the direction of the  
10 district school board.

11           (2) CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT.--Adopt a code of student  
12 conduct for elementary schools and a code of student conduct  
13 for middle and high schools and distribute the appropriate  
14 code to all teachers, school personnel, students, and parents,  
15 at the beginning of every school year. Each code shall be  
16 organized and written in language that is understandable to  
17 students and parents and shall be discussed at the beginning  
18 of every school year in student classes, school advisory  
19 council meetings, and parent and teacher association or  
20 organization meetings. Each code shall be based on the rules  
21 governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the  
22 district school board and shall be made available in the  
23 student handbook or similar publication. Each code shall  
24 include, but is not limited to:

25           (a) Consistent policies and specific grounds for  
26 disciplinary action, including in-school suspension,  
27 out-of-school suspension, expulsion, and any disciplinary  
28 action that may be imposed for the possession or use of  
29 alcohol on school property or while attending a school  
30 function or for the illegal use, sale, or possession of  
31 controlled substances as defined in chapter 893.

1           (b) Procedures to be followed for acts requiring  
2 discipline, including corporal punishment.

3           (c) An explanation of the responsibilities and rights  
4 of students with regard to attendance, respect for persons and  
5 property, knowledge and observation of rules of conduct, the  
6 right to learn, free speech and student publications,  
7 assembly, privacy, and participation in school programs and  
8 activities.

9           (d) Notice that illegal use, possession, or sale of  
10 controlled substances, as defined in chapter 893, or  
11 possession of electronic telephone pagers, by any student  
12 while the student is upon school property or in attendance at  
13 a school function is grounds for disciplinary action by the  
14 school and may also result in criminal penalties being  
15 imposed.

16           (e) Notice that the possession of a firearm or weapon  
17 ad defined in chapter 790 by any student while the student is  
18 on school property or in attendance at a school function is  
19 grounds for disciplinary action and may also result in  
20 criminal prosecution.

21           (f) Notice that violence against any district school  
22 board personnel by a student is grounds for in-school  
23 suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or imposition  
24 of other disciplinary action by the school and may also result  
25 in criminal penalties being imposed.

26           (g) Notice that violation of district school board  
27 transportation policies, including disruptive behavior on a  
28 school bus or at a school bus stop, by a student is grounds  
29 for suspension of the student's privilege of riding on a  
30 school bus and may be grounds for disciplinary action by the  
31

1 school and may also result in criminal penalties being  
2 imposed.

3 (h) Notice that violation of the district school  
4 board's sexual harassment policy by a student is grounds for  
5 in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or  
6 imposition of other disciplinary action by the school and may  
7 also result in criminal penalties being imposed.

8 (i) Policies to be followed for the assignment of  
9 violent or disruptive students to an alternative educational  
10 program.

11 (j) Notice that any student who is determined to have  
12 brought a firearm or weapon, as defined in chapter 790, to  
13 school, to any school function, or onto any school-sponsored  
14 transportation, or to have possessed a firearm at school, will  
15 be expelled, with or without continuing educational services,  
16 from the student's regular school for a period of not less  
17 than 1 full year and referred to the criminal justice or  
18 juvenile justice system. District school boards may assign the  
19 student to a disciplinary program or second chance school for  
20 the purpose of continuing educational services during the  
21 period of expulsion. District school superintendents may  
22 consider the 1-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case  
23 basis and request the district school board to modify the  
24 requirement by assigning the student to a disciplinary program  
25 or second chance school if the request for modification is in  
26 writing and it is determined to be in the best interest of the  
27 student and the school system.

28 (k) Notice that any student who is determined to have  
29 made a threat or false report, as defined by ss. 790.162 and  
30 790.163, respectively, involving school or school personnel's  
31 property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored

1 activity will be expelled, with or without continuing  
2 educational services, from the student's regular school for a  
3 period of not less than 1 full year and referred for criminal  
4 prosecution. District school boards may assign the student to  
5 a disciplinary program or second chance school for the purpose  
6 of continuing educational services during the period of  
7 expulsion. District school superintendents may consider the  
8 1-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis and  
9 request the district school board to modify the requirement by  
10 assigning the student to a disciplinary program or second  
11 chance school if it is determined to be in the best interest  
12 of the student and the school system.

13 (3) STUDENT CRIME WATCH PROGRAM.--By resolution of the  
14 district school board, implement a student crime watch program  
15 to promote responsibility among students and to assist in the  
16 control of criminal behavior within the schools.

17 (4) EMERGENCY DRILLS; EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.--

18 (a) Formulate and prescribe policies and procedures  
19 for emergency drills and for actual emergencies, including,  
20 but not limited to, fires, natural disasters, and bomb  
21 threats, for all the public schools of the district which  
22 comprise grades K-12. District school board policies shall  
23 include commonly used alarm system responses for specific  
24 types of emergencies and verification by each school that  
25 drills have been provided as required by law and fire  
26 protection codes.

27 (b) The district school board shall establish model  
28 emergency management and emergency preparedness procedures for  
29 the following life-threatening emergencies:

- 30 1. Weapon-use and hostage situations.  
31 2. Hazardous materials or toxic chemical spills.

1           3. Weather emergencies, including hurricanes,  
2 tornadoes, and severe storms.

3           4. Exposure as a result of a manmade emergency.

4           (5) EDUCATIONAL SERVICES IN DETENTION

5 FACILITIES.--Offer educational services to minors who have not  
6 graduated from high school and eligible students with  
7 disabilities under the age of 22 who have not graduated with a  
8 standard diploma or its equivalent who are detained in a  
9 county or municipal detention facility as defined in s.  
10 951.23. These educational services shall be based upon the  
11 estimated length of time the student will be in the facility  
12 and the student's current level of functioning. District  
13 school superintendents or their designees shall be notified by  
14 the county sheriff or chief correctional officer, or his or  
15 her designee, upon the assignment of a student under the age  
16 of 21 to the facility. A cooperative agreement with the  
17 district school board and applicable law enforcement units  
18 shall be developed to address the notification requirement and  
19 the provision of educational services to these students.

20           (6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.--Use the  
21 Safety and Security Best Practices developed by the Office of  
22 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to  
23 conduct a self-assessment of the school districts' current  
24 safety and security practices. Based on these self-assessment  
25 findings, the district school superintendent shall provide  
26 recommendations to the district school board which identify  
27 strategies and activities that the district school board  
28 should implement in order to improve school safety and  
29 security. Annually each district school board must receive the  
30 self-assessment results at a publicly noticed district school  
31 board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to hear the

1 district school board members discuss and take action on the  
2 report findings. Each district school superintendent shall  
3 report the self-assessment results and school board action to  
4 the commissioner within 30 days after the district school  
5 board meeting.

6 Section 278. Section 1006.08, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8 1006.08 District school superintendent duties relating  
9 to student discipline and school safety.--

10 (1) The district school superintendent shall recommend  
11 plans to the district school board for the proper accounting  
12 for all students of school age, for the attendance and control  
13 of students at school, for the proper attention to health,  
14 safety, and other matters which will best promote the welfare  
15 of students. When the district school superintendent makes a  
16 recommendation for expulsion to the district school board, he  
17 or she shall give written notice to the student and the  
18 student's parent of the recommendation, setting forth the  
19 charges against the student and advising the student and his  
20 or her parent of the student's right to due process as  
21 prescribed by ss. 120.569 and 120.57(2). When district school  
22 board action on a recommendation for the expulsion of a  
23 student is pending, the district school superintendent may  
24 extend the suspension assigned by the principal beyond 10  
25 school days if such suspension period expires before the next  
26 regular or special meeting of the district school board.

27 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 985.04(4) or  
28 any other provision of law to the contrary, the court shall,  
29 within 48 hours of the finding, notify the appropriate  
30 district school superintendent of the name and address of any  
31 student found to have committed a delinquent act, or who has

1 had adjudication of a delinquent act withheld which, if  
2 committed by an adult, would be a felony, or the name and  
3 address of any student found guilty of a felony. Notification  
4 shall include the specific delinquent act found to have been  
5 committed or for which adjudication was withheld, or the  
6 specific felony for which the student was found guilty.

7 (3) Except to the extent necessary to protect the  
8 health, safety, and welfare of other students, the information  
9 obtained by the district school superintendent pursuant to  
10 this section may be released only to appropriate school  
11 personnel or as otherwise provided by law.

12 Section 279. Section 1006.09, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14 1006.09 Duties of school principal relating to student  
15 discipline and school safety.--

16 (1)(a) Subject to law and to the rules of the State  
17 Board of Education and the district school board, the  
18 principal in charge of the school or the principal's designee  
19 shall develop policies for delegating to any teacher or other  
20 member of the instructional staff or to any bus driver  
21 transporting students of the school responsibility for the  
22 control and direction of students. The principal or the  
23 principal's designee shall consider the recommendation for  
24 discipline made by a teacher, other member of the  
25 instructional staff, or a bus driver when making a decision  
26 regarding student referral for discipline.

27 (b) The principal or the principal's designee may  
28 suspend a student only in accordance with the rules of the  
29 district school board. The principal or the principal's  
30 designee shall make a good faith effort to immediately inform  
31 a student's parent by telephone of a student's suspension and

1 the reasons for the suspension. Each suspension and the  
2 reasons for the suspension shall be reported in writing within  
3 24 hours to the student's parent by United States mail. Each  
4 suspension and the reasons for the suspension shall also be  
5 reported in writing within 24 hours to the district school  
6 superintendent. A good faith effort shall be made by the  
7 principal or the principal's designee to employ parental  
8 assistance or other alternative measures prior to suspension,  
9 except in the case of emergency or disruptive conditions which  
10 require immediate suspension or in the case of a serious  
11 breach of conduct as defined by rules of the district school  
12 board. Such rules shall require oral and written notice to the  
13 student of the charges and an explanation of the evidence  
14 against him or her prior to the suspension. Each student shall  
15 be given an opportunity to present his or her side of the  
16 story. No student shall be suspended for unexcused tardiness,  
17 lateness, absence, or truancy. The principal or the  
18 principal's designee may suspend any student transported to or  
19 from school at public expense from the privilege of riding on  
20 a school bus for violation of district school board  
21 transportation policies, which shall include a policy  
22 regarding behavior at school bus stops, and the principal or  
23 the principal's designee shall give notice in writing to the  
24 student's parent and to the district school superintendent  
25 within 24 hours. School personnel shall not be held legally  
26 responsible for suspensions of students made in good faith.

27 (c) The principal or the principal's designee may  
28 recommend to the district school superintendent the expulsion  
29 of any student who has committed a serious breach of conduct,  
30 including, but not limited to, willful disobedience, open  
31 defiance of authority of a member of his or her staff,

1 violence against persons or property, or any other act which  
2 substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of the school. A  
3 recommendation of expulsion or assignment to a second chance  
4 school may also be made for any student found to have  
5 intentionally made false accusations that jeopardize the  
6 professional reputation, employment, or professional  
7 certification of a teacher or other member of the school  
8 staff, according to the district school board code of student  
9 conduct. Any recommendation of expulsion shall include a  
10 detailed report by the principal or the principal's designated  
11 representative on the alternative measures taken prior to the  
12 recommendation of expulsion.

13 (d) The principal or the principal's designee shall  
14 include an analysis of suspensions and expulsions in the  
15 annual report of school progress.

16 (2) Suspension proceedings, pursuant to rules of the  
17 State Board of Education, may be initiated against any  
18 enrolled student who is formally charged with a felony, or  
19 with a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by  
20 an adult, by a proper prosecuting attorney for an incident  
21 which allegedly occurred on property other than public school  
22 property, if that incident is shown, in an administrative  
23 hearing with notice provided to the parents of the student by  
24 the principal of the school pursuant to rules adopted by the  
25 State Board of Education and to rules developed pursuant to s.  
26 1001.54, to have an adverse impact on the educational program,  
27 discipline, or welfare in the school in which the student is  
28 enrolled. Any student who is suspended as the result of such  
29 proceedings may be suspended from all classes of instruction  
30 on public school grounds during regular classroom hours for a  
31 period of time, which may exceed 10 days, as determined by the

1 district school superintendent. The suspension shall not  
2 affect the delivery of educational services to the student,  
3 and the student shall be immediately enrolled in a daytime  
4 alternative education program, or an evening alternative  
5 education program, where appropriate. If the court determines  
6 that the student did commit the felony or delinquent act which  
7 would have been a felony if committed by an adult, the  
8 district school board may expel the student, provided that  
9 expulsion under this subsection shall not affect the delivery  
10 of educational services to the student in any residential,  
11 nonresidential, alternative, daytime, or evening program  
12 outside of the regular school setting. Any student who is  
13 subject to discipline or expulsion for unlawful possession or  
14 use of any substance controlled under chapter 893 may be  
15 entitled to a waiver of the discipline or expulsion:

16       (a) If the student divulges information leading to the  
17 arrest and conviction of the person who supplied the  
18 controlled substance to him or her, or if the student  
19 voluntarily discloses his or her unlawful possession of the  
20 controlled substance prior to his or her arrest. Any  
21 information divulged which leads to arrest and conviction is  
22 not admissible in evidence in a subsequent criminal trial  
23 against the student divulging the information.

24       (b) If the student commits himself or herself, or is  
25 referred by the court in lieu of sentence, to a state-licensed  
26 drug abuse program and successfully completes the program.

27       (3) A student may be disciplined or expelled for  
28 unlawful possession or use of any substance controlled under  
29 chapter 893 upon the third violation of this provision.

30       (4) When a student has been the victim of a violent  
31 crime perpetrated by another student who attends the same

1 school, the school principal shall make full and effective use  
2 of the provisions of ss. 1006.09(2) and 1006.13(5). A school  
3 principal who fails to comply with this subsection shall be  
4 ineligible for any portion of the performance pay policy  
5 incentive under s. 1012.22(1)(c). However, if any party  
6 responsible for notification fails to properly notify the  
7 school, the school principal shall be eligible for the  
8 incentive.

9 (5) Any recommendation for the suspension or expulsion  
10 of a student with a disability must be made in accordance with  
11 rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

12 (6) Each school principal must ensure that  
13 standardized forms prescribed by rule of the State Board of  
14 Education are used to report data concerning school safety and  
15 discipline to the department. The school principal must  
16 develop a plan to verify the accuracy of reported incidents.

17 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt by rule a  
18 standardized form to be used by each school principal to  
19 report data concerning school safety and discipline.

20 (8) The school principal shall require all school  
21 personnel to report to the principal or principal's designee  
22 any suspected unlawful use, possession, or sale by a student  
23 of any controlled substance, as defined in s. 893.02; any  
24 counterfeit controlled substance, as defined in s. 831.31; any  
25 alcoholic beverage, as defined in s. 561.01(4); or model glue.  
26 School personnel are exempt from civil liability when  
27 reporting in good faith to the proper school authority such  
28 suspected unlawful use, possession, or sale by a student.  
29 Only a principal or principal's designee is authorized to  
30 contact a parent or legal guardian of a student regarding this  
31 situation. Reports made and verified under this subsection

1 shall be forwarded to an appropriate agency. The principal or  
2 principal's designee shall timely notify the student's parent  
3 that a verified report made under this subsection with respect  
4 to the student has been made and forwarded.

5 (9) A school principal or a school employee designated  
6 by the principal, if she or he has reasonable suspicion that a  
7 prohibited or illegally possessed substance or object is  
8 contained within a student's locker or other storage area, may  
9 search the locker or storage area. The district school board  
10 shall require and each school principal shall cause to be  
11 posted in each public K-12 school, in a place readily seen by  
12 students, a notice stating that a student's locker or other  
13 storage area is subject to search, upon reasonable suspicion,  
14 for prohibited or illegally possessed substances or objects.  
15 This subsection does not prohibit the use of metal detectors  
16 or specially trained animals in the course of a search for  
17 illegally possessed substances or objects.

18 Section 280. Section 1006.10, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1006.10 Authority of school bus drivers and district  
21 school boards relating to student discipline and student  
22 safety on school buses.--

23 (1) The school bus driver shall require order and good  
24 behavior by all students being transported on school buses.

25 (2) The district school board shall require a system  
26 of progressive discipline of transported students for actions  
27 which are prohibited by the code of student conduct.  
28 Disciplinary actions, including suspension of students from  
29 riding on district school board owned or contracted school  
30 buses, shall be subject to district school board policies and  
31 procedures and may be imposed by the principal or the

1 principal's designee. The principal or the principal's  
2 designee may delegate any disciplinary authority to school bus  
3 drivers except for suspension of students from riding the bus.

4 (3) The school bus driver shall control students  
5 during the time students are on the school bus, but shall not  
6 have such authority when students are waiting at the school  
7 bus stop or when students are en route to or from the school  
8 bus stop except when the bus is present at the bus stop.

9 (4) If an emergency should develop due to the conduct  
10 of students on the bus, the school bus driver may take such  
11 steps as are immediately necessary to protect the students on  
12 the bus.

13 (5) School bus drivers shall not be required to  
14 operate a bus under conditions in which one or more students  
15 pose a clear and present danger to the safety of the driver or  
16 other students, or the safety of the bus while in operation.  
17 The district school board shall have measures in place  
18 designed to protect the school bus driver from threats or  
19 physical injury from students.

20 (6) District school boards may use transportation,  
21 school safety, or FAFP funds to provide added security for  
22 buses transporting disruptive or delinquent students to and  
23 from school or other educational activities.

24 (7) In the case of a student having engaged in violent  
25 or blatantly unsafe actions while riding the school bus, the  
26 district school board shall take corrective measures to  
27 ensure, to the extent feasible, that such actions are not  
28 repeated prior to reassigning the student to the bus.

29 Section 281. Section 1006.11, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31 1006.11 Standards for use of reasonable force.--

1           (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt standards  
2 for the use of reasonable force by district school board  
3 personnel to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment.  
4 Such standards shall be distributed to each school in the  
5 state and shall provide guidance to district school board  
6 personnel in receiving the limitations on liability specified  
7 in subsection (2).

8           (2) Except in the case of excessive force or cruel and  
9 unusual punishment, a teacher or other member of the  
10 instructional staff, a principal or the principal's designated  
11 representative, or a school bus driver shall not be civilly or  
12 criminally liable for any action carried out in conformity  
13 with the State Board of Education and district school board  
14 rules regarding the control, discipline, suspension, and  
15 expulsion of students, including, but not limited to, any  
16 exercise of authority under s. 1006.09 or s. 1003.32.

17           Section 282. Section 1006.12, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19           1006.12 School resource officers and school safety  
20 officers.--

21           (1) District school boards may establish school  
22 resource officer programs, through a cooperative agreement  
23 with law enforcement agencies or in accordance with subsection  
24 (2).

25           (a) School resource officers shall be certified law  
26 enforcement officers, as defined in s. 943.10(1), who are  
27 employed by a law enforcement agency as defined in s.  
28 943.10(4). The powers and duties of a law enforcement officer  
29 shall continue throughout the employee's tenure as a school  
30 resource officer.

31

1           **(b) School resource officers shall abide by district**  
2 **school board policies and shall consult with and coordinate**  
3 **activities through the school principal, but shall be**  
4 **responsible to the law enforcement agency in all matters**  
5 **relating to employment, subject to agreements between a**  
6 **district school board and a law enforcement agency. Activities**  
7 **conducted by the school resource officer which are part of the**  
8 **regular instructional program of the school shall be under the**  
9 **direction of the school principal.**

10           **(2)(a) School safety officers shall be law enforcement**  
11 **officers, as defined in s. 943.10(1), certified under the**  
12 **provisions of chapter 943 and employed by either a law**  
13 **enforcement agency or by the district school board. If the**  
14 **officer is employed by the district school board, the district**  
15 **school board is the employing agency for purposes of chapter**  
16 **943, and must comply with the provisions of that chapter.**

17           **(b) A district school board may commission one or more**  
18 **school safety officers for the protection and safety of school**  
19 **personnel, property, and students within the school district.**  
20 **The district school superintendent may recommend and the**  
21 **district school board may appoint one or more school safety**  
22 **officers.**

23           **(c) A school safety officer has and shall exercise the**  
24 **power to make arrests for violations of law on district school**  
25 **board property and to arrest persons, whether on or off such**  
26 **property, who violate any law on such property under the same**  
27 **conditions that deputy sheriffs are authorized to make**  
28 **arrests. A school safety officer has the authority to carry**  
29 **weapons when performing his or her official duties.**

30           **(d) A district school board may enter into mutual aid**  
31 **agreements with one or more law enforcement agencies as**

1 provided in chapter 23. A school safety officer's salary may  
2 be paid jointly by the district school board and the law  
3 enforcement agency, as mutually agreed to.

4 Section 283. Section 1006.13, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1006.13 Policy of zero tolerance for crime and  
7 victimization.--

8 (1) Each district school board shall adopt a policy of  
9 zero tolerance for:

10 (a) Crime and substance abuse, including the reporting  
11 of delinquent acts and crimes occurring whenever and wherever  
12 students are under the jurisdiction of the district school  
13 board.

14 (b) Victimization of students, including taking all  
15 steps necessary to protect the victim of any violent crime  
16 from any further victimization.

17 (2) The zero tolerance policy shall require students  
18 found to have committed one of the following offenses to be  
19 expelled, with or without continuing educational services,  
20 from the student's regular school for a period of not less  
21 than 1 full year, and to be referred to the criminal justice  
22 or juvenile justice system.

23 (a) Bringing a firearm or weapon, as defined in  
24 chapter 790, to school, to any school function, or onto any  
25 school-sponsored transportation or possessing a firearm at  
26 school.

27 (b) Making a threat or false report, as defined by ss.  
28 790.162 and 790.163, respectively, involving school or school  
29 personnel's property, school transportation, or a  
30 school-sponsored activity.

31

1 District school boards may assign the student to a  
2 disciplinary program for the purpose of continuing educational  
3 services during the period of expulsion. District school  
4 superintendents may consider the 1-year expulsion requirement  
5 on a case-by-case basis and request the district school board  
6 to modify the requirement by assigning the student to a  
7 disciplinary program or second chance school if the request  
8 for modification is in writing and it is determined to be in  
9 the best interest of the student and the school system. If a  
10 student committing any of the offenses in this subsection is a  
11 student with a disability, the district school board shall  
12 comply with applicable State Board of Education rules.

13 (3) Each district school board shall enter into  
14 agreements with the county sheriff's office and local police  
15 department specifying guidelines for ensuring that felonies  
16 and violent misdemeanors, whether committed by a student or  
17 adult, and delinquent acts that would be felonies or violent  
18 misdemeanors if committed by an adult, are reported to law  
19 enforcement. Each district school board shall adopt a  
20 cooperative agreement, pursuant to s. 1003.52(13) with the  
21 Department of Juvenile Justice, that specifies guidelines for  
22 ensuring that all no contact orders entered by the court are  
23 reported and enforced and that all steps necessary are taken  
24 to protect the victim of any such crime. Such agreements shall  
25 include the role of school resource officers, if applicable,  
26 in handling reported incidents, special circumstances in which  
27 school officials may handle incidents without filing a report  
28 to law enforcement, and a procedure for ensuring that school  
29 personnel properly report appropriate delinquent acts and  
30 crimes. The school principal shall be responsible for ensuring  
31 that all school personnel are properly informed as to their

1 responsibilities regarding crime reporting, that appropriate  
2 delinquent acts and crimes are properly reported, and that  
3 actions taken in cases with special circumstances are properly  
4 taken and documented.

5 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each  
6 district school board shall adopt rules providing that any  
7 student found to have committed a violation of s. 784.081(1),  
8 (2), or (3) shall be expelled or placed in an alternative  
9 school setting or other program, as appropriate. Upon being  
10 charged with the offense, the student shall be removed from  
11 the classroom immediately and placed in an alternative school  
12 setting pending disposition.

13 (5)(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law  
14 prohibiting the disclosure of the identity of a minor,  
15 whenever any student who is attending public school is  
16 adjudicated guilty of or delinquent for, or is found to have  
17 committed, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, or  
18 pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony violation of:

- 19 1. Chapter 782, relating to homicide;
- 20 2. Chapter 784, relating to assault, battery, and  
21 culpable negligence;
- 22 3. Chapter 787, relating to kidnapping, false  
23 imprisonment, luring or enticing a child, and custody  
24 offenses;
- 25 4. Chapter 794, relating to sexual battery;
- 26 5. Chapter 800, relating to lewdness and indecent  
27 exposure;
- 28 6. Chapter 827, relating to abuse of children;
- 29 7. Section 812.13, relating to robbery;
- 30 8. Section 812.131, relating to robbery by sudden  
31 snatching;

1           9. Section 812.133, relating to carjacking; or  
2           10. Section 812.135, relating to home-invasion  
3 robbery,  
4  
5 and, before or at the time of such adjudication, withholding  
6 of adjudication, or plea, the offender was attending a school  
7 attended by the victim or a sibling of the victim of the  
8 offense, the Department of Juvenile Justice shall notify the  
9 appropriate district school board of the adjudication or plea,  
10 the requirements of this paragraph, and whether the offender  
11 is prohibited from attending that school or riding on a school  
12 bus whenever the victim or a sibling of the victim is  
13 attending the same school or riding on the same school bus,  
14 except as provided pursuant to a written disposition order  
15 under s. 985.23(1)(d). Upon receipt of such notice, the  
16 district school board shall take appropriate action to  
17 effectuate the provisions of paragraph (b).

18           (b) Any offender described in paragraph (a), who is  
19 not exempted as provided in paragraph (a), shall not attend  
20 any school attended by the victim or a sibling of the victim  
21 of the offense or ride on a school bus on which the victim or  
22 a sibling of the victim is riding. The offender shall be  
23 permitted by the district school board to attend another  
24 school within the district in which the offender resides,  
25 provided the other school is not attended by the victim or  
26 sibling of the victim of the offense; or the offender may be  
27 permitted by another district school board to attend a school  
28 in that district if the offender is unable to attend any  
29 school in the district in which the offender resides.

30           (c) If the offender is unable to attend any other  
31 school in the district in which the offender resides and is

1 prohibited from attending school in another school district,  
2 the district school board in the school district in which the  
3 offender resides shall take every reasonable precaution to  
4 keep the offender separated from the victim while on school  
5 grounds or on school transportation. The steps to be taken by  
6 a district school board to keep the offender separated from  
7 the victim shall include, but are not limited to, in-school  
8 suspension of the offender and the scheduling of classes,  
9 lunch, or other school activities of the victim and the  
10 offender so as not to coincide.

11 (d) The offender, or the parents of the offender if  
12 the offender is a juvenile, shall be responsible for arranging  
13 and paying for transportation associated with or required by  
14 the offender's attending another school or that would be  
15 required as a consequence of the prohibition against riding on  
16 a school bus on which the victim or a sibling of the victim is  
17 riding. However, the offender or the parents of the offender  
18 shall not be charged for existing modes of transportation that  
19 can be used by the offender at no additional cost to the  
20 district school board.

21 Section 284. Section 1006.14, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23 1006.14 Secret societies prohibited in public K-12  
24 schools.--

25 (1) It is unlawful for any person, group, or  
26 organization to organize or establish a fraternity, sorority,  
27 or other secret society whose membership is comprised in whole  
28 or in part of students enrolled in any public K-12 school or  
29 to go upon any public K-12 school premises for the purpose of  
30 soliciting any students to join such an organization.  
31

1           (2) A secret society shall be interpreted to be a  
2 fraternity, sorority, or other organization whose active  
3 membership is comprised wholly or partly of students enrolled  
4 in public K-12 schools and which perpetuates itself wholly or  
5 partly by taking in additional members from the students  
6 enrolled in public K-12 schools on the basis of the decision  
7 of its membership rather than on the right of any student who  
8 is qualified by the rules of the school to be a member of and  
9 take part in any class or group exercise designated and  
10 classified according to gender, subjects included in the  
11 course of study, or program of school activities fostered and  
12 promoted by the district school board and district school  
13 superintendent or by school principals.

14           (3) This section shall not be construed to prevent the  
15 establishment of an organization fostered and promoted by  
16 school authorities, or approved and accepted by school  
17 authorities, and whose membership is selected on the basis of  
18 good character, good scholarship, leadership ability, and  
19 achievement. Full information regarding the charter,  
20 principles, purposes, and conduct of any such accepted  
21 organization shall be made available to all students and  
22 instructional personnel of the school.

23           (4) This section shall not be construed to relate to  
24 any junior organization or society sponsored by the Police  
25 Athletic League, Knights of Pythias, Oddfellows, Moose,  
26 Woodmen of the World, Knights of Columbus, Elks, Masons, B'nai  
27 B'rith, Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Associations,  
28 Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, Kiwanis,  
29 Rotary, Optimist, Civitan, Exchange Clubs, Florida Federation  
30 of Garden Clubs, and Florida Federation of Women's Clubs.  
31

1           (5) It is unlawful for any student enrolled in any  
2 public K-12 school to be a member of, to join or to become a  
3 member of or to pledge himself or herself to become a member  
4 of any secret fraternity, sorority, or group wholly or partly  
5 formed from the membership of students attending public K-12  
6 schools or to take part in the organization or formation of  
7 any such fraternity, sorority, or secret society; provided  
8 that this does not prevent any student from belonging to any  
9 organization fostered and promoted by the school authorities;  
10 or approved and accepted by the school authorities and whose  
11 membership is selected on the basis of good character, good  
12 scholarship, leadership ability, and achievement.

13           (6) The district school board may enforce the  
14 provisions of this section and prescribe and enforce such  
15 rules as are necessary. District school boards shall enforce  
16 the provisions of this section by suspending or, if necessary,  
17 expelling any student in any public K-12 school who violates  
18 this section.

19           Section 285. Section 1006.141, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21           1006.141 Statewide school safety hotline.--

22           (1) The department may contract with the Florida  
23 Sheriffs Association to establish and operate a statewide  
24 toll-free school safety hotline for the purpose of reporting  
25 incidents that affect the safety and well-being of the  
26 school's population.

27           (2) The toll-free school safety hotline is to be a  
28 conduit for any person to anonymously report activity that  
29 affects the safety and well-being of the school's population.

30  
31

1           (3) There may not be an award or monetary benefit for  
2 reporting an incident through the toll-free school safety  
3 hotline.

4           (4) The toll-free school safety hotline shall be  
5 operated in a manner that ensures that a designated school  
6 official is notified of a complaint received through the  
7 hotline if the complaint concerns that school. A complaint  
8 that concerns an actionable offense must be reported to the  
9 designated official within a reasonable time after the  
10 complaint is made. An actionable offense is an incident that  
11 could directly affect the safety or well-being of a person or  
12 property within a school.

13           (5) If a toll-free school safety hotline is  
14 established by contract with the Florida Sheriffs Association,  
15 the Florida Sheriffs Association shall produce a quarterly  
16 report that evaluates the incidents that have been reported to  
17 the hotline. This information may be used to evaluate future  
18 school safety educational needs and the need for prevention  
19 programs as the district school board considers necessary.

20           Section 286. Section 1006.145, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22           1006.145 Disturbing school functions; penalty.--Any  
23 person not subject to the rules of a school who creates a  
24 disturbance on the property or grounds of any school, who  
25 commits any act that interrupts the orderly conduct of a  
26 school or any activity thereof commits a misdemeanor of the  
27 second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
28 775.083.

29           Section 287. Part I.d. of chapter 1006, Florida  
30 Statutes, shall be entitled "Student Extracurricular  
31

1 Activities and Athletics" and shall consist of ss.

2 1006.15-1006.20.

3 Section 288. Section 1006.15, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1006.15 Student standards for participation in  
6 interscholastic extracurricular student activities;  
7 regulation.--

8 (1) This section may be cited as the "Craig Dickinson  
9 Act."

10 (2) Interscholastic extracurricular student activities  
11 are an important complement to the academic curriculum.  
12 Participation in a comprehensive extracurricular and academic  
13 program contributes to student development of the social and  
14 intellectual skills necessary to become a well-rounded adult.  
15 As used in this section, the term "extracurricular" means any  
16 school-authorized or education-related activity occurring  
17 during or outside the regular instructional school day.

18 (3)(a) To be eligible to participate in  
19 interscholastic extracurricular student activities, a student  
20 must:

21 1. Maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or above on a  
22 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the previous semester or a  
23 cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale,  
24 or its equivalent, in the courses required by s. 1003.43(1).

25 2. Execute and fulfill the requirements of an academic  
26 performance contract between the student, the district school  
27 board, the appropriate governing association, and the  
28 student's parents, if the student's cumulative grade point  
29 average falls below 2.0, or its equivalent, on a 4.0 scale in  
30 the courses required by s. 1003.43(1) or, for students who  
31 entered the 9th grade prior to the 1997-1998 school year, if

1 the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0  
2 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by  
3 s. 1003.43(1) that are taken after July 1, 1997. At a minimum,  
4 the contract must require that the student attend summer  
5 school, or its graded equivalent, between grades 9 and 10 or  
6 grades 10 and 11, as necessary.

7       3. Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or  
8 above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses  
9 required by s. 1003.43(1) during his or her junior or senior  
10 year.

11       4. Maintain satisfactory conduct and, if a student is  
12 convicted of, or is found to have committed, a felony or a  
13 delinquent act which would have been a felony if committed by  
14 an adult, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, the  
15 student's participation in interscholastic extracurricular  
16 activities is contingent upon established and published  
17 district school board policy.

18       (b) Any student who is exempt from attending a full  
19 school day based on rules adopted by the district school board  
20 for double session schools or programs, experimental schools,  
21 or schools operating under emergency conditions must maintain  
22 the grade point average required by this section and pass each  
23 class for which he or she is enrolled.

24       (c) An individual home education student is eligible  
25 to participate at the public school to which the student would  
26 be assigned according to district school board attendance area  
27 policies or which the student could choose to attend pursuant  
28 to district or interdistrict controlled open enrollment  
29 provisions, or may develop an agreement to participate at a  
30 private school, in the interscholastic extracurricular  
31

1 activities of that school, provided the following conditions  
2 are met:

3 1. The home education student must meet the  
4 requirements of the home education program pursuant to s.  
5 1002.41.

6 2. During the period of participation at a school, the  
7 home education student must demonstrate educational progress  
8 as required in paragraph (3)(b) in all subjects taken in the  
9 home education program by a method of evaluation agreed upon  
10 by the parent and the school principal which may include:  
11 review of the student's work by a certified teacher chosen by  
12 the parent; grades earned through correspondence; grades  
13 earned in courses taken at a community college, university, or  
14 trade school; standardized test scores above the 35th  
15 percentile; or any other method designated in s. 1002.41.

16 3. The home education student must meet the same  
17 residency requirements as other students in the school at  
18 which he or she participates.

19 4. The home education student must meet the same  
20 standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance as required  
21 of other students in extracurricular activities.

22 5. The student must register with the school his or  
23 her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular  
24 activities as a representative of the school before the  
25 beginning date of the season for the activity in which he or  
26 she wishes to participate. A home education student must be  
27 able to participate in curricular activities if that is a  
28 requirement for an extracurricular activity.

29 6. A student who transfers from a home education  
30 program to a public school before or during the first grading  
31 period of the school year is academically eligible to

1 participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities  
2 during the first grading period provided the student has a  
3 successful evaluation from the previous school year, pursuant  
4 to subparagraph (3)(c)2.

5 7. Any public school or private school student who has  
6 been unable to maintain academic eligibility for participation  
7 in interscholastic extracurricular activities is ineligible to  
8 participate in such activities as a home education student  
9 until the student has successfully completed one grading  
10 period in home education pursuant to subparagraph (3)(c)2. to  
11 become eligible to participate as a home education student.

12 (d) An individual charter school student pursuant to  
13 s. 1002.33 is eligible to participate at the public school to  
14 which the student would be assigned according to district  
15 school board attendance area policies or which the student  
16 could choose to attend, pursuant to district or interdistrict  
17 controlled open-enrollment provisions, in any interscholastic  
18 extracurricular activity of that school, unless such activity  
19 is provided by the student's charter school, if the following  
20 conditions are met:

21 1. The charter school student must meet the  
22 requirements of the charter school education program as  
23 determined by the charter school governing board.

24 2. During the period of participation at a school, the  
25 charter school student must demonstrate educational progress  
26 as required in paragraph (b).

27 3. The charter school student must meet the same  
28 residency requirements as other students in the school at  
29 which he or she participates.

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1           4. The charter school student must meet the same  
2 standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance that are  
3 required of other students in extracurricular activities.

4           5. The charter school student must register with the  
5 school his or her intent to participate in interscholastic  
6 extracurricular activities as a representative of the school  
7 before the beginning date of the season for the activity in  
8 which he or she wishes to participate. A charter school  
9 student must be able to participate in curricular activities  
10 if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity.

11           6. A student who transfers from a charter school  
12 program to a traditional public school before or during the  
13 first grading period of the school year is academically  
14 eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular  
15 activities during the first grading period if the student has  
16 a successful evaluation from the previous school year,  
17 pursuant to subparagraph 2.

18           7. Any public school or private school student who has  
19 been unable to maintain academic eligibility for participation  
20 in interscholastic extracurricular activities is ineligible to  
21 participate in such activities as a charter school student  
22 until the student has successfully completed one grading  
23 period in a charter school pursuant to subparagraph 2. to  
24 become eligible to participate as a charter school student.

25           (4) The student standards for participation in  
26 interscholastic extracurricular activities must be applied  
27 beginning with the student's first semester of the 9th grade.  
28 Each student must meet such other requirements for  
29 participation as may be established by the district school  
30 board; however, a district school board may not establish  
31 requirements for participation in interscholastic

1 extracurricular activities which make participation in such  
2 activities less accessible to home education students than to  
3 other students. Except as set forth in paragraph (3)(c),  
4 evaluation processes or requirements that are placed on home  
5 education student participants may not go beyond those that  
6 apply under s. 1002.41 to home education students generally.

7 (5) Any organization or entity that regulates or  
8 governs interscholastic extracurricular activities of public  
9 schools:

10 (a) Shall permit home education associations to join  
11 as member schools.

12 (b) Shall not discriminate against any eligible  
13 student based on an educational choice of public, private, or  
14 home education.

15 (6) Public schools are prohibited from membership in  
16 any organization or entity which regulates or governs  
17 interscholastic extracurricular activities and discriminates  
18 against eligible students in public, private, or home  
19 education.

20 (7) Any insurance provided by district school boards  
21 for participants in extracurricular activities shall cover the  
22 participating home education student. If there is an  
23 additional premium for such coverage, the participating home  
24 education student shall pay the premium.

25 Section 289. Section 1006.16, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 1006.16 Insuring school students engaged in athletic  
28 activities against injury.--Any district school board, school  
29 athletic association, or school may formulate, conduct, and  
30 purchase a plan or method of insuring, or may self-insure,  
31 school students against injury sustained by reason of such

1 students engaging and participating in the athletic activities  
2 conducted or sponsored by the district school board,  
3 association, or school in which such students are enrolled. A  
4 district school board, school athletic association, or school  
5 may add a surcharge to the fee charged for admission to  
6 athletic events as a means of producing revenue to purchase  
7 such insurance or to provide self-insurance. Any district  
8 school board may pay for all or part of such plan or method of  
9 insurance or self-insurance from available district school  
10 board funds.

11 Section 290. Section 1006.17, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13 1006.17 Sponsorship of athletic activities similar to  
14 those for which scholarships offered; rulemaking.--

15 (1) If a district school board sponsors an athletic  
16 activity or sport that is similar to a sport for which a state  
17 university or public community college offers an athletic  
18 scholarship, it must sponsor the athletic activity or sport  
19 for which a scholarship is offered. This section does not  
20 affect academic requirements for participation or prevent the  
21 school districts or community colleges from sponsoring  
22 activities in addition to those for which scholarships are  
23 provided.

24 (2) If a Florida public community college sponsors an  
25 athletic activity or sport that is similar to a sport for  
26 which a state university offers an athletic scholarship, it  
27 must sponsor the athletic activity or sport for which a  
28 scholarship is offered.

29 (3) Two athletic activities or sports that are similar  
30 may be offered simultaneously.

31

1           (4) If the level of participation is insufficient to  
2 warrant continuation of an athletic activity or sport, the  
3 school may offer an alternative athletic activity or sport.

4           (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
5 administer this section, including rules that determine which  
6 athletic activities are similar to sports for which state  
7 universities and community colleges offer scholarships.

8           Section 291. Section 1006.18, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10           1006.18 Cheerleader safety standards.--The Florida  
11 High School Activities Association or successor organization  
12 shall adopt statewide uniform safety standards for student  
13 cheerleaders and spirit groups that participate in any school  
14 activity or extracurricular student activity. The Florida High  
15 School Activities Association or successor organization shall  
16 adopt the "Official High School Spirit Rules," published by  
17 the National Federation of State High School Associations, as  
18 the statewide uniform safety standards.

19           Section 292. Section 1006.19, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21           1006.19 Audit of records of nonprofit corporations and  
22 associations handling interscholastic activities.--

23           (1) Each nonprofit association or corporation that  
24 operates for the purpose of supervising and controlling  
25 interscholastic activities of public high schools and whose  
26 membership is composed of duly certified representatives of  
27 public high schools, and whose rules and regulations are  
28 established by members thereof, shall have an annual financial  
29 audit of its accounts and records by an independent certified  
30 public accountant retained by it and paid from its funds. The  
31

1 accountant shall furnish a copy of the audit report to the  
2 Auditor General.

3 (2) Any such nonprofit association or corporation  
4 shall keep adequate and complete records of all moneys  
5 received by it, including the source and amount, and all  
6 moneys spent by it, including salaries, fees, expenses, travel  
7 allowances, and all other items of expense. All records of  
8 any such organization shall be open for inspection by the  
9 Auditor General.

10 Section 293. Section 1006.20, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.--

13 (1) GOVERNING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.--The Florida  
14 High School Activities Association is designated as the  
15 governing nonprofit organization of athletics in Florida  
16 public schools. If the Florida High School Activities  
17 Association fails to meet the provisions of this section, the  
18 commissioner shall designate a nonprofit organization to  
19 govern athletics with the approval of the State Board of  
20 Education. The organization is not to be a state agency as  
21 defined in s. 120.52. The organization shall be subject to the  
22 provisions of s. 1006.19. A private school that wishes to  
23 engage in high school athletic competition with a public high  
24 school may become a member of the organization. The bylaws of  
25 the organization are to be the rules by which high school  
26 athletic programs in its member schools, and the students who  
27 participate in them, are governed, unless otherwise  
28 specifically provided by statute. For the purposes of this  
29 section, "high school" includes grades 6 through 12.

30 (2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS.--  
31

1           (a) The organization shall adopt bylaws that, unless  
2 specifically provided by statute, establish eligibility  
3 requirements for all students who participate in high school  
4 athletic competition in its member schools. The bylaws  
5 governing residence and transfer shall allow the student to be  
6 eligible in the school in which he or she first enrolls each  
7 school year, or makes himself or herself a candidate for an  
8 athletic team by engaging in a practice prior to enrolling in  
9 any member school. The student shall be eligible in that  
10 school so long as he or she remains enrolled in that school.  
11 Subsequent eligibility shall be determined and enforced  
12 through the organization's bylaws.

13           (b) The organization shall adopt bylaws that  
14 specifically prohibit the recruiting of students for athletic  
15 purposes. The bylaws shall prescribe penalties and an appeals  
16 process for athletic recruiting violations.

17           (c) The organization shall adopt bylaws that require  
18 all students participating in interscholastic athletic  
19 competition or who are candidates for an interscholastic  
20 athletic team to satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation each  
21 year prior to participating in interscholastic athletic  
22 competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or  
23 other physical activity associated with the student's  
24 candidacy for an interscholastic athletic team. Such medical  
25 evaluation can only be administered by a practitioner licensed  
26 under the provisions of chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460,  
27 or s. 464.012, and in good standing with the practitioner's  
28 regulatory board. The bylaws shall establish requirements for  
29 eliciting a student's medical history and performing the  
30 medical evaluation required under this paragraph, which shall  
31 include minimum standards for the physical capabilities

1 necessary for participation in interscholastic athletic  
2 competition as contained in a uniform preparticipation  
3 physical evaluation form. The evaluation form shall provide a  
4 place for the signature of the practitioner performing the  
5 evaluation with an attestation that each examination procedure  
6 listed on the form was performed by the practitioner or by  
7 someone under the direct supervision of the practitioner. The  
8 form shall also contain a place for the practitioner to  
9 indicate if a referral to another practitioner was made in  
10 lieu of completion of a certain examination procedure. The  
11 form shall provide a place for the practitioner to whom the  
12 student was referred to complete the remaining sections and  
13 attest to that portion of the examination. The  
14 preparticipation physical evaluation form shall advise  
15 students to complete a cardiovascular assessment and shall  
16 include information concerning alternative cardiovascular  
17 evaluation and diagnostic tests. Practitioners administering  
18 medical evaluations pursuant to this subsection must know the  
19 minimum standards established by the organization and certify  
20 that the student meets the standards. If the practitioner  
21 determines that there are any abnormal findings in the  
22 cardiovascular system, the student may not participate unless  
23 a subsequent EKG or other cardiovascular assessment indicates  
24 that the abnormality will not place the student at risk during  
25 such participation. Results of such medical evaluation must be  
26 provided to the school. No student shall be eligible to  
27 participate in any interscholastic athletic competition or  
28 engage in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical  
29 activity associated with the student's candidacy for an  
30 interscholastic athletic team until the results of the medical  
31 evaluation verifying that the student has satisfactorily

1 passed the evaluation have been received and approved by the  
2 school.

3 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (c), a  
4 student may participate in interscholastic athletic  
5 competition or be a candidate for an interscholastic athletic  
6 team if the parent of the student objects in writing to the  
7 student undergoing a medical evaluation because such  
8 evaluation is contrary to his or her religious tenets or  
9 practices. However, in such case, there shall be no liability  
10 on the part of any person or entity in a position to otherwise  
11 rely on the results of such medical evaluation for any damages  
12 resulting from the student's injury or death arising directly  
13 from the student's participation in interscholastic athletics  
14 where an undisclosed medical condition that would have been  
15 revealed in the medical evaluation is a proximate cause of the  
16 injury or death.

17 (3) GOVERNING STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION.--

18 (a) The organization shall operate as a representative  
19 democracy in which the sovereign authority is within its  
20 member schools. Except as provided in this section, the  
21 organization shall govern its affairs through its bylaws.

22 (b) Each member school, on its annual application for  
23 membership, shall name its official representative to the  
24 organization. This representative must be either the school  
25 principal or his or her designee. That designee must either be  
26 an assistant principal or athletic director housed within that  
27 same school.

28 (c) The organization's membership shall be divided  
29 along existing county lines into four contiguous and compact  
30 administrative regions, each containing an equal or nearly  
31 equal number of member schools to ensure equitable

1 representation on the organization's board of directors,  
2 representative assembly, and committee on appeals.

3 (4) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.--

4 (a) The executive authority of the organization shall  
5 be vested in its board of directors. The board of directors  
6 shall be composed of 15 persons, as follows:

7 1. Four public member school representatives, one  
8 electd from among its public school representative members  
9 within each of the four administrative regions.

10 2. Four nonpublic member school representatives, one  
11 electd from among its nonpublic school representative members  
12 within each of the four administrative regions.

13 3. Two representatives appointed by the commissioner,  
14 one appointed from the two northernmost administrative regions  
15 and one appointed from the two southernmost administrative  
16 regions.

17 4. Two district school superintendents, one electd  
18 from the two northernmost administrative regions by the  
19 members in those regions and one electd from the two  
20 southernmost administrative regions by the members in those  
21 regions.

22 5. Two district school board members, one electd from  
23 the two northernmost administrative regions by the members in  
24 those regions and one electd from the two southernmost  
25 administrative regions by the members in those regions.

26 6. The commissioner or his or her designee from the  
27 department executive staff.

28 (b) A quorum of the board of directors shall consist  
29 of nine members.

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1        (c) The board of directors shall elect a president and  
2 a vice president from among its members. These officers shall  
3 also serve as officers of the organization.

4        (d) Members of the board of directors shall serve  
5 terms of 3 years and are eligible to succeed themselves only  
6 once. A member of the board of directors, other than the  
7 commissioner or his or her designee, may serve a maximum of 6  
8 consecutive years. The organization's bylaws shall establish a  
9 rotation of terms to ensure that a majority of the members'  
10 terms do not expire concurrently.

11        (e) The authority and duties of the board of  
12 directors, acting as a body and in accordance with the  
13 organization's bylaws, are as follows:

14            1. To act as the incorporated organization's board of  
15 directors and to fulfill its obligations as required by the  
16 organization's charter and articles of incorporation.

17            2. To establish such guidelines, regulations,  
18 policies, and procedures as are authorized by the bylaws.

19            3. To provide an organization commissioner, who shall  
20 have the authority to waive the bylaws of the organization in  
21 order to comply with statutory changes.

22            4. To levy annual dues and other fees and to set the  
23 percentage of contest receipts to be collected by the  
24 organization.

25            5. To approve the budget of the organization.

26            6. To organize and conduct statewide interscholastic  
27 competitions, which may or may not lead to state  
28 championships, and to establish the terms and conditions for  
29 these competitions.

30            7. To act as an administrative board in the  
31 interpretation of, and final decision on, all questions and

1 appeals arising from the directing of interscholastic  
2 athletics of member schools.

3 (5) REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY.--

4 (a) The legislative authority of the organization is  
5 vested in its representative assembly.

6 (b) The representative assembly shall be composed of  
7 the following:

8 1. An equal number of member school representatives  
9 from each of the four administrative regions.

10 2. Four district school superintendents, one elected  
11 from each of the four administrative regions by the district  
12 school superintendents in their respective administrative  
13 regions.

14 3. Four district school board members, one elected  
15 from each of the four administrative regions by the district  
16 school board members in their respective administrative  
17 regions.

18 4. The commissioner or his or her designee from the  
19 department executive staff.

20 (c) The organization's bylaws shall establish the  
21 number of member school representatives to serve in the  
22 representative assembly from each of the four administrative  
23 regions and shall establish the method for their selection.

24 (d) No member of the board of directors other than the  
25 commissioner or his or her designee can serve in the  
26 representative assembly.

27 (e) The representative assembly shall elect a  
28 chairperson and a vice chairperson from among its members.

29 (f) Elected members of the representative assembly  
30 shall serve terms of 2 years and are eligible to succeed  
31 themselves for two additional terms. An elected member, other

- 1 than the commissioner or his or her designee, may serve a  
2 maximum of 6 consecutive years in the representative assembly.
- 3 (g) A quorum of the representative assembly consists  
4 of one more than half of its members.
- 5 (h) The authority of the representative assembly is  
6 limited to its sole duty, which is to consider, adopt, or  
7 reject any proposed amendments to the organization's bylaws.
- 8 (i) The representative assembly shall meet as a body  
9 annually. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast by members  
10 present is required for passage of any proposal.
- 11 (6) PUBLIC LIAISON ADVISORY COMMITTEE.--
- 12 (a) The organization shall establish, sustain, fund,  
13 and provide staff support to a public liaison advisory  
14 committee composed of the following:
- 15 1. The commissioner or his or her designee.
  - 16 2. A member public school principal.
  - 17 3. A member private school principal.
  - 18 4. A member school principal who is a member of a  
19 racial minority.
  - 20 5. An active athletic director.
  - 21 6. An active coach, who is employed full time by a  
22 member school.
  - 23 7. A student athlete.
  - 24 8. A district school superintendent.
  - 25 9. A district school board member.
  - 26 10. A member of the Florida House of Representatives.
  - 27 11. A member of the Florida Senate.
  - 28 12. A parent of a high school student.
  - 29 13. A member of a home education association.
  - 30 14. A representative of the business community.
  - 31 15. A representative of the news media.

1           (b) No member of the board of directors, committee on  
2 appeals, or representative assembly is eligible to serve on  
3 the public liaison advisory committee.

4           (c) The public liaison advisory committee shall elect  
5 a chairperson and vice chairperson from among its members.

6           (d) The authority and duties of the public liaison  
7 advisory committee are as follows:

8           1. To act as a conduit through which the general  
9 public may have input into the decisionmaking process of the  
10 organization and to assist the organization in the development  
11 of procedures regarding the receipt of public input and  
12 disposition of complaints related to high school athletic and  
13 competition programs.

14           2. To conduct public hearings annually in each of the  
15 four administrative regions during which interested parties  
16 may address issues regarding the effectiveness of the rules,  
17 operation, and management of the organization.

18           3. To conduct an annual evaluation of the organization  
19 as a whole and present a report of its findings, conclusion,  
20 and recommendations to the board of directors, to the  
21 commissioner, and to the respective education committees of  
22 the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives.  
23 The recommendations must delineate policies and procedures  
24 that will improve the implementation and oversight of high  
25 school athletic programs by the organization.

26           (e) The public liaison advisory committee shall meet  
27 four times annually. Additional meetings may be called by the  
28 committee chairperson, the organization president, or the  
29 organization commissioner.

30           (7) APPEALS.--  
31

1           (a) The organization shall establish a procedure of  
2 due process which ensures each student the opportunity to  
3 appeal an unfavorable ruling with regard to his or her  
4 eligibility to compete. The initial appeal shall be made to a  
5 committee on appeals within the administrative region in which  
6 the student lives. The organization's bylaws shall establish  
7 the number, size, and composition of the committee on appeals.

8           (b) No member of the board of directors is eligible to  
9 serve on the committee on appeals.

10           (c) Members of the committee on appeals shall serve  
11 terms of 3 years and are eligible to succeed themselves only  
12 once. A member of the committee on appeals may serve a maximum  
13 of 6 consecutive years. The organization's bylaws shall  
14 establish a rotation of terms to ensure that a majority of the  
15 members' terms do not expire concurrently.

16           (d) The authority and duties of the committee on  
17 appeals shall be to consider requests by member schools  
18 seeking exceptions to bylaws and regulations, to hear undue  
19 hardship eligibility cases filed by member schools on behalf  
20 of student athletes, and to hear appeals filed by member  
21 schools.

22           (e) A student athlete or member school that receives  
23 an unfavorable ruling from a committee on appeals shall be  
24 entitled to appeal that decision to the board of directors at  
25 its next regularly scheduled meeting or called meeting. The  
26 board of directors shall have the authority to uphold,  
27 reverse, or amend the decision of the committee on appeals. In  
28 all such cases, the decision of the board of directors shall  
29 be final.

30           (8) AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS.--Each member school  
31 representative, the board of directors acting as a whole or as

1 members acting individually, any advisory committee acting as  
2 a whole to be established by the organization, and the  
3 organization's commissioner are empowered to propose  
4 amendments to the bylaws. Any other individual may propose an  
5 amendment by securing the sponsorship of any of the  
6 mentioned individuals or bodies. All proposed amendments  
7 must be submitted directly to the representative assembly for  
8 its consideration. The representative assembly, while  
9 empowered to adopt, reject, or revise proposed amendments, may  
10 not, in and of itself, as a body be allowed to propose any  
11 amendment for its own consideration.

12 (9) RULES ADOPTION.--The bylaws of the organization  
13 shall require member schools to adopt rules for sports, which  
14 have been established by a nationally recognized sanctioning  
15 body, unless waived by at least a two-thirds vote of the board  
16 of directors.

17 (10) EXAMINATION; CRITERIA; REPORT.--The board of  
18 directors of the Florida High School Activities Association  
19 shall undertake an examination of the following:

20 (a) Alternative criteria for establishing  
21 administrative regions to include, but not be limited to,  
22 population.

23 (b) Procedures to ensure appropriate diversity in the  
24 membership of the board of directors.

25 (c) Opportunities to secure corporate financial  
26 support for high school athletic programs.

27  
28 The board of directors shall submit to the commissioner, the  
29 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
30 Representatives not later than March 1, 2003, a report on the  
31 actions taken in the examination of each of the three topics

1 listed in this subsection, the findings, and the actions to be  
2 taken to implement the findings and the target date for  
3 implementation.

4 Section 294. Part I.e. of chapter 1006, Florida  
5 Statutes, shall be entitled "Transportation of Public K-12  
6 Students" and shall consist of ss. 1006.21-1006.27.

7 Section 295. Section 1006.21, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9 1006.21 Duties of district school superintendent and  
10 district school board regarding transportation.--

11 (1) The district school superintendent shall ascertain  
12 which students should be transported to school or to school  
13 activities, determine the most effective arrangement of  
14 transportation routes to accommodate these students; recommend  
15 such routing to the district school board; recommend plans and  
16 procedures for providing facilities for the economical and  
17 safe transportation of students; recommend such rules and  
18 regulations as may be necessary and see that all rules and  
19 regulations relating to the transportation of students  
20 approved by the district school board, as well as regulations  
21 of the state board, are properly carried into effect, as  
22 prescribed in this chapter.

23 (2) After considering recommendations of the district  
24 school superintendent, the district school board shall make  
25 provision for the transportation of students to the public  
26 schools or school activities they are required or expected to  
27 attend; authorize transportation routes arranged efficiently  
28 and economically; provide the necessary transportation  
29 facilities, and, when authorized under rules of the State  
30 Board of Education and if more economical to do so, provide  
31 limited subsistence in lieu thereof; and adopt the necessary

1 rules and regulations to ensure safety, economy, and  
2 efficiency in the operation of all buses, as prescribed in  
3 this chapter.

4 (3) District school boards, after considering  
5 recommendations of the district school superintendent:

6 (a) Shall provide transportation for each student in  
7 prekindergarten disability programs and in kindergarten  
8 through grade 12 membership in a public school when, and only  
9 when, transportation is necessary to provide adequate  
10 educational facilities and opportunities which otherwise would  
11 not be available and to transport students whose homes are  
12 more than a reasonable walking distance, as defined by rules  
13 of the State Board of Education, from the nearest appropriate  
14 school.

15 (b) Shall provide transportation for public elementary  
16 school students in membership whose grade level does not  
17 exceed grade 6, and may provide transportation for public  
18 school students in membership in grades 7 through 12, if such  
19 students are subjected to hazardous walking conditions as  
20 provided in s. 1006.23 while en route to or from school.

21 (c) May provide transportation for public school  
22 migrant, exceptional, nursery, and other public school  
23 students in membership below kindergarten; kindergarten  
24 through grade 12 students in membership in a public school;  
25 and adult students in membership in adult career and  
26 technical, basic, and high school graduation programs in a  
27 public school when, and only when, transportation is necessary  
28 to provide adequate educational facilities and opportunities  
29 which otherwise would not be available.

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1           (d) May provide transportation for the transportation  
2 disadvantaged as defined in s. 427.011 and for other  
3 school-age children as provided for in s. 1006.261.

4           (e) Shall provide necessary transportation to pregnant  
5 students or student parents, and the children of those  
6 students, when the district school board operates a teenage  
7 parent program pursuant to s. 1003.54.

8           (f) May provide transportation for other persons to  
9 events or activities in which the district school board or  
10 school has agreed to participate or cosponsor. The district  
11 school board shall adopt a policy to address liability for  
12 trips pursuant to this paragraph.

13           (g) May provide transportation for welfare transition  
14 program participants as defined in s. 414.0252.

15           (4) In each case in which transportation of students  
16 is impracticable in the opinion of the district school board,  
17 the district school board may take steps for making available  
18 educational facilities as are authorized by law or rule of the  
19 State Board of Education and as, in the opinion of the  
20 district school board, are practical.

21           Section 296. Section 1006.22, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23           1006.22 Safety and health of students being  
24 transported.--Maximum regard for safety and adequate  
25 protection of health are primary requirements that must be  
26 observed by district school boards in routing buses,  
27 appointing drivers, and providing and operating equipment, in  
28 accordance with all requirements of law and rules of the State  
29 Board of Education in providing transportation pursuant to s.  
30 1006.21:

31

1           (1) District school boards shall use school buses, as  
2 defined in s. 1006.25, for all regular transportation. Regular  
3 transportation or regular use means transportation of students  
4 to and from school or school-related activities that are part  
5 of a scheduled series or sequence of events to the same  
6 location. "Students" means, for the purposes of this section,  
7 students enrolled in the public schools in prekindergarten  
8 disability programs and in kindergarten through grade 12.  
9 District school boards may regularly use motor vehicles other  
10 than school buses only under the following conditions:  
11           (a) When the transportation is for physically  
12 handicapped or isolated students and the district school board  
13 has elected to provide for the transportation of the student  
14 through written or oral contracts or agreements.  
15           (b) When the transportation is a part of a  
16 comprehensive contract for a specialized educational program  
17 between a district school board and a service provider who  
18 provides instruction, transportation, and other services.  
19           (c) When the transportation is provided through a  
20 public transit system.  
21           (d) When the transportation of students is necessary  
22 or practical in a motor vehicle owned or operated by a  
23 district school board other than a school bus, such  
24 transportation must be provided in designated seating  
25 positions in a passenger car not to exceed 8 students or in a  
26 multipurpose passenger vehicle designed to transport 10 or  
27 fewer persons which meets all applicable federal motor vehicle  
28 safety standards. Multipurpose passenger vehicles classified  
29 as utility vehicles with a wheelbase of 110 inches or less  
30 which are required by federal motor vehicle standards to  
31 display a rollover warning label may not be used.

1  
2 When students are transported in motor vehicles, the occupant  
3 crash protection system provided by the vehicle manufacturer  
4 must be used unless the student's physical condition prohibits  
5 such use.

6 (2) Except as provided in subsection (1), district  
7 school boards may authorize the transportation of students in  
8 privately owned motor vehicles on a case-by-case basis only in  
9 the following circumstances:

10 (a) When a student is ill or injured and must be taken  
11 home or to a medical treatment facility under nonemergency  
12 circumstances; and

13 1. The school has been unable to contact the student's  
14 parent or the parent or responsible adult designated by the  
15 parent is not available to provide the transportation;

16 2. Proper adult supervision of the student is  
17 available at the location to which the student is being  
18 transported;

19 3. The transportation is approved by the school  
20 principal, or a school administrator designated by the  
21 principal to grant or deny such approval, or in the absence of  
22 the principal and designee, by the highest ranking school  
23 administrator or teacher available under the circumstances;  
24 and

25 4. If the school has been unable to contact the parent  
26 prior to the transportation, the school shall continue to seek  
27 to contact the parent until the school is able to notify the  
28 parent of the transportation and the pertinent circumstances.

29 (b) When the transportation is in connection with a  
30 school function or event regarding which the district school  
31

1 board or school has undertaken to participate or to sponsor or  
2 provide the participation of students; and

3 1. The function or event is a single event that is not  
4 part of a scheduled series or sequence of events to the same  
5 location, such as, but not limited to, a field trip, a  
6 recreational outing, an interscholastic competition or  
7 cooperative event, an event connected with an extracurricular  
8 activity offered by the school, or an event connected to an  
9 educational program, such as, but not limited to, a job  
10 interview as part of a cooperative education program;

11 2. Transportation is not available, as a practical  
12 matter, using a school bus or school district passenger car;  
13 and

14 3. Each student's parent is notified, in writing,  
15 regarding the transportation arrangement and gives written  
16 consent before a student is transported in a privately owned  
17 motor vehicle.

18 (c) When a district school board requires employees  
19 such as school social workers and attendance officers to use  
20 their own motor vehicles to perform duties of employment, and  
21 such duties include the occasional transportation of students.

22 (3) When approval is granted for the transportation of  
23 students in a privately owned vehicle, the provisions of s.  
24 1006.24 regarding liability for tort claims are applicable.  
25 District school board employees who provide approved  
26 transportation in privately owned vehicles are acting within  
27 the scope of their employment. Parents or other responsible  
28 adults who provide approved transportation in privately owned  
29 vehicles have the same exposure to, and protections from,  
30 risks of personal liability as do district school board  
31 employees acting within the scope of their employment.

1           (4) Each district school board may establish policies  
2 that restrict the use of privately owned motor vehicles to  
3 circumstances that are more limited than are described in this  
4 section or that prohibit such use. Each district school board  
5 may establish written policies that provide for more extensive  
6 requirements for approval, parental notification and consent  
7 procedures, insurance coverage, driver qualifications, or a  
8 combination of these.

9           (5) When transportation is authorized in privately  
10 owned vehicles, students may be transported only in designated  
11 seating positions and must use the occupant crash protection  
12 system provided by the vehicle manufacturer.

13           (6) District school boards may contract with a common  
14 carrier to transport students to and from in-season and  
15 postseason athletic contests and to and from a school function  
16 or event in which the district school board or a school has  
17 undertaken to participate or to provide for or sponsor the  
18 participation of students.

19           (7) Transportation for adult students may be provided  
20 by any appropriate means as authorized by the district school  
21 board when the transportation is accepted as a responsibility  
22 by the district school board as provided in s. 1006.21.

23           (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
24 section, in an emergency situation that constitutes an  
25 imminent threat to student health or safety, school personnel  
26 may take whatever action is necessary under the circumstances  
27 to protect student health and safety.

28           (9) Except as provided in s. 1006.261, transportation  
29 is not the responsibility of the district school board in  
30 connection with any event or activity that is not an event or  
31 activity offered by the district school board or an event or

1 an activity in which the district school board or school has  
2 agreed to participate, cosponsor, or require the participation  
3 of students, and the district school board has no liability  
4 for transportation arranged and provided by parents or other  
5 parties to such events or activities.

6 (10) Each district school board shall designate and  
7 adopt a specific plan for adequate examination, maintenance,  
8 and repair of transportation equipment. Examination of the  
9 mechanical and safety condition of each school bus must be  
10 made as required pursuant to rule of the State Board of  
11 Education. The State Board of Education shall base the rule on  
12 student safety considerations.

13 (11) The district school superintendent shall notify  
14 the district school board of any school bus that does not meet  
15 all requirements of law and rules of the State Board of  
16 Education, and the district school board shall, if the school  
17 bus is in an unsafe condition, withdraw it from use as a  
18 school bus until the bus meets the requirements. The  
19 department may inspect or have inspected any school bus to  
20 determine whether the bus meets requirements of law and rules  
21 of the State Board of Education. The department may, after due  
22 notice to a district school board that any school bus does not  
23 meet certain requirements of law and rules of the State Board  
24 of Education, rule that the bus must be withdrawn from use as  
25 a school bus, this ruling to be effective immediately or upon  
26 a date specified in the ruling, whereupon the district school  
27 board shall withdraw the school bus from use as a school bus  
28 until it meets requirements of law and rules of the State  
29 Board of Education and until the department has officially  
30 revoked the pertinent ruling. Notwithstanding any other  
31 provisions of this chapter, general purpose urban transit

1 systems are declared qualified to transport students to and  
2 from school.

3 (12)(a) The routing and scheduling of school buses  
4 must be planned to eliminate the necessity for students to  
5 stand while a school bus is in motion. When circumstances of  
6 an emergency nature, as defined by written district school  
7 board policy, temporarily require transporting students on  
8 school buses in excess of the rated seating capacity, the  
9 buses must proceed at a reduced rate of speed to maximize  
10 safety of the students, taking into account existing traffic  
11 conditions. Each district school board is responsible for  
12 prompt relief of the emergency condition by providing  
13 additional equipment, bus rerouting, bus rescheduling, or  
14 other appropriate remedial action, and must maintain written  
15 district school board policies to address such situations.

16 (b) Each district school board, after considering  
17 recommendations from the district school superintendent, shall  
18 designate, by map or otherwise, or shall provide by district  
19 school board rule for the designation of, nontransportation  
20 zones that are composed of all areas in the school district  
21 from which it is unnecessary or impracticable to furnish  
22 transportation. Nontransportation zones must be designated  
23 annually before the opening of school and the designation of  
24 bus routes for the succeeding school year. Each district  
25 school board, after considering recommendations from the  
26 district school superintendent, shall specifically designate,  
27 or shall provide by district school board rule for the  
28 designation of, specific routes to be traveled regularly by  
29 school buses, and each route must meet the requirements  
30 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education.

31

1        (c) Each district school board shall establish school  
2 bus stops, or provide by district school board rule for the  
3 establishment of school bus stops, as necessary at the most  
4 reasonably safe locations available. Where unusual traffic  
5 hazards exist at school bus stops on roads maintained by the  
6 state outside of municipalities, the Department of  
7 Transportation, in concurrence and cooperation with and upon  
8 request of the district school board, shall place signs at  
9 such bus stops warning motorists of the location of the stops.

10        (13) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to  
11 implement this section as are necessary or desirable in the  
12 interest of student health and safety.

13        Section 297. Section 1006.23, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15        1006.23 Hazardous walking conditions.--

16        (1) DEFINITION.--As used in this section, "student"  
17 means any public elementary school student whose grade level  
18 does not exceed grade 6.

19        (2) TRANSPORTATION; CORRECTION OF HAZARDS.--

20        (a) It is intended that district school boards and  
21 other governmental entities work cooperatively to identify  
22 conditions that are hazardous along student walking routes to  
23 school and that district school boards provide transportation  
24 to students who would be subjected to such conditions. It is  
25 further intended that state or local governmental entities  
26 having jurisdiction correct such hazardous conditions within a  
27 reasonable period of time.

28        (b) Upon a determination pursuant to this section that  
29 a condition is hazardous to students, the district school  
30 board shall request a determination from the state or local  
31 governmental entity having jurisdiction regarding whether the

1 hazard will be corrected and, if so, regarding a projected  
2 completion date. State funds shall be allocated for the  
3 transportation of students subjected to such hazards, provided  
4 that such funding shall cease upon correction of the hazard or  
5 upon the projected completion date, whichever occurs first.

6 (3) IDENTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS.--When a  
7 request for review is made to the district school  
8 superintendent or the district school superintendent's  
9 designee concerning a condition perceived to be hazardous to  
10 students in that district who live within the 2-mile limit and  
11 who walk to school, such condition shall be inspected by a  
12 representative of the school district and a representative of  
13 the state or local governmental entity that has jurisdiction  
14 over the perceived hazardous location. The district school  
15 superintendent or his or her designee and the state or local  
16 governmental entity or its representative shall then make a  
17 final determination that is mutually agreed upon regarding  
18 whether the hazardous condition meets the state criteria  
19 pursuant to this section. The district school superintendent  
20 or his or her designee shall report this final determination  
21 to the department.

22 (4) STATE CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING HAZARDOUS WALKING  
23 CONDITIONS.--

24 (a) Walkways parallel to the road.--

25 1. It shall be considered a hazardous walking  
26 condition with respect to any road along which students must  
27 walk in order to walk to and from school if there is not an  
28 area at least 4 feet wide adjacent to the road, having a  
29 surface upon which students may walk without being required to  
30 walk on the road surface. In addition, whenever the road along  
31 which students must walk is uncurbed and has a posted speed

1 limit of 55 miles per hour, the area as described above for  
2 students to walk upon shall be set off the road by no less  
3 than 3 feet from the edge of the road.

4 2. The provisions of subparagraph 1. do not apply when  
5 the road along which students must walk:

6 a. Is in a residential area which has little or no  
7 transient traffic;

8 b. Is a road on which the volume of traffic is less  
9 than 180 vehicles per hour, per direction, during the time  
10 students walk to and from school; or

11 c. Is located in a residential area and has a posted  
12 speed limit of 30 miles per hour or less.

13 (b) Walkways perpendicular to the road.--It shall be  
14 considered a hazardous walking condition with respect to any  
15 road across which students must walk in order to walk to and  
16 from school:

17 1. If the traffic volume on the road exceeds the rate  
18 of 360 vehicles per hour, per direction (including all lanes),  
19 during the time students walk to and from school and if the  
20 crossing site is uncontrolled. For purposes of this  
21 subsection, an "uncontrolled crossing site" is an intersection  
22 or other designated crossing site where no crossing guard,  
23 traffic enforcement officer, or stop sign or other traffic  
24 control signal is present during the times students walk to  
25 and from school.

26 2. If the total traffic volume on the road exceeds  
27 4,000 vehicles per hour through an intersection or other  
28 crossing site controlled by a stop sign or other traffic  
29 control signal, unless crossing guards or other traffic  
30 enforcement officers are also present during the times  
31 students walk to and from school.

1  
2 Traffic volume shall be determined by the most current traffic  
3 engineering study conducted by a state or local governmental  
4 agency.

5 Section 298. Section 1006.24, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1006.24 Tort liability; liability insurance.--

8 (1) Each district school board shall be liable for  
9 tort claims arising out of any incident or occurrence  
10 involving a school bus or other motor vehicle owned,  
11 maintained, operated, or used by the district school board to  
12 transport persons, to the same extent and in the same manner  
13 as the state or any of its agencies or subdivisions is liable  
14 for tort claims under s. 768.28, except that the total  
15 liability to persons being transported for all claims or  
16 judgments of such persons arising out of the same incident or  
17 occurrence shall not exceed an amount equal to \$5,000  
18 multiplied by the rated seating capacity of the school bus or  
19 other vehicle, as determined by rules of the State Board of  
20 Education, or \$100,000, whichever is greater. The provisions  
21 of s. 768.28 apply to all claims or actions brought against  
22 district school boards, as authorized in this subsection.

23 (2) Each district school board may secure and keep in  
24 force a medical payments plan or medical payments insurance on  
25 school buses and other vehicles. If a medical payments plan or  
26 insurance is provided, it shall be carried in a sum of no less  
27 than \$500 per person.

28 (3) Expenses, costs, or premiums to protect against  
29 liability for torts as provided in this section may be paid  
30 from any available funds of the district school board.  
31

1           (4) If vehicles used in transportation are not owned  
2 by the district school board, the district school board may  
3 require owners of such vehicles to show evidence of adequate  
4 insurance during the time that such vehicles are in the  
5 services of the district school board.

6           Section 299. Section 1006.25, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8           1006.25 School buses.--School buses shall be defined  
9 and meet specifications as follows:

10           (1) DEFINITION.--For the purpose of this part, a  
11 "school bus" is a motor vehicle regularly used for the  
12 transportation of prekindergarten disability program and  
13 kindergarten through grade 12 students of the public schools  
14 to and from school or to and from school activities, and  
15 owned, operated, rented, contracted, or leased by any district  
16 school board, except:

17           (a) Passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles,  
18 and trucks as defined in 49 C.F.R. part 571.

19           (b) Motor vehicles subject to, and meeting all  
20 requirements of, the United States Department of  
21 Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations under  
22 Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations and operated by carriers  
23 operating under the jurisdiction of these regulations but not  
24 used exclusively for the transportation of public school  
25 students.

26           (2) SPECIFICATIONS.--Each school bus as defined in 49  
27 C.F.R. part 571 and subsection (1) that is rented, leased,  
28 purchased, or contracted for must meet the applicable federal  
29 motor vehicle safety standards and other specifications as  
30 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education.

31

1           (3) STANDARDS FOR LEASED VEHICLES.--A motor vehicle  
2 owned and operated by a county or municipal transit authority  
3 that is leased by the district school board for transportation  
4 of public school students must meet such standards as the  
5 State Board of Education establishes by rule. A school bus  
6 authorized by a district school board to carry passengers  
7 other than school students must have the words "School Bus"  
8 and any other signs and insignia that mark or designate it as  
9 a school bus covered, removed, or otherwise concealed while  
10 such passengers are being transported.

11           (4) OCCUPANT PROTECTION SYSTEMS.--Students may be  
12 transported only in designated seating positions, except as  
13 provided in s. 1006.22(12), and must use the occupant crash  
14 protection system provided by the manufacturer, which system  
15 must comply with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. part 571 or  
16 with specifications of the State Board of Education.

17           Section 300. Section 1006.261, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19           1006.261 Use of school buses for public purposes.--

20           (1)(a) Each district school board may enter into  
21 agreements with the governing body of a county or municipality  
22 in the school district or any state agency or agencies  
23 established or identified to assist the transportation  
24 disadvantaged, as defined in s. 427.011, including the  
25 elderly, pursuant to Pub. L. No. 89-73, as amended, for the  
26 use of the school buses of the school district by departments,  
27 boards, commissions, or officers of such county or  
28 municipality or of the state for county, municipal, or state  
29 purposes, including transportation of the transportation  
30 disadvantaged. Each such agreement shall provide for  
31 reimbursement of the district school board, in full or in

1 part, for the proportionate share of fixed and operating costs  
2 incurred by the district school board attributable to the use  
3 of the buses pursuant to the agreement.

4 (b) Each district school board may enter into  
5 agreements with regional workforce boards for the provision of  
6 transportation services to participants in the welfare  
7 transition program. Agreements must provide for reimbursement  
8 in full or in part for the proportionate share of fixed and  
9 operating costs incurred by the district school board  
10 attributable to the use of buses in accordance with the  
11 agreement.

12 (c) Each district school board may enter into  
13 agreements with nonprofit corporations and nonprofit civic  
14 associations and groups to allow the use of school buses to  
15 transport school-age children for activities sponsored by such  
16 associations and groups, including, but not limited to, the  
17 Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, the Y.M.C.A., and  
18 similar groups. The use of school buses for these activities  
19 shall be pursuant to rules adopted by the district school  
20 board and with compensation to the district school board at  
21 least equal to the costs incurred by the board for such use.

22 (2)(a) The governing body or state agency or agencies  
23 established or identified pursuant to Pub. L. No. 89-73, or  
24 the nonprofit corporation or nonprofit civic organization or  
25 group, or an agency established or identified to assist the  
26 transportation disadvantaged as defined in s. 427.011, shall  
27 indemnify and hold harmless the district school board from any  
28 and all liability by virtue of the use of the buses pursuant  
29 to an agreement authorized by this section.

30 (b) For purposes of liability for negligence, state  
31 agencies or subdivisions as defined in s. 768.28(2) shall be

1 covered by s. 768.28. Every other corporation or organization  
2 shall provide liability insurance coverage in the minimum  
3 amounts of \$100,000 on any claim or judgment and \$200,000 on  
4 all claims and judgments arising from the same incident or  
5 occurrence.

6 (3) When the buses are used for nonschool purposes  
7 other than the transportation of the transportation  
8 disadvantaged, the flashing red lights and white strobe lights  
9 shall not be used, and the "School Bus" inscriptions on the  
10 front and rear of the buses shall be covered or concealed.

11 Section 301. Section 1006.27, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13 1006.27 Pooling of school buses and related purchases  
14 by district school boards; transportation services  
15 contracts.--

16 (1) The department shall assist district school boards  
17 in securing school buses, contractual needs, equipment, and  
18 supplies at as reasonable prices as possible by providing a  
19 plan under which district school boards may voluntarily pool  
20 their bids for such purchases. The department shall prepare  
21 bid forms and specifications, obtain quotations of prices and  
22 make such information available to district school boards in  
23 order to facilitate this service. District school boards from  
24 time to time, as prescribed by State Board of Education rule,  
25 shall furnish the department with information concerning the  
26 prices paid for such items and the department shall furnish to  
27 district school boards periodic information concerning the  
28 lowest prices at which school buses, equipment, and related  
29 supplies are available based upon comparable specifications.

30 (2) If a contract between any district school board  
31 and any person, business, or entity to provide the district

1 school board with school bus service for the transportation of  
 2 students in the district provides that the person, business,  
 3 or entity shall own, operate, and maintain school buses for  
 4 such service, the district school board may purchase the  
 5 number of buses needed for the district through the department  
 6 and sell them to the person, business, or entity as a part of  
 7 the contract for such service.

8 Section 302. Part I.f. of chapter 1006, Florida  
 9 Statutes, shall be entitled "Instructional Materials for K-12  
 10 Public Education" and shall consist of ss. 1006.28-1006.43.

11 Section 303. Section 1006.28, Florida Statutes, is  
 12 created to read:

13 1006.28 Duties of district school board, district  
 14 school superintendent; and school principal regarding K-12  
 15 instructional materials.--

16 (1) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.--The district school board  
 17 has the duty to provide adequate instructional materials for  
 18 all students in accordance with the requirements of this part.  
 19 The term "adequate instructional materials" means a sufficient  
 20 number of textbooks or sets of materials serving as the basis  
 21 for instruction for each student in the core courses of  
 22 mathematics, language arts, social studies, science, reading,  
 23 and literature, except for instruction for which the school  
 24 advisory council approves the use of a program that does not  
 25 include a textbook as a major tool of instruction. The  
 26 district school board has the following specific duties:

27 (a) Courses of study; adoption.--Adopt courses of  
 28 study for use in the schools of the district.

29 (b) Textbooks.--Provide for proper requisitioning,  
 30 distribution, accounting, storage, care, and use of all  
 31 instructional materials furnished by the state and furnish

1 such other instructional materials as may be needed. The  
2 district school board shall assure that instructional  
3 materials used in the district are consistent with the  
4 district goals and objectives and the curriculum frameworks  
5 adopted by rule of the State Board of Education, as well as  
6 with the state and district performance standards provided for  
7 in s. 1001.03(1).

8 (c) Other instructional materials.--Provide such other  
9 teaching accessories and aids as are needed for the school  
10 district's educational program.

11 (d) School library media services; establishment and  
12 maintenance.--Establish and maintain a program of school  
13 library media services for all public schools in the district,  
14 including school library media centers, or school library  
15 media centers open to the public, and, in addition such  
16 traveling or circulating libraries as may be needed for the  
17 proper operation of the district school system.

18 (2) DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.--

19 (a) The district school superintendent has the duty to  
20 recommend such plans for improving, providing, distributing,  
21 accounting for, and caring for textbooks and other  
22 instructional aids as will result in general improvement of  
23 the district school system, as prescribed in this part, in  
24 accordance with adopted district school board rules  
25 prescribing the duties and responsibilities of the district  
26 school superintendent regarding the requisition, purchase,  
27 receipt, storage, distribution, use, conservation, records,  
28 and reports of, and management practices and property  
29 accountability concerning, instructional materials, and  
30 providing for an evaluation of any instructional materials to  
31 be requisitioned that have not been used previously in the

1 district's schools. The district school superintendent must  
2 keep adequate records and accounts for all financial  
3 transactions for funds collected pursuant to subsection (3),  
4 as a component of the educational service delivery scope in a  
5 school district best financial management practices review  
6 under s. 1008.35.

7 (b) Each district school superintendent shall notify  
8 the department by April 1 of each year the state-adopted  
9 instructional materials that will be requisitioned for use in  
10 his or her school district. The notification shall include a  
11 district school board plan for instructional materials use to  
12 assist in determining if adequate instructional materials have  
13 been requisitioned.

14 (3) SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.--The school principal has the  
15 following duties for the management and care of instructional  
16 materials at the school:

17 (a) Proper use of instructional materials.--The  
18 principal shall assure that instructional materials are used  
19 to provide instruction to students enrolled at the grade level  
20 or levels for which the materials are designed, pursuant to  
21 adopted district school board rule. The school principal shall  
22 communicate to parents the manner in which instructional  
23 materials are used to implement the curricular objectives of  
24 the school.

25 (b) Money collected for lost or damaged books;  
26 enforcement.--The school principal shall collect from each  
27 student or the student's parent the purchase price of any  
28 instructional material the student has lost, destroyed, or  
29 unnecessarily damaged and to report and transmit the money  
30 collected to the district school superintendent. If  
31 instructional materials lost, destroyed, or damaged have been

1 in school use for more than 1 year, a sum ranging between 50  
2 and 75 percent of the purchase price of the book shall be  
3 collected, determined by the physical condition of the book.  
4 The failure to collect such sum upon reasonable effort by the  
5 school principal may result in the suspension of the student  
6 from participation in extracurricular activities or  
7 satisfaction of the debt by the student through community  
8 service activities at the school site as determined by the  
9 school principal, pursuant to policies adopted by district  
10 school board rule.

11 (c) Sale of instructional materials.--The school  
12 principal, upon request of the parent of a student in the  
13 school, shall sell to the parent any instructional materials  
14 used in the school. All such sales shall be made pursuant to  
15 rule adopted by the district school board, and the principal  
16 shall annually provide information to parents that they may  
17 purchase instructional materials and how to purchase the  
18 materials.

19 (d) Disposition of funds.--All money collected from  
20 the sale, exchange, loss, or damage of instructional materials  
21 shall be transmitted to the district school superintendent to  
22 be deposited in the district school board fund and added to  
23 the district appropriation for instructional materials.

24 (e) Accounting for textbooks.--Principals shall see  
25 that all books are fully and properly accounted for as  
26 prescribed by adopted rules of the district school board.

27 Section 304. Section 1006.29, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1006.29 State instructional materials committees.--

30 (1) Each school year, not later than April 15, the  
31 commissioner shall appoint state instructional materials

1 committees composed of persons actively engaged in teaching or  
2 in the supervision of teaching in the public elementary,  
3 middle, or high schools and representing the major fields and  
4 levels in which instructional materials are used in the public  
5 schools and, in addition, lay citizens not professionally  
6 connected with education. Committee members shall receive  
7 training pursuant to subsection (5) in competencies related to  
8 the evaluation and selection of instructional materials.

9       (a) There shall be ten or more members on each  
10 committee: At least 50 percent of the members shall be  
11 classroom teachers who are certified in an area directly  
12 related to the academic area or level being considered for  
13 adoption, two shall be laypersons, one shall be a district  
14 school board member, and two shall be supervisors of teachers.  
15 The committee must have the capacity or expertise to address  
16 the broad racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural  
17 diversity of the state's student population. Personnel  
18 selected as teachers of the year at the school, district,  
19 regional, or state level are encouraged to serve on  
20 instructional materials committees.

21       (b) The membership of each committee must reflect the  
22 broad racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural diversity of  
23 the state, including a balanced representation from the  
24 state's geographic regions.

25       (c) The commissioner shall determine annually the  
26 areas in which instructional materials shall be submitted for  
27 adoption, taking into consideration the desires of the  
28 district school boards. The commissioner shall also determine  
29 the number of titles to be adopted in each area.

30       (2)(a) All appointments shall be as prescribed in this  
31 section. No member shall serve more than two consecutive

1 terms on any committee. All appointments shall be for  
2 18-month terms. All vacancies shall be filled in the manner  
3 of the original appointment for only the time remaining in the  
4 unexpired term. At no time may a district school board have  
5 more than one representative on a committee. The commissioner  
6 and a member of the department whom he or she shall designate  
7 shall be additional and ex officio members of each committee.

8 (b) The names and mailing addresses of the members of  
9 the state instructional materials committees shall be made  
10 public when appointments are made.

11 (c) The district school board shall be reimbursed for  
12 the actual cost of substitute teachers for each workday that a  
13 member of its instructional staff is absent from his or her  
14 assigned duties for the purpose of rendering service to the  
15 state instructional materials committee. In addition,  
16 committee members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses and  
17 per diem in accordance with s. 112.061 for actual service in  
18 meetings of committees called by the commissioner. Payment of  
19 such travel expenses shall be made by the Treasurer from the  
20 appropriation for the administration of the instructional  
21 materials program, on warrants to be drawn by the Comptroller  
22 upon requisition approved by the commissioner.

23 (d) Any member of a committee may be removed by the  
24 commissioner for cause.

25 (3) All references in the law to the state  
26 instructional materials committee shall apply to each  
27 committee created by this section.

28 (4) For purposes of state adoption, "instructional  
29 materials" means items having intellectual content that by  
30 design serve as a major tool for assisting in the instruction  
31 of a subject or course. These items may be available in bound,

1 unbound, kit, or package form and may consist of hardbacked or  
2 softbacked textbooks, consumables, learning laboratories,  
3 manipulatives, electronic media, and computer courseware or  
4 software. The term does not include electronic or computer  
5 hardware even if such hardware is bundled with software or  
6 other electronic media, nor does it include equipment or  
7 supplies.

8       (5) The department shall develop a training program  
9 for persons selected to serve on state instructional materials  
10 committees. The program shall be structured to assist  
11 committee members in developing the skills necessary to make  
12 valid, culturally sensitive, and objective decisions regarding  
13 the content and rigor of instructional materials. All persons  
14 serving on instructional materials committees must complete  
15 the training program prior to beginning the review and  
16 selection process.

17       Section 305. Section 1006.30, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19       1006.30 Affidavit of state instructional materials  
20 committee members.--Before transacting any business, each  
21 member of a state committee shall make an affidavit, to be  
22 filed with the commissioner, that:

23       (1) The member will faithfully discharge the duties  
24 imposed upon him or her as a member of the committee.

25       (2) The member has no interest, and while a member of  
26 the committee he or she will assume no interest, in any  
27 publishing or manufacturing organization which produces or  
28 sells instructional materials.

29       (3) The member is in no way connected, and while a  
30 member of the committee he or she will assume no connection,  
31 with the distribution of the instructional materials.

1       (4) The member is not pecuniarily interested, and  
2 while a member of the committee he or she will assume no  
3 pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in the business or  
4 profits of any person engaged in manufacturing, publishing, or  
5 selling instructional materials designed for use in the public  
6 schools.

7       (5) The member will not accept any emolument or  
8 promise of future reward of any kind from any publisher or  
9 manufacturer of instructional materials or his or her agent or  
10 anyone interested in, or intending to bias his or her judgment  
11 in any way in, the selection of any materials to be adopted.

12       (6) It is unlawful for any member of a state  
13 instructional materials committee to discuss matters relating  
14 to instructional materials submitted for adoption with any  
15 agent of a publisher or manufacturer of instructional  
16 materials, either directly or indirectly, except during the  
17 period when the committee has been called into session for the  
18 purpose of evaluating instructional materials submitted for  
19 adoption. Such discussions shall be limited to official  
20 meetings of the committee and in accordance with procedures  
21 prescribed by the commissioner for that purpose.

22       Section 306. Section 1006.31, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24       1006.31 Duties of each state instructional materials  
25 committee.--The duties of each state instructional materials  
26 committee are:

27       (1) PLACE AND TIME OF MEETING.--To meet at the call of  
28 the commissioner, at a place in the state designated by him or  
29 her, for the purpose of evaluating and recommending  
30 instructional materials for adoption by the state. All  
31 meetings of state instructional materials committees shall be

1 announced publicly in the Florida Administrative Weekly at  
2 least 2 weeks prior to the date of convening. All meetings of  
3 the committees shall be open to the public.

4 (2) ORGANIZATION.--To elect a chair and vice chair for  
5 each adoption. An employee of the department shall serve as  
6 secretary to the committee and keep an accurate record of its  
7 proceedings. All records of committee motions and votes, and  
8 summaries of committee debate shall be incorporated into a  
9 publishable document and shall be available for public  
10 inspection and duplication.

11 (3) PROCEDURES.--To adhere to procedures prescribed by  
12 the commissioner for evaluating instructional materials  
13 submitted by publishers and manufacturers in each adoption.

14 (4) EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.--To  
15 evaluate carefully all instructional materials submitted, to  
16 ascertain which instructional materials, if any, submitted for  
17 consideration best implement the selection criteria developed  
18 by the commissioner and those curricular objectives included  
19 within applicable performance standards provided for in s.  
20 1001.03(1).

21 (a) When recommending instructional materials for use  
22 in the schools, each committee shall include only  
23 instructional materials that accurately portray the ethnic,  
24 socioeconomic, cultural, and racial diversity of our society,  
25 including men and women in professional, career and technical,  
26 and executive roles, and the role and contributions of the  
27 entrepreneur and labor in the total development of this state  
28 and the United States.

29 (b) When recommending instructional materials for use  
30 in the schools, each committee shall include only materials  
31 which accurately portray, whenever appropriate, humankind's

1 place in ecological systems, including the necessity for the  
2 protection of our environment and conservation of our natural  
3 resources and the effects on the human system of the use of  
4 tobacco, alcohol, controlled substances, and other dangerous  
5 substances.

6 (c) When recommending instructional materials for use  
7 in the schools, each committee shall require such materials as  
8 it deems necessary and proper to encourage thrift, fire  
9 prevention, and humane treatment of people and animals.

10 (d) When recommending instructional materials for use  
11 in the schools, each committee shall require, when appropriate  
12 to the comprehension of students, that materials for social  
13 science, history, or civics classes contain the Declaration of  
14 Independence and the Constitution of the United States. No  
15 instructional materials shall be recommended by any committee  
16 for use in the schools which contain any matter reflecting  
17 unfairly upon persons because of their race, color, creed,  
18 national origin, ancestry, gender, or occupation.

19 (e) All instructional materials recommended by each  
20 committee for use in the schools shall be, to the satisfaction  
21 of each committee, accurate, objective, and current and suited  
22 to the needs and comprehension of students at their respective  
23 grade levels. Instructional materials committees shall  
24 consider for adoption materials developed for academically  
25 talented students such as those enrolled in advanced placement  
26 courses.

27 (5) REPORT OF COMMITTEE.--Each committee, after a  
28 thorough study of all data submitted on each instructional  
29 material, and after each member has carefully evaluated each  
30 instructional material, shall present a written report to the  
31

1 commissioner. Such report shall be made public, and shall  
2 include:

3 (a) A description of the procedures used in  
4 determining the instructional materials to be recommended to  
5 the commissioner.

6 (b) Recommendations of instructional materials for  
7 each grade and subject field in the curriculum of public  
8 elementary, middle, and high schools in which adoptions are to  
9 be made. If deemed advisable, the committee may include such  
10 other information, expression of opinion, or recommendation as  
11 would be helpful to the commissioner. If there is a  
12 difference of opinion among the members of the committee as to  
13 the merits of any instructional materials, any member may file  
14 an expression of his or her individual opinion.

15  
16 The findings of the committees, including the evaluation of  
17 instructional materials, shall be in sessions open to the  
18 public. All decisions leading to determinations of the  
19 committees shall be by roll call vote, and at no time will a  
20 secret ballot be permitted.

21 Section 307. Section 1006.32, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23 1006.32 Prohibited acts.--

24 (1) No publisher or manufacturer of instructional  
25 material, or any representative thereof, shall offer to give  
26 any emolument, money, or other valuable thing, or any  
27 inducement, to any district school board official or member of  
28 a state-level instructional materials committee to directly or  
29 indirectly introduce, recommend, vote for, or otherwise  
30 influence the adoption or purchase of any instructional  
31 materials.

1           (2) No district school board official or member of a  
2 state instructional materials committee shall solicit or  
3 accept any emolument, money, or other valuable thing, or any  
4 inducement, to directly or indirectly introduce, recommend,  
5 vote for, or otherwise influence the adoption or purchase of  
6 any instructional material.

7           (3) No district school board or publisher may  
8 participate in a pilot program of materials being considered  
9 for adoption during the 18-month period before the official  
10 adoption of the materials by the commissioner. Any pilot  
11 program during the first 2 years of the adoption period must  
12 have the prior approval of the commissioner.

13           (4) Any publisher or manufacturer of instructional  
14 materials or representative thereof or any district school  
15 board official or state instructional materials committee  
16 member, who violates any provision of this section commits a  
17 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.  
18 775.082 or s. 775.083. Any representative of a publisher or  
19 manufacturer who violates any provision of this section, in  
20 addition to any other penalty, shall be banned from practicing  
21 business in the state for a period of 1 calendar year. Any  
22 district school board official or state instructional  
23 materials committee member who violates any provision of this  
24 section, in addition to any other penalty, shall be removed  
25 from his or her official position.

26           (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
27 prevent any publisher, manufacturer, or agent from supplying,  
28 for purposes of examination, necessary sample copies of  
29 instructional materials to any district school board official  
30 or instructional materials committee member.

31

1           (6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
2 prevent a district school board official or instructional  
3 materials committee member from receiving sample copies of  
4 instructional materials.

5           (7) Nothing contained in this section shall be  
6 construed to prohibit or restrict a district school board  
7 official from receiving royalties or other compensation, other  
8 than compensation paid to him or her as commission for  
9 negotiating sales to district school boards, from the  
10 publisher or manufacturer of instructional materials written,  
11 designed, or prepared by such district school board official,  
12 and adopted by the commissioner or purchased by any district  
13 school board. No district school board official shall be  
14 allowed to receive royalties on any materials not on the  
15 state-adopted list purchased for use by his or her district  
16 school board.

17           (8) No district school superintendent, district school  
18 board member, teacher, or other person officially connected  
19 with the government or direction of public schools shall  
20 receive during the months actually engaged in performing  
21 duties under his or her contract any private fee, gratuity,  
22 donation, or compensation, in any manner whatsoever, for  
23 promoting the sale or exchange of any school book, map, or  
24 chart in any public school, or be an agent for the sale or the  
25 publisher of any school textbook or reference work, or be  
26 directly or indirectly pecuniarily interested in the  
27 introduction of any such textbook, and any such agency or  
28 interest shall disqualify any person so acting or interested  
29 from holding any district school board employment whatsoever,  
30 and the person commits a misdemeanor of the second degree,  
31 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083; provided

1 that this subsection shall not be construed as preventing the  
2 adoption of any book written in whole or in part by a Florida  
3 author.

4 Section 308. Section 1006.33, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1006.33 Bids or proposals; advertisement and its  
7 contents.--

8 (1)(a) Beginning on or before May 15 of any year in  
9 which an instructional materials adoption is to be initiated,  
10 the department shall advertise in the Florida Administrative  
11 Weekly 4 weeks preceding the date on which the bids shall be  
12 received, that at a certain designated time, not later than  
13 June 15, sealed bids or proposals to be deposited with the  
14 department will be received from publishers or manufacturers  
15 for the furnishing of instructional materials proposed to be  
16 adopted as listed in the advertisement beginning April 1  
17 following the adoption.

18 (b) The advertisement shall state that each bidder  
19 shall furnish specimen copies of all instructional materials  
20 submitted, at a time designated by the department, which  
21 specimen copies shall be identical with the copies approved  
22 and accepted by the members of the state instructional  
23 materials committee, as prescribed in this section, and with  
24 the copies furnished to the department and district school  
25 superintendents, as provided in this part.

26 (c) The advertisement shall state that a contract  
27 covering the adoption of the instructional materials shall be  
28 for a definite term.

29 (d) The advertisement shall fix the time within which  
30 the required contract must be executed and shall state that  
31 the department reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

1           (e) The advertisement shall give information as to how  
2 specifications which have been adopted by the department in  
3 regard to paper, binding, cover boards, and mechanical makeup  
4 can be secured. In adopting specifications, the department  
5 shall make an exception for instructional materials that are  
6 college-level texts and that do not meet department physical  
7 specifications for secondary materials, if the publisher  
8 guarantees replacement during the term of the contract.

9           (2) The bids submitted shall be for furnishing the  
10 designated materials in accordance with specifications of the  
11 department. The bid shall state the lowest wholesale price at  
12 which the materials will be furnished, at the time the  
13 adoption period provided in the contract begins, delivered  
14 f.o.b. to the Florida depository of the publisher,  
15 manufacturer, or bidder.

16           (3) The department shall require each publisher or  
17 manufacturer of instructional materials who submits a bid  
18 under this part to deposit with the department such sum of  
19 money or certified check as may be determined by the  
20 department, the amount to be not less than \$500 and not more  
21 than \$2,500, according to the number of instructional  
22 materials covered by the bid, which deposit shall be forfeited  
23 to the state and placed in the General Revenue Fund if the  
24 bidder making the deposit fails or refuses to execute the  
25 contract and bond within 30 days after receipt of the contract  
26 in case his or her bid or proposal is accepted. The  
27 commissioner shall, upon determining that the deposit is  
28 correct and proper, transmit the deposit to the Treasurer, who  
29 shall deposit the funds for credit to the Textbook Bid Trust  
30 Fund and issue his or her official receipt.

31

1           (4) Specimen copies of all instructional materials  
 2 that have been made the bases of contracts under this part  
 3 shall, upon request for the purpose of public inspection, be  
 4 made available by the publisher to the department and the  
 5 district school superintendent of each district school board  
 6 that adopts the instructional materials from the state list  
 7 upon request for the purpose of public inspection. All  
 8 contracts and bonds executed under this part shall be signed  
 9 in triplicate. One copy of each contract and an original of  
 10 each bid, whether accepted or rejected, shall be preserved  
 11 with the department for at least 3 years after termination of  
 12 the contract.

13           Section 309. Section 1006.34, Florida Statutes, is  
 14 created to read:

15           1006.34 Powers and duties of the commissioner and the  
 16 department in selecting and adopting instructional  
 17 materials.--

18           (1) PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATING INSTRUCTIONAL  
 19 MATERIALS.--The commissioner shall prescribe the procedures by  
 20 which the department shall evaluate instructional materials  
 21 submitted by publishers and manufacturers in each adoption.  
 22 Included in these procedures shall be provisions which afford  
 23 each publisher or manufacturer or his or her representative an  
 24 opportunity to present to members of the state instructional  
 25 materials committees the merits of each instructional material  
 26 submitted in each adoption.

27           (2) SELECTION AND ADOPTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL  
 28 MATERIALS.--

29           (a) The department shall notify all publishers and  
 30 manufacturers of instructional materials who have submitted  
 31 bids that within 3 weeks after the deadline for receiving

1 bids, at a designated time and place, it will open the bids  
2 submitted and deposited with it. At the time and place  
3 designated, the bids shall be opened, read, and tabulated in  
4 the presence of the bidders or their representatives. No one  
5 may revise his or her bid after the bids have been filed.  
6 When all bids have been carefully considered, the commissioner  
7 shall, from the list of suitable, usable, and desirable  
8 instructional materials reported by the state instructional  
9 materials committee, select and adopt instructional materials  
10 for each grade and subject field in the curriculum of public  
11 elementary, middle, and high schools in which adoptions are  
12 made and in the subject areas designated in the advertisement.  
13 The adoption shall continue for the period specified in the  
14 advertisement, beginning on the ensuing April 1. The adoption  
15 shall not prevent the extension of a contract as provided in  
16 subsection (3). The commissioner shall always reserve the  
17 right to reject any and all bids. The commissioner may ask for  
18 new sealed bids from publishers or manufacturers whose  
19 instructional materials were recommended by the state  
20 instructional materials committee as suitable, usable, and  
21 desirable; specify the dates for filing such bids and the date  
22 on which they shall be opened; and proceed in all matters  
23 regarding the opening of bids and the awarding of contracts as  
24 required by this part. In all cases, bids shall be accompanied  
25 by a cash deposit or certified check of from \$500 to \$2,500,  
26 as the commissioner may direct. The department, in adopting  
27 instructional materials, shall give due consideration both to  
28 the prices bid for furnishing instructional materials and to  
29 the report and recommendations of the state instructional  
30 materials committee. When the commissioner has finished with  
31 the report of the state instructional materials committee, the

1 report shall be filed and preserved with the department and  
2 shall be available at all times for public inspection.

3 (b) In the selection of instructional materials,  
4 library books, and other reading material used in the public  
5 school system, the standards used to determine the propriety  
6 of the material shall include:

7 1. The age of the students who normally could be  
8 expected to have access to the material.

9 2. The educational purpose to be served by the  
10 material. In considering instructional materials for classroom  
11 use, priority shall be given to the selection of materials  
12 which encompass the state and district school board  
13 performance standards provided for in s. 1001.03(1) and which  
14 include the instructional objectives contained within the  
15 curriculum frameworks approved by rule of the State Board of  
16 Education.

17 3. The degree to which the material would be  
18 supplemented and explained by mature classroom instruction as  
19 part of a normal classroom instructional program.

20 4. The consideration of the broad racial, ethnic,  
21 socioeconomic, and cultural diversity of the students of this  
22 state.

23  
24 No book or other material containing hard-core pornography or  
25 otherwise prohibited by s. 847.012 shall be used or available  
26 within any public school district.

27 (3) CONTRACT WITH PUBLISHERS OR MANUFACTURERS;  
28 BOND.--As soon as practicable after the commissioner has  
29 adopted any instructional materials and all bidders that have  
30 secured the adoption of any instructional materials have been  
31 notified thereof by registered letter, the Department of Legal

1 Affairs shall prepare a contract in proper form with every  
2 bidder awarded the adoption of any instructional materials.  
3 Each contract shall be executed by the Governor and Secretary  
4 of State under the seal of the state, one copy to be kept by  
5 the contractor, one copy to be filed with the Department of  
6 State, and one copy to be filed with the department. After  
7 giving due consideration to comments by the district school  
8 boards, the commissioner, with the agreement of the publisher,  
9 may extend or shorten a contract period for a period not to  
10 exceed 2 years; and the terms of any such contract shall  
11 remain the same as in the original contract. Any publisher or  
12 manufacturer to whom any contract is let under this part must  
13 give bond in such amount as the commissioner requires, payable  
14 to the state, conditioned for the faithful, honest, and exact  
15 performance of the contract. The bond must provide for the  
16 payment of reasonable attorney's fees in case of recovery in  
17 any suit thereon. The surety on the bond must be a guaranty or  
18 surety company lawfully authorized to do business in the  
19 state; however, the bond shall not be exhausted by a single  
20 recovery but may be sued upon from time to time until the full  
21 amount thereof is recovered, and the department may at any  
22 time, after giving 30 days' notice, require additional  
23 security or additional bond. The form of any bond or bonds or  
24 contract or contracts under this part shall be prepared and  
25 approved by the Department of Legal Affairs. At the discretion  
26 of the commissioner, a publisher or manufacturer to whom any  
27 contract is let under this part may be allowed a cash deposit  
28 in lieu of a bond, conditioned for the faithful, honest, and  
29 exact performance of the contract. The cash deposit, payable  
30 to the department, shall be placed in the Textbook Bid Trust  
31 Fund. The department may recover damages on the cash deposit

1 given by the contractor for failure to furnish instructional  
2 materials, the sum recovered to inure to the General Revenue  
3 Fund.

4 (4) REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONTRACT.--The  
5 department may, from time to time, take any necessary actions,  
6 consistent with this part, to secure the prompt and faithful  
7 performance of all instructional materials contracts; and if  
8 any contractor fails or refuses to furnish instructional  
9 materials as provided in this part or otherwise breaks his or  
10 her contract, the department may sue on the required bond in  
11 the name of the state, in the courts of the state having  
12 jurisdiction, and recover damages on the bond given by the  
13 contractor for failure to furnish instructional materials, the  
14 sum recovered to inure to the General Revenue Fund.

15 (5) RETURN OF DEPOSITS.--

16 (a) The successful bidder shall be notified by  
17 registered mail of the award of contract and shall, within 30  
18 days after receipt of the contract, execute the proper  
19 contract and post the required bond. When the bond and  
20 contract have been executed, the department shall notify the  
21 Comptroller and request that a warrant be issued against the  
22 Textbook Bid Trust Fund payable to the successful bidder in  
23 the amount deposited pursuant to this part. The Comptroller  
24 shall issue and forward the warrant to the department for  
25 distribution to the bidder.

26 (b) At the same time or prior thereto, the department  
27 shall inform the Comptroller of the names of the unsuccessful  
28 bidders. Upon receipt of such notice, the Comptroller shall  
29 issue warrants against the Textbook Bid Trust Fund payable to  
30 the unsuccessful bidders in the amounts deposited pursuant to  
31

1 this part and shall forward the warrants to the department for  
2 distribution to the unsuccessful bidders.

3 (c) One copy of each contract and an original of each  
4 bid, whether accepted or rejected, shall be preserved with the  
5 department for at least 3 years after the termination of the  
6 contract.

7 (6) DEPOSITS FORFEITED.--If any successful bidder  
8 fails or refuses to execute contract and bond within 30 days  
9 after receipt of the contract, the cash deposit shall be  
10 forfeited to the state and placed by the Treasurer in the  
11 General Revenue Fund.

12 (7) FORFEITURE OF CONTRACT AND BOND.--If any publisher  
13 or manufacturer of instructional materials fails or refuses to  
14 furnish a book, or books, or other instructional materials as  
15 provided in the contract, his or her bond is forfeited and the  
16 department shall make another contract on such terms as it may  
17 find desirable, after giving due consideration to the  
18 recommendations of the commissioner.

19 Section 310. Section 1006.35, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21 1006.35 Accuracy of instructional materials.--

22 (1) In addition to relying on statements of publishers  
23 or manufacturers of instructional materials, the commissioner  
24 may conduct or cause to be conducted an independent  
25 investigation to determine the accuracy of state-adopted  
26 instructional materials.

27 (2) When errors in state-adopted materials are  
28 confirmed, the publisher of the materials shall provide to  
29 each district school board that has purchased the materials  
30 the corrections in a format approved by the commissioner.  
31

1           (3) The commissioner may remove materials from the  
2 list of state-adopted materials if he or she finds that the  
3 content is in error and the publisher refuses to correct the  
4 error when notified by the department.

5           (4) The commissioner may remove materials from the  
6 list of state-adopted materials at the request of the  
7 publisher if, in his or her opinion, there is no material  
8 impact on the state's education goals.

9           Section 311. Section 1006.36, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11           1006.36 Term of adoption for instructional  
12 materials.--

13           (1) The term of adoption of any instructional  
14 materials must be a 6-year period beginning on April 1  
15 following the adoption, except that the commissioner may  
16 approve terms of adoption of less than 6 years for materials  
17 in content areas which require more frequent revision. Any  
18 contract for instructional materials may be extended as  
19 prescribed in s. 1006.34(3).

20           (2) The department shall publish annually an official  
21 schedule of subject areas to be called for adoption for each  
22 of the succeeding 2 years, and a tentative schedule for years  
23 3, 4, 5, and 6. If extenuating circumstances warrant, the  
24 commissioner may order the department to add one or more  
25 subject areas to the official schedule, in which event the  
26 commissioner shall develop criteria for such additional  
27 subject area or areas and make them available to publishers as  
28 soon as practicable before the date on which bids are due. The  
29 schedule shall be developed so as to promote balance among the  
30 subject areas so that the required expenditure for new  
31

1 instructional materials is approximately the same each year in  
2 order to maintain curricular consistency.

3 Section 312. Section 1006.37, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1006.37 Requisition of instructional materials from  
6 publisher's depository.--

7 (1) The district school superintendent shall  
8 requisition adopted instructional materials from the  
9 depository of the publisher with whom a contract has been  
10 made. However, the superintendent shall requisition current  
11 instructional materials to provide each student with a  
12 textbook or other materials as a major tool of instruction in  
13 core courses of the subject areas specified in s. 1006.40(2).  
14 These materials must be requisitioned within the first 2 years  
15 of the adoption cycle, except for instructional materials  
16 related to growth of student membership or instructional  
17 materials maintenance needs. The superintendent may  
18 requisition instructional materials in the core subject areas  
19 specified in s. 1006.40(2) that are related to growth of  
20 student membership or instructional materials maintenance  
21 needs during the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th years of the original  
22 contract period.

23 (2) The district school superintendent shall verify  
24 that the requisition is complete and accurate and order the  
25 depository to forward to him or her the adopted instructional  
26 materials shown by the requisition. The depository shall  
27 prepare an invoice of the materials shipped, including  
28 shipping charges, and mail it to the superintendent to whom  
29 the shipment is being made. The superintendent shall pay the  
30 depository within 60 days after receipt of the requisitioned  
31

1 materials from the appropriation for the purchase of adopted  
2 instructional materials.

3 Section 313. Section 1006.38, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1006.38 Duties, responsibilities, and requirements of  
6 instructional materials publishers and  
7 manufacturers.--Publishers and manufacturers of instructional  
8 materials, or their representatives, shall:

9 (1) Comply with all provisions of this part.

10 (2) Deliver fully developed specimen copies of all  
11 instructional materials upon which bids are based to each  
12 member of a state instructional materials committee. At the  
13 conclusion of the review process, manufacturers submitting  
14 samples of instructional materials are entitled to the return  
15 thereof, at the expense of the manufacturers; or, in the  
16 alternative, the manufacturers are entitled to reimbursement  
17 by the individual committee members for the retail value of  
18 the samples.

19 (3) Submit, at a time designated in s. 1006.33, the  
20 following information:

21 (a) Detailed specifications of the physical  
22 characteristics of the instructional materials. The publisher  
23 or manufacturer shall comply with these specifications if the  
24 instructional materials are adopted and purchased in completed  
25 form.

26 (b) Written proof that the publisher has provided  
27 written correlations to appropriate curricular objectives  
28 included within applicable performance standards provided for  
29 in s. 1001.03(1).

30  
31

1           (4) Make available for purchase by any district school  
2 board any diagnostic, criterion-referenced, or other tests  
3 that they may develop.

4           (5) Furnish the instructional materials offered by  
5 them at a price in the state which, including all costs of  
6 transportation to their depositories, shall not exceed the  
7 lowest price at which they offer such instructional materials  
8 for adoption or sale to any state or school district in the  
9 United States.

10           (6) Reduce automatically the price of the  
11 instructional materials to any district school board to the  
12 extent that reductions are made elsewhere in the United  
13 States.

14           (7) Provide any instructional materials free of charge  
15 in the state to the same extent as they are provided free of  
16 charge to any state or school district in the United States.

17           (8) Guarantee that all copies of any instructional  
18 materials sold in this state will be at least equal in quality  
19 to the copies of such instructional materials that are sold  
20 elsewhere in the United States and will be kept revised, free  
21 from all errors, and up-to-date as may be required by the  
22 department.

23           (9) Agree that any supplementary material developed at  
24 the district or state level does not violate the author's or  
25 publisher's copyright, provided such material is developed in  
26 accordance with the doctrine of fair use.

27           (10) Not in any way, directly or indirectly, become  
28 associated or connected with any combination in restraint of  
29 trade in instructional materials, nor enter into any  
30 understanding, agreement, or combination to control prices or  
31

1 restrict competition in the sale of instructional materials  
2 for use in the state.

3 (11) Maintain or contract with a depository in the  
4 state.

5 (12) For the core subject areas specified in s.  
6 1006.40(2), maintain in the depository for the first 2 years  
7 of the contract an inventory of instructional materials  
8 sufficient to receive and fill orders.

9 (13) For the core subject areas specified in s.  
10 1006.40(2), ensure the availability of an inventory sufficient  
11 to receive and fill orders for instructional materials for  
12 growth, including the opening of a new school, and replacement  
13 during the 3rd and subsequent years of the original contract  
14 period.

15 (14) For all other subject areas, maintain in the  
16 depository an inventory of instructional materials sufficient  
17 to receive and fill orders.

18 (15) Accurately and fully disclose only the names of  
19 those persons who actually authored the instructional  
20 materials. In addition to the penalties provided in  
21 subsection (17), the commissioner may remove from the list of  
22 state-adopted instructional materials those instructional  
23 materials whose publisher or manufacturer misleads the  
24 purchaser by falsely representing genuine authorship.

25 (16) Grant, without prior written request, for any  
26 copyright held by the publisher or its agencies automatic  
27 permission to the department or its agencies for the  
28 reproduction of textbooks and supplementary materials in  
29 braille or large print or in the form of sound recordings, for  
30 use by visually impaired students or other students with  
31 disabilities that would benefit from use of the materials.

1           (17) Upon the willful failure of the publisher or  
2 manufacturer to comply with the requirements of this section,  
3 be liable to the department in the amount of 3 times the total  
4 sum which the publisher or manufacturer was paid in excess of  
5 the price required under subsections (5) and (6) and in the  
6 amount of 3 times the total value of the instructional  
7 materials and services which the district school board is  
8 entitled to receive free of charge under subsection (7).

9           Section 314. Section 1006.39, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11           1006.39 Production and dissemination of educational  
12 materials and products by department.--

13           (1) Educational materials and products developed by or  
14 under the direction of the department, through research and  
15 development or other efforts, including those subject to  
16 copyright, patent, or trademark, shall be made available for  
17 use by teachers, students, administrators, and other  
18 appropriate persons in the state system of education at the  
19 earliest practicable date and in the most economical and  
20 efficient manner possible.

21           (2) To accomplish this objective the department may  
22 publish, produce, or have produced educational materials and  
23 products and make them readily available for appropriate use  
24 in the state system of education. The department may charge  
25 an amount adequate to cover the essential cost of producing  
26 and disseminating such materials and products in the state  
27 system of education and may sell copies for educational use to  
28 private schools in the state and to the public.

29           (3) All proceeds from the sale of educational  
30 materials and products shall be remitted to the Treasurer and  
31 shall be kept in a separate fund to be known as the

1 "Educational Media and Technology Trust Fund" and, when  
2 properly budgeted as approved by the Legislature and the  
3 Executive Office of the Governor, used to pay the cost of  
4 producing and disseminating educational materials and  
5 products.

6 (4) In cases in which the educational materials or  
7 products are of such nature, or the circumstances are such,  
8 that it is not practicable or feasible for the department to  
9 produce or have produced materials and products so developed,  
10 it may, after review and approval by the Department of State,  
11 license, lease, assign, sell, or otherwise give written  
12 consent to any person, firm or corporation for the manufacture  
13 or use thereof, on a royalty basis, or for such other  
14 consideration as the department finds proper and in the best  
15 interest of the state. The department shall protect  
16 educational materials and products against improper or  
17 unlawful use or infringement and enforce the collection of any  
18 sums due for the manufacture or use thereof by any other  
19 party.

20 (5) The department shall not enter into the business  
21 of producing or publishing textbooks, or the contents therein,  
22 for general use in classrooms.

23 Section 315. Section 1006.40, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25 1006.40 Use of instructional materials allocation;  
26 instructional materials, library books, and reference books;  
27 repair of books.--

28 (1) On or before July 1 each year, the commissioner  
29 shall certify to each district school superintendent the  
30 estimated allocation of state funds for instructional  
31

1 materials, computed pursuant to the provisions of s. 1011.67  
2 for the ensuing fiscal year.

3 (2)(a) Each district school board must purchase  
4 current instructional materials to provide each student with a  
5 textbook or other instructional materials as a major tool of  
6 instruction in core courses of the appropriate subject areas  
7 of mathematics, language arts, science, social studies,  
8 reading, and literature for kindergarten through grade 12.  
9 Such purchase must be made within the first 2 years of the  
10 effective date of the adoption cycle. Unless specifically  
11 provided for in the General Appropriations Act, the cost of  
12 instructional materials purchases required by this paragraph  
13 shall not exceed the amount of the district's allocation for  
14 instructional materials, pursuant to s. 1011.67, for the  
15 previous 2 years.

16 (b) The requirement in paragraph (a) does not apply to  
17 contracts in existence before April 1, 2000, or to a purchase  
18 related to growth of student membership in the district or for  
19 instructional materials maintenance needs.

20 (3)(a) Each district school board shall use the annual  
21 allocation for the purchase of instructional materials  
22 included on the state-adopted list, except as otherwise  
23 authorized in paragraphs (b) and (c). No less than 50 percent  
24 of the annual allocation shall be used to purchase items which  
25 will be used to provide instruction to students at the level  
26 or levels for which the materials are designed.

27 (b) Up to 50 percent of the annual allocation may be  
28 used for the purchase of instructional materials, including  
29 library and reference books and nonprint materials, not  
30 included on the state-adopted list and for the repair and  
31 renovation of textbooks and library books.

1           (c) District school boards may use 100 percent of that  
2 portion of the annual allocation designated for the purchase  
3 of instructional materials for kindergarten, and 75 percent of  
4 that portion of the annual allocation designated for the  
5 purchase of instructional materials for first grade, to  
6 purchase materials not on the state-adopted list.

7           (4) The funds described in subsection (3) which  
8 district school boards may use to purchase materials not on  
9 the state-adopted list shall be used for the purchase of  
10 instructional materials or other items having intellectual  
11 content which assist in the instruction of a subject or  
12 course. These items may be available in bound, unbound, kit,  
13 or package form and may consist of hardbacked or softbacked  
14 textbooks, replacements for items which were part of  
15 previously purchased instructional materials, consumables,  
16 learning laboratories, manipulatives, electronic media,  
17 computer courseware or software, and other commonly accepted  
18 instructional tools as prescribed by district school board  
19 rule. The funds available to district school boards for the  
20 purchase of materials not on the state-adopted list may not be  
21 used to purchase electronic or computer hardware even if such  
22 hardware is bundled with software or other electronic media,  
23 nor may such funds be used to purchase equipment or supplies.  
24 However, when authorized to do so in the General  
25 Appropriations Act, a school or district school board may use  
26 a portion of the funds available to it for the purchase of  
27 materials not on the state-adopted list to purchase science  
28 laboratory materials and supplies.

29           (5) Each district school board shall adopt rules, and  
30 each district school superintendent shall implement  
31

1 procedures, that will assure the maximum use by the students  
2 of the authorized instructional materials.

3 (6) District school boards may issue purchase orders  
4 subsequent to February 1 in an aggregate amount which does not  
5 exceed 20 percent of the current year's allocation, and  
6 subsequent to April 1 in an aggregate amount which does not  
7 exceed 90 percent of the current year's allocation, for the  
8 purpose of expediting the delivery of instructional materials  
9 which are to be paid for from the ensuing year's allocation.

10 (7) In any year in which the total instructional  
11 materials allocation for a school district has not been  
12 expended or obligated prior to June 30, the district school  
13 board shall carry forward the unobligated amount and shall add  
14 it to the next year's allocation.

15 Section 316. Section 1006.41, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17 1006.41 Disposal of instructional materials.--

18 (1) Instructional materials that have become  
19 unserviceable or surplus or are no longer on state contract  
20 may be disposed of, under adopted rule of the district school  
21 board, by:

22 (a) Giving or lending the materials to other public  
23 education programs within the district or state, to the  
24 teachers to use in developing supplementary teaching  
25 materials, to students or others, or to any charitable  
26 organization, governmental agency, home education students,  
27 private school, or state.

28 (b) Selling the materials to used book dealers,  
29 recycling plants, pulp mills, or other persons, firms, or  
30 corporations upon such terms as are most economically  
31 advantageous to the district school board.

1           (2) The district school board may prescribe by rule  
2 the manner for destroying instructional materials that cannot  
3 be disposed of as provided in subsection (1).

4           (3) All moneys received for the sale, exchange, or  
5 other disposition of instructional materials shall be  
6 deposited in the district school fund and added to the  
7 district appropriation for instructional materials.

8           (4) Instructional materials which have been sold,  
9 exchanged, lost, destroyed, or damaged and for which proper  
10 charges have been assessed and collected, and instructional  
11 materials which have been destroyed by fire or storm damage or  
12 by order of a competent health officer or the district school  
13 superintendent, shall be dropped from the record of  
14 instructional materials for which, as provided by law,  
15 district school boards are held responsible.

16           Section 317. Section 1006.42, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18           1006.42 Responsibility of students and parents for  
19 instructional materials.--

20           (1) All instructional materials purchased under the  
21 provisions of this part are the property of the district  
22 school board. When distributed to the students, these  
23 instructional materials are on loan to the students while they  
24 are pursuing their courses of study and are to be returned at  
25 the direction of the school principal or the teacher in  
26 charge. Each parent of a student to whom or for whom  
27 instructional materials have been issued, is liable for any  
28 loss or destruction of, or unnecessary damage to, the  
29 instructional materials or for failure of the student to  
30 return the instructional materials when directed by the school  
31

1 principal or the teacher in charge, and shall pay for such  
2 loss, destruction, or unnecessary damage as provided by law.

3 (2) Nothing in this part shall be construed to  
4 prohibit parents from exercising their right to purchase  
5 instructional materials from the district school board.

6 Section 318. Section 1006.43, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8 1006.43 Expenses; budget request.--

9 (1) The commissioner shall include in the department's  
10 annual legislative budget a request for funds in an amount  
11 sufficient to provide the necessary expense for:

12 (a) The instructional materials committees.

13 (b) Instructional materials for use by partially  
14 sighted students.

15 (c) Other specific and necessary state expenses with  
16 regard to the instructional materials program.

17 (2) The department may arrange for distribution  
18 adopted textbooks which are prepared in various media for the  
19 use of partially sighted children enrolled in the Florida  
20 schools.

21 Section 319. Part II of chapter 1006, Florida  
22 Statutes, shall be entitled "Public Postsecondary Education  
23 Support for Learning and Student Services" and shall consist  
24 of ss. 1006.50-1006.71.

25 Section 320. Section 1006.50, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 1006.50 Student handbooks.--

28 (1) Each community college and state university shall  
29 compile and update annually a student handbook that includes,  
30 but is not limited to, a comprehensive calendar that  
31 emphasizes important dates and deadlines, student rights and

1 responsibilities, appeals processes available to students, and  
2 a roster of contact persons within the administrative staff  
3 available to respond to student inquiries.

4 (2) Each student handbook shall list the legal and  
5 institution-specific sanctions that will be imposed upon  
6 students who violate the law or institutional policies  
7 regarding controlled substances and alcoholic beverages.

8 (3) Each student handbook shall provide information  
9 related to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)  
10 education or identify sites from which AIDS education  
11 information may be obtained.

12 Section 321. Section 1006.51, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14 1006.51 Student ombudsman office.--

15 (1) There is created at each community college and  
16 state university a student ombudsman office, which is  
17 accountable to the president.

18 (2) Each institution must have an established  
19 procedure by which a student may appeal to the office of the  
20 ombudsman a decision that is related to the student's access  
21 to courses and credit granted toward the degree. Detailed  
22 information concerning this procedure must be included in the  
23 institution's catalog.

24 (3) Each community college and state university shall  
25 develop minimum standards for the role of ombudsman or student  
26 advocate. The standards shall address the issue of  
27 notification of students of opportunities for assistance or  
28 appeal.

29 Section 322. Section 1006.52, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31 1006.52 Student records.--

1           (1) Each university may prescribe the content and  
2 custody of records and reports which the university may  
3 maintain on its students. Such records are confidential and  
4 exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and are open to  
5 inspection only as provided in s. 1002.22.

6           (2) Rules of the State Board of Education may  
7 prescribe the content and custody of records and reports which  
8 a community college may maintain on its students. Such records  
9 are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and are open to  
10 inspection only as provided in s. 1002.22.

11           Section 323. Section 1006.53, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13           1006.53 Religious observances.--Each public  
14 postsecondary educational institution shall adopt a policy in  
15 accordance with rules of the State Board of Education which  
16 reasonably accommodates the religious observance, practice,  
17 and belief of individual students in regard to admissions,  
18 class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work  
19 assignments. Each policy shall include a grievance procedure  
20 by which a student who believes that he or she has been  
21 unreasonably denied an educational benefit due to his or her  
22 religious belief or practices may seek redress. Such policy  
23 shall be made known to faculty and students annually in  
24 inclusion in the institution's handbook, manual, or other  
25 similar document regularly provided to faculty and students.

26           Section 324. Section 1006.54, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28           1006.54 Universities; public documents distributed to  
29 libraries.--The general library of each state university may  
30 receive copies of reports of state officials, departments, and  
31 institutions and all other state documents published by the

1 state. Each officer of the state empowered by law to  
2 distribute such public documents may transmit without charge,  
3 except for payment of shipping costs, the number of copies of  
4 each public document desired upon requisition from the  
5 librarian. It is the duty of the library to keep public  
6 documents in a convenient form accessible to the public. The  
7 library, under rules formulated by the university board of  
8 trustees, is authorized to exchange documents for those of  
9 other states, territories, and countries.

10 Section 325. Section 1006.55, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1006.55 Law libraries of certain institutions of  
13 higher learning designated as state legal depositories.--

14 (1) The law libraries of the University of Florida,  
15 Florida State University, Florida International University,  
16 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Stetson  
17 University, Nova University, and the University of Miami are  
18 designated as state legal depositories.

19 (2) Each officer of the state empowered by law to  
20 distribute legal publications may transmit, upon payment of  
21 shipping costs or cash on delivery, to the state legal  
22 depositories copies of such publications as requested.  
23 However, the number of copies transmitted shall be limited to:

24 (a) Eight copies of each volume of General Acts and  
25 each volume of Special Acts to each of the state legal  
26 depositories;

27 (b) Up to a maximum number of each volume of the  
28 Florida Statutes and each supplement volume, computed on the  
29 basis of one set for every 10 students enrolled during the  
30 school year, based upon the average enrollment as certified by  
31 the registrar; and

1           (c) One copy of each journal of the House of  
2 Representatives and each journal of the Senate to each state  
3 legal depository.

4           (3) It is the duty of the librarian of any depository  
5 to keep all public documents in a convenient form accessible  
6 to the public.

7           (4) The libraries of all community colleges are  
8 designated as state depositories for the Florida Statutes and  
9 supplements published by or under the authority of the state;  
10 these depositories each may receive upon request one copy of  
11 each volume without charge, except for payment of shipping  
12 costs.

13           Section 326. Section 1006.56, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15           1006.56 Specified university publications; activities;  
16 trust funds.--

17           (1) Subject to the approval of the appropriate  
18 university, the Florida Law Review, the Florida State  
19 University Law Review, the Florida State University Journal of  
20 Land Use and Environmental Law, the University of Florida  
21 Journal of Law and Public Policy, and the Florida  
22 International Law Journal of the University of Florida are  
23 authorized to engage in the following activities relating to  
24 their respective publications, notwithstanding the contrary  
25 provision of any statute, rule, or regulation of the state or  
26 its subdivisions or agencies:

27           (a) The grant of reprint rights relating to any or all  
28 issues of the Florida Law Review, the Florida State University  
29 Law Review, the Florida State University Journal of Land Use  
30 and Environmental Law, the University of Florida Journal of  
31 Law and Public Policy, or the Florida International Law

1 Journal of the University of Florida, or any of the materials,  
2 articles, or ideas contained therein;

3 (b) The sale for adequate consideration of any or all  
4 past or future stock and inventory of published issues of the  
5 Florida Law Review, the Florida State University Law Review,  
6 the Florida State University Journal of Land Use and  
7 Environmental Law, the University of Florida Journal of Law  
8 and Public Policy, or the Florida International Law Journal of  
9 the University of Florida, or portions thereof; and

10 (c) The retention of the proceeds obtained under  
11 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) together with all moneys  
12 received by the Florida Law Review or the Florida State  
13 University Law Review from current or future subscriptions,  
14 sale of individual issues, sale of advertising, binding  
15 service, royalties, donations, and all other sources except  
16 direct or indirect appropriations from the state, its  
17 subdivisions, or agencies.

18 (2) Moneys retained by the Florida Law Review pursuant  
19 to this section shall be placed in a trust fund to be known as  
20 the Florida Law Review Trust Fund. Moneys retained by the  
21 Florida State University Law Review pursuant to this section  
22 shall be placed in a trust fund to be known as the Florida  
23 State University Law Review Trust Fund. Moneys retained by the  
24 Florida State University Journal of Land Use and Environmental  
25 Law pursuant to this section shall be placed in a trust fund  
26 to be known as the Florida State University Journal of Land  
27 Use and Environmental Law Trust Fund. Moneys retained by the  
28 University of Florida Journal of Law and Public Policy  
29 pursuant to this section shall be placed in a trust fund to be  
30 known as the University of Florida Journal of Law and Public  
31 Policy Trust Fund. Moneys retained by the Florida

1 International Law Journal of the University of Florida  
2 pursuant to this section shall be placed in a trust fund to be  
3 known as the Florida International Law Journal of the  
4 University of Florida Trust Fund. Such trust funds shall be  
5 used to pay or supplement the payment of printing costs or  
6 other costs incident to the publication of the respective law  
7 reviews and law journals and shall be administered by the dean  
8 of each college of law or his or her faculty designee.

9 (3) Printing of such publications shall be let upon  
10 contract to the lowest responsive bidder, in accordance with  
11 s. 283.33, except when the additional costs incurred in  
12 changing from the current printer to the new low bidder exceed  
13 the savings reflected in the bid prices. Such additional costs  
14 shall not exceed 10 percent of the lowest bid price.

15 Section 327. Section 1006.57, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17 1006.57 Certain books furnished by Clerk of Supreme  
18 Court.--

19 (1) The Clerk of the Supreme Court of the state shall  
20 furnish the State Board of Education three bound copies of  
21 each volume of the Florida Supreme Court Reports as the same  
22 are issued and published for the use of the schools of law of  
23 the University of Florida, the Florida State University,  
24 Florida International University, and Florida Agricultural and  
25 Mechanical University.

26 (2) The Clerk of the Supreme Court shall transmit to  
27 said schools of law any law books coming into his or her  
28 possession for the Supreme Court which are not necessary for  
29 said court. The clerk of said court shall furnish said Supreme  
30 Court Reports and said surplus law books without cost to said  
31 law schools.

1           Section 328. Section 1006.58, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1006.58 Collections management for museums and  
4 galleries of state universities.--

5           (1) State universities may enter into contracts or  
6 agreements with or without competitive bidding, as  
7 appropriate, for the restoration of objects of art, art  
8 history, or natural history in their collections or for the  
9 purchase of objects of art, art history, or natural history  
10 which are to be added to their collections.

11           (2) State universities may sell any art, art history,  
12 or natural history object in their museum or gallery  
13 collections if the university determines that it is no longer  
14 appropriate for the collection. The proceeds of the sale shall  
15 be deposited in the Acquisition, Restoration, and Conservation  
16 Trust Fund or other appropriate trust fund of the university.  
17 Each state university museum or gallery shall function  
18 entirely separate from every state university museum or  
19 gallery. State universities also may exchange any art, art  
20 history, or natural history object which the university  
21 museums or galleries judge is of equivalent or greater value  
22 to their museums or galleries.

23           (3) No employee, representative, or agent of a  
24 university shall receive a commission, fee, or financial  
25 benefit in connection with the sale or exchange of a work of  
26 art, art history, or natural history, nor may he or she be a  
27 business associate of any individual, firm, or organization  
28 involved in the sale or exchange.

29           (4)(a) Each university may establish an Acquisition,  
30 Restoration, and Conservation Trust Fund or utilize an  
31 appropriate existing trust fund.

1           (b) The president of each university may delegate the  
2 following authority to the museum or gallery directors and  
3 governing bodies of the museums or galleries:

4           1. To enter into contracts for the restoration or  
5 purchase of art, art history, or natural history objects, with  
6 or without competitive bidding, as appropriate.

7           2. To sell art, art history, or natural history  
8 objects in museum or gallery collections, the proceeds of  
9 which shall be deposited in the Acquisition, Restoration, and  
10 Conservation Trust Fund or other appropriate existing trust  
11 fund.

12           3. To exchange art, art history, or natural history  
13 objects of equal or greater value with any other state  
14 university.

15           Section 329. Section 1006.59, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17           1006.59 The Historically Black College and University  
18 Library Improvement Program.--

19           (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to enhance the  
20 quality of the libraries at Florida Agricultural and  
21 Mechanical University, Bethune-Cookman College, Edward Waters  
22 College, and Florida Memorial College.

23           (2) There is created the Historically Black College  
24 and University Library Improvement Program to be administered  
25 by the Department of Education. The primary objectives of the  
26 program shall be to increase each library's holdings by 500 to  
27 1,000 books per year, to increase library use by students and  
28 faculty, and to enhance the professional growth of librarians  
29 by providing inservice training. At least 50 percent of  
30 library acquisitions shall be in the humanities, with the  
31 balance to be in all other disciplines. It is the intent of

1 the Legislature to provide general revenue funds each year to  
2 support this program.

3 (3) Each institution shall submit to the State Board  
4 of Education a plan for enhancing its library through the  
5 following activities:

6 (a) Each institution shall increase the number of  
7 volumes by purchasing replacement books and new titles. Funds  
8 shall not be used to purchase periodicals or nonprint media.  
9 The goal of these purchases is to meet the needs of students  
10 and faculty in disciplines that have recently been added to  
11 the curriculum, in traditional academic fields that have been  
12 expanded, or in academic fields in which rapid changes in  
13 technology result in accelerated obsolescence of related  
14 library holdings.

15 (b) A committee composed of librarians and faculty at  
16 each institution shall assess the adequacy of library holdings  
17 in all academic areas. The committee shall develop a list of  
18 resources that need to be replaced. Based on its assessment of  
19 the current collection, the committee shall develop a  
20 prioritized list of recommended acquisitions and shall submit  
21 such list to the college or university president.

22 Section 330. Section 1006.60, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1006.60 Codes of conduct; disciplinary measures;  
25 rulemaking authority.--

26 (1) Each community college and state university may  
27 adopt, by rule, codes of conduct and appropriate penalties for  
28 violations of rules by students, to be administered by the  
29 institution. Such penalties, unless otherwise provided by law,  
30 may include: reprimand; restitution; fines; withholding of  
31 diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with rules,

1 completion of any student judicial process or sanction, or  
2 payment of fines; restrictions on the use of or removal from  
3 campus facilities; community service; educational  
4 requirements; and the imposition of probation, suspension,  
5 dismissal, or expulsion.

6 (2) Each community college and state university may  
7 adopt, by rule, a code of conduct and appropriate penalties  
8 for violations of rules by student organizations, to be  
9 administered by the institution. Such penalties, unless  
10 otherwise provided by law, may include: reprimand;  
11 restitution; suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the  
12 registration or official recognition of a student  
13 organization; and restrictions on the use of, or removal from,  
14 campus facilities.

15 (3) Sanctions authorized by such codes of conduct may  
16 be imposed only for acts or omissions in violation of rules  
17 adopted by the institution, including rules adopted under this  
18 section, rules of the State Board of Education, county and  
19 municipal ordinances, and the laws of this state, the United  
20 States, or any other state.

21 (4) Each community college and state university may  
22 establish and adopt, by rule, codes of appropriate penalties  
23 for violations of rules governing student academic honesty.  
24 Such penalties, unless otherwise provided by law, may include:  
25 reprimand; reduction of grade; denial of academic credit;  
26 invalidation of university credit or of the degree based upon  
27 such credit; probation; suspension; dismissal; or expulsion.  
28 In addition to any other penalties that may be imposed, an  
29 individual may be denied admission or further registration,  
30 and the institution may invalidate academic credit for work  
31 done by a student and may invalidate or revoke the degree

1 based upon such credit if it is determined that the student  
2 has made false, fraudulent, or incomplete statements in the  
3 application, residence affidavit, or accompanying documents or  
4 statements in connection with, or supplemental to, the  
5 application for admission to or graduation from the  
6 institution.

7 (5) Each community college and state university shall  
8 adopt rules for the lawful discipline of any student who  
9 intentionally acts to impair, interfere with, or obstruct the  
10 orderly conduct, processes, and functions of the institution.  
11 Said rules may apply to acts conducted on or off campus when  
12 relevant to such orderly conduct, processes, and functions.

13 Section 331. Section 1006.61, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15 1006.61 Participation by students in disruptive  
16 activities at public postsecondary educational institution;  
17 penalties.--

18 (1) Any person who accepts the privilege extended by  
19 the laws of this state of attendance at any public  
20 postsecondary educational institution shall, by attending such  
21 institution, be deemed to have given his or her consent to the  
22 policies of that institution, the State Board of Education,  
23 and the laws of this state. Such policies shall include  
24 prohibition against disruptive activities at public  
25 postsecondary educational institutions.

26 (2) After it has been determined that a student of a  
27 state institution of higher learning has participated in  
28 disruptive activities, such student may be immediately  
29 expelled from the institution for a minimum of 2 years.

30 Section 332. Section 1006.62, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1006.62 Expulsion and discipline of students of  
2 community colleges and state universities.--

3           (1) Each student in a community college or state  
4 university is subject to federal and state law, respective  
5 county and municipal ordinances, and all rules and regulations  
6 of the State Board of Education or board of trustees of the  
7 institution.

8           (2) Violation of these published laws, ordinances, or  
9 rules and regulations may subject the violator to appropriate  
10 action by the institution's authorities.

11           (3) Each president of a community college or state  
12 university may, after notice to the student of the charges and  
13 after a hearing thereon, to expel, suspend, or otherwise  
14 discipline any student who is found to have violated any law,  
15 ordinance, or rule or regulation of the State Board of  
16 Education or of the board of trustees of the institution. A  
17 student may be entitled to waiver of expulsion:

18           (a) If the student provides substantial assistance in  
19 the identification, arrest, or conviction of any of his or her  
20 accomplices, accessories, coconspirators, or principals or of  
21 any other person engaged in violations of chapter 893 within a  
22 state university or community college;

23           (b) If the student voluntarily discloses his or her  
24 violations of chapter 893 prior to his or her arrest; or

25           (c) If the student commits himself or herself, or is  
26 referred by the court in lieu of sentence, to a state-licensed  
27 drug abuse program and successfully completes the program.

28           Section 333. Section 1006.63, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30           1006.63 Hazing prohibited.--  
31

1           (1) As used in this section, "hazing" means any action  
2 or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the  
3 mental or physical health or safety of a student for the  
4 purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with  
5 any organization operating under the sanction of a  
6 postsecondary institution. Such term includes, but is not  
7 limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as  
8 whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to  
9 the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or  
10 other substance, or other forced physical activity which could  
11 adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student,  
12 and also includes any activity which would subject the student  
13 to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced  
14 exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could  
15 result in extreme embarrassment, or other forced activity  
16 which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of  
17 the student.

18           (2) Public and nonpublic postsecondary educational  
19 institutions whose students receive state student financial  
20 assistance must adopt a written antihazing policy and under  
21 such policy must adopt rules prohibiting students or other  
22 persons associated with any student organization from engaging  
23 in hazing.

24           (3) Public and nonpublic postsecondary educational  
25 institutions must provide a program for the enforcement of  
26 such rules and must adopt appropriate penalties for violations  
27 of such rules, to be administered by the person at the  
28 institution responsible for the sanctioning of such  
29 organizations.

30           (a) Such penalties at community colleges and state  
31 universities may include the imposition of fines; the

1 withholding of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with  
2 the rules or pending payment of fines; and the imposition of  
3 probation, suspension, or dismissal.

4 (b) In the case of an organization at a community  
5 college or state university which authorizes hazing in blatant  
6 disregard of such rules, penalties may also include rescission  
7 of permission for that organization to operate on campus  
8 property or to otherwise operate under the sanction of the  
9 institution.

10 (c) All penalties imposed under the authority of this  
11 subsection shall be in addition to any penalty imposed for  
12 violation of any of the criminal laws of this state or for  
13 violation of any other rule of the institution to which the  
14 violation may be subject.

15 (4) Rules adopted pursuant hereto shall apply to acts  
16 conducted on or off campus whenever such acts are deemed to  
17 constitute hazing.

18 (5) Upon approval of the antihazing policy of a  
19 community college or state university and of the rules and  
20 penalties adopted pursuant thereto, the institution shall  
21 provide a copy of such policy, rules, and penalties to each  
22 student enrolled in that institution and shall require the  
23 inclusion of such policy, rules, and penalties in the bylaws  
24 of every organization operating under the sanction of the  
25 institution.

26 Section 334. Section 1006.64, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1006.64 Suspension and removal from office of elected  
29 student government officials; referendum.--The student  
30 government association of each community college and state  
31 university shall establish a process to provide for the

1 removal from office of any elected student government official  
2 who has been convicted of a violation of criminal law or has  
3 been found civilly liable for an act of moral turpitude, after  
4 all available rights of judicial appeal have been exercised or  
5 waived or have expired. The process shall include a procedure  
6 for the immediate suspension of the student government  
7 official from elected office following the conviction or civil  
8 finding and during any appeal, and shall provide for the  
9 temporary successor to the subject office pending completion  
10 of any appeal. The process must also include a procedure for  
11 registered students to petition for a referendum recommending  
12 to the student government association the removal of a student  
13 official from elected office. The referendum must be held  
14 within 60 days of filing of the petition. The recommendation  
15 to remove the subject official from elected office shall be  
16 made by majority vote of the students participating in the  
17 referendum. The action of a student government association  
18 under this section shall be subject to an appeal to the  
19 university or community college president or designee.

20 Section 335. Section 1006.65, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22 1006.65 Safety issues in courses offered by public  
23 postsecondary educational institutions.--

24 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
25 ensure that policies and procedures are in place to protect  
26 the health and safety of students, instructional personnel,  
27 and visitors who participate in courses offered by a public  
28 postsecondary educational institution.

29 (2) Such policies and procedures shall be guided by  
30 industry standards for practices in the course content area  
31

1 and shall conform with all related and relevant state and  
2 federal health and safety requirements.

3 Section 336. Section 1006.66, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1006.66 Regulation of traffic at universities.--

6 (1) As defined under this section:

7 (a) "Traffic," when used as a noun, means the use or  
8 occupancy of, and the movement in, on, or over, streets, ways,  
9 walks, roads, alleys, and parking areas by vehicles,  
10 pedestrians, or ridden or herded animals.

11 (b) "Adjacent municipality" means a municipality which  
12 is contiguous or adjacent to, or which contains within its  
13 boundaries all or part of the grounds of, a university; except  
14 that, if the grounds of a university are not within or  
15 contiguous to a municipality, "adjacent municipality" means  
16 the county seat of the county which contains within its  
17 boundaries all or part of the grounds of the university.

18 (c) "Grounds" includes all of the campus and grounds  
19 of the university, whether it be the campus proper or outlying  
20 or noncontiguous land of the university within the county.

21 (d) "Law enforcement officers" include municipal  
22 police, patrol officers, traffic officers, sheriffs, deputies,  
23 highway patrol officers, and county traffic officers assigned  
24 to duty on the grounds of the university; campus police,  
25 traffic officers, guards, parking patrollers, and other  
26 noncommissioned personnel designated for traffic purposes by  
27 the university; and other law enforcement officers as defined  
28 in s. 943.10(1).

29 (e) "University traffic infraction" means a  
30 noncriminal violation of university parking and traffic rules  
31 which is not included under s. 318.14 or s. 318.17 or any

1 municipal ordinance, which is not punishable by incarceration,  
2 and for which there is no right to trial by jury or to  
3 court-appointed counsel.

4 (f) "Traffic authority" means an individual or a group  
5 of individuals at each university, authorized and appointed by  
6 the president of the university to adjudicate university  
7 traffic infractions.

8 (2) Each university board of trustees shall adopt  
9 rules that govern traffic on the grounds of the university;  
10 that provide penalties for the infraction of such traffic  
11 rules; and that the university finds necessary, convenient, or  
12 advisable for the safety or welfare of the students, faculty  
13 members, or other persons. Copies of the rules shall be posted  
14 at the university on public bulletin boards where notices are  
15 customarily posted, filed with the city clerk or corresponding  
16 municipal or county officer, and made available to any person  
17 requesting same. When adopted, the rules shall be enforceable  
18 as herein provided. All ordinances of the adjacent  
19 municipality relating to traffic that are not in conflict or  
20 inconsistent with the traffic rules adopted by the individual  
21 university shall extend and be applicable to the grounds of  
22 the university. The provisions of chapter 316 shall extend and  
23 be applicable to the grounds of the university, and the rules  
24 adopted by the individual university shall not conflict with  
25 any section of that chapter.

26 (3) Any person who violates any of those rules adopted  
27 by the individual institution shall be deemed to have  
28 committed a university traffic infraction and shall be fined  
29 or penalized as provided by the rules adopted by the  
30 institution. Any person who violates any traffic regulation  
31

1 enumerated in chapter 316 shall be charged, and the cause  
2 shall proceed, in accordance with chapters 316 and 318.

3 (4) A person charged with a university traffic  
4 infraction shall elect the option prescribed in paragraph (a)  
5 or the option prescribed in paragraph (b). If neither option  
6 is exercised within the prescribed time by the person charged  
7 with a university traffic infraction, an additional fine or  
8 penalty may be assessed, and shall be payable, in accordance  
9 with the rules of the university.

10 (a) The person charged may pay the applicable  
11 infraction fine, either by mail or in person, within the time  
12 period specified in the rules of the individual university. A  
13 schedule of infraction fines applicable to each university  
14 shall be adopted by the university.

15 (b) The person charged may elect to appear before the  
16 university traffic authority for administrative determination  
17 pursuant to procedures enumerated in the rules of such  
18 university.

19 (5) Each university is authorized to approve the  
20 establishment of a university traffic authority to hear  
21 violations of traffic rules. In such cases as come before the  
22 authority, the university traffic authority shall determine  
23 whether the person is guilty or not guilty of the charge. In  
24 the case of a finding of guilt, the authority shall, in its  
25 discretion, impose an appropriate penalty pursuant to  
26 subsection (3).

27 (6) This section shall provide the exclusive  
28 procedures for the adjudication of university traffic  
29 infractions.

30 (7) Moneys collected from parking assessments and  
31 infraction fines shall be deposited in appropriate funds and

1 shall be used to defray the administrative and operating costs  
2 of the traffic and parking program at the institution, to  
3 provide for additional parking facilities on campus, or for  
4 student loan purposes.

5 Section 337. Section 1006.67, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1006.67 Report of campus crime statistics and  
8 assessment of physical plant safety.--

9 (1) Each postsecondary educational institution shall  
10 prepare an annual report of campus crime statistics for  
11 submission to the Department of Education. The data for these  
12 reports may be taken from the Florida Department of Law  
13 Enforcement Annual Report. The Department of Education shall  
14 prescribe the format for institutional submission.

15 (2) Each postsecondary institution shall prepare a  
16 report of crime statistics as reported under subsection (1)  
17 for the most recent 3-year period. The report shall be updated  
18 annually. The institution shall give notice that this report  
19 is available upon request.

20 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall convey the  
21 reports required by this section to the President of the  
22 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no  
23 later than March 1 of each year.

24 Section 338. Section 1006.68, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26 1006.68 HIV and AIDS policy.--Each community college  
27 and state university shall develop a comprehensive policy that  
28 addresses the provision of instruction, information, and  
29 activities regarding human immunodeficiency virus infection  
30 and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Such instruction,  
31 information, or activities shall emphasize the known modes of

1 transmission of human immunodeficiency virus infection and  
2 acquired immune deficiency syndrome, signs and symptoms,  
3 associated risk factors, appropriate behavior and attitude  
4 change, and means used to control the spread of human  
5 immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune  
6 deficiency syndrome.

7 Section 339. Section 1006.69, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9 1006.69 Vaccination against meningococcal meningitis  
10 and hepatitis B.--

11 (1) A postsecondary educational institution shall  
12 provide detailed information concerning the risks associated  
13 with meningococcal meningitis and hepatitis B and the  
14 availability, effectiveness, and known contraindications of  
15 any required or recommended vaccine to every student, or to  
16 the student's parent if the student is a minor, who has been  
17 accepted for admission.

18 (2) An individual enrolled in a postsecondary  
19 educational institution who will be residing in on-campus  
20 housing shall provide documentation of vaccinations against  
21 meningococcal meningitis and hepatitis B unless the  
22 individual, if the individual is 18 years of age or older, or  
23 the individual's parent, if the individual is a minor,  
24 declines the vaccinations by signing a separate waiver for  
25 each of these vaccines, provided by the institution,  
26 acknowledging receipt and review of the information provided.

27 (3) This section does not require any postsecondary  
28 educational institution to provide or pay for vaccinations  
29 against meningococcal meningitis and hepatitis B.

30 Section 340. Section 1006.70, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1006.70 Sponsorship of athletic activities similar to  
2 those for which scholarships offered; rulemaking.--

3           (1) If a district school board sponsors an athletic  
4 activity or sport that is similar to a sport for which a  
5 community college or state university offers an athletic  
6 scholarship, it must sponsor the athletic activity or sport  
7 for which a scholarship is offered. This section does not  
8 affect academic requirements for participation or prevent the  
9 districts or community colleges from sponsoring activities in  
10 addition to those for which scholarships are provided.

11           (2) If a community college sponsors an athletic  
12 activity or sport that is similar to a sport for which a state  
13 university offers an athletic scholarship, it must sponsor the  
14 athletic activity or sport for which a scholarship is offered.

15           (3) Two athletic activities or sports that are similar  
16 may be offered simultaneously.

17           (4) If the level of participation is insufficient to  
18 warrant continuation of an athletic activity or sport, the  
19 school may offer an alternative athletic activity or sport.

20           (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
21 administer this section, including rules that determine which  
22 athletic activities are similar to sports for which public  
23 postsecondary educational institutions offer scholarships.

24           Section 341. Section 1006.71, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26           1006.71 Gender equity in intercollegiate athletics.--

27           (1) GENDER EQUITY PLAN.--

28           (a) Each community college and state university shall  
29 develop a gender equity plan pursuant to s. 1000.05.

30           (b) The plan shall include consideration of equity in  
31 sports offerings, participation, availability of facilities,

1 scholarship offerings, and funds allocated for administration,  
2 recruitment, comparable coaching, publicity and promotion, and  
3 other support costs.

4 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall annually  
5 assess the progress of each institution's plan and advise the  
6 State Board of Education regarding compliance.

7 (d) Each board of trustees of a public community  
8 college or state university shall annually evaluate the  
9 presidents on the extent to which the gender equity goals have  
10 been achieved.

11 (e) To determine the proper level of support for  
12 women's athletic scholarships, an equity plan may determine,  
13 where appropriate, that support for women's scholarships may  
14 be disproportionate to the support of scholarships for men.

15 (f) If a community college or state university is not  
16 in compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of  
17 1972 and the Florida Educational Equity Act, the State Board  
18 of Education shall:

19 1. Declare the institution ineligible for competitive  
20 state grants.

21 2. Withhold funds sufficient to obtain compliance.

22  
23 The institution shall remain ineligible and the funds shall  
24 not be paid until the institution comes into compliance or the  
25 Commissioner of Education approves a plan for compliance.

26 (2) FUNDING.--

27 (a) An equitable portion of all separate athletic fees  
28 shall be designated for women's intercollegiate athletics.

29 (b) The level of funding and percentage share of  
30 support for women's intercollegiate athletics shall be  
31 determined by the State Board of Education. The level of

1 funding and percentage share attained in the 1980-1981 fiscal  
2 year shall be the minimum level and percentage maintained by  
3 each institution, except as the State Board of Education  
4 otherwise directs for the purpose of assuring equity.  
5 Consideration shall be given by the State Board of Education  
6 to emerging athletic programs at institutions which may not  
7 have the resources to secure external funds to provide  
8 athletic opportunities for women. It is the intent that the  
9 effect of any redistribution of funds among institutions shall  
10 not negate the requirements as set forth in this section.

11 (c) In addition to the above amount, an amount equal  
12 to the sales taxes collected from admission to athletic events  
13 sponsored by a state university shall be retained and utilized  
14 by each university to support women's athletics.

15 (3) STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.--The State Board of  
16 Education shall assure equal opportunity for female athletes  
17 and establish:

18 (a) Guidelines for reporting of intercollegiate  
19 athletics data concerning financial, program, and facilities  
20 information for review by the State Board of Education  
21 annually.

22 (b) Systematic audits for the evaluation of such data.

23 (c) Criteria for determining and assuring equity.

24 Section 342. Chapter 1007, Florida Statutes, shall be  
25 entitled "Articulation and Access" and shall consist of ss.  
26 1007.01-1007.34.

27 Section 343. Part I of chapter 1007, Florida Statutes,  
28 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of s.  
29 1007.01.

30 Section 344. Section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose;  
2 role of the State Board of Education.--

3           (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to facilitate  
4 articulation and seamless integration of the K-20 education  
5 system by building and sustaining relationships among K-20  
6 public organizations, between public and private  
7 organizations, and between the education system as a whole and  
8 Florida's communities. The purpose of building and sustaining  
9 these relationships is to provide for the efficient and  
10 effective progression and transfer of students within the  
11 education system and to allow students to proceed toward their  
12 educational objectives as rapidly as their circumstances  
13 permit.

14           (2) To improve and facilitate articulation systemwide,  
15 the State Board of Education shall develop policies and  
16 guidelines with input from statewide K-20 advisory groups  
17 established by the Commissioner of Education relating to:

18           (a) The alignment between the exit requirements of one  
19 system and the admissions requirements of another system into  
20 which students typically transfer.

21           (b) The identification of common courses, the level of  
22 courses, institutional participation in a statewide course  
23 numbering system, and the transferability of credits among  
24 such institutions.

25           (c) Identification of courses that meet general  
26 education or common degree program prerequisite requirements  
27 at public postsecondary educational institutions.

28           (d) Dual enrollment course equivalencies.

29           (e) Articulation agreements.

30  
31

1           Section 345. Part II of chapter 1007, Florida  
2 Statutes, shall be entitled "Articulation" and shall consist  
3 of ss. 1007.21-1007.28.

4           Section 346. Section 1007.21, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1007.21 Readiness for postsecondary education and the  
7 workplace.--

8           (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that students  
9 and parents set early achievement and career goals for the  
10 student's post-high school experience. This section sets forth  
11 a model which schools, through their school advisory councils,  
12 may choose to implement to ensure that students are ready for  
13 postsecondary education and the workplace. If such a program  
14 is adopted, students and their parents shall have the option  
15 of participating in this model to plan the student's secondary  
16 level course of study. Parents and students are to become  
17 partners with school personnel in educational choice. Clear  
18 academic course expectations shall be made available to all  
19 students by allowing both student and parent or guardian  
20 choice.

21           (2)(a) Students entering the 9th grade and their  
22 parents shall be active participants in choosing an  
23 end-of-high-school student destination based upon both student  
24 and parent or guardian goals. Four or more destinations should  
25 be available with bridges between destinations to enable  
26 students to shift destinations should they choose to change  
27 goals. The destinations shall accommodate the needs of  
28 students served in exceptional education programs to the  
29 extent appropriate for individual students. Exceptional  
30 education students may continue to follow the courses outlined  
31 in the district school board student progression plan.

1 Participating students and their parents shall choose among  
2 destinations, which must include:

- 3 1. Four-year college or university, community college  
4 plus university, or military academy.
- 5 2. Two-year postsecondary degree.
- 6 3. Postsecondary career and technical certificate.
- 7 4. Immediate employment or entry-level military.

8 (b) The student progression model toward a chosen  
9 destination shall include:

- 10 1. A "path" of core courses leading to each of the  
11 destinations provided in paragraph (a).
- 12 2. A recommended group of electives which shall help  
13 define each path.
- 14 3. Provisions for a teacher, school administrator,  
15 other school staff member, or community volunteer to be  
16 assigned to a student as an "academic advocate" if parental or  
17 guardian involvement is lacking.

18 (c) The common placement test authorized in ss.  
19 1001.03(10) and 1008.30 or a similar test may be administered  
20 to all high school second semester sophomores who have chosen  
21 one of the four destinations. The results of the placement  
22 test shall be used to target additional instructional needs in  
23 reading, writing, and mathematics prior to graduation.

24 (d) Ample opportunity shall be provided for students  
25 to move from one destination to another, and some latitude  
26 shall exist within each destination, to meet the individual  
27 needs of students.

28 (e) Destinations specified in subparagraphs (a)1., 2.,  
29 and 3. shall support the goals of the Tech Prep program.  
30 Students participating in Tech Prep shall be enrolled in  
31 articulated, sequential programs of study that include a

1 technical component and at least a minimum of a postsecondary  
2 certificate or 2-year degree.

3 (f) In order for these destinations to be attainable,  
4 the business community shall be encouraged to support  
5 real-world internships and apprenticeships.

6 (g) All students shall be encouraged to take part in  
7 service learning opportunities.

8 (h) High school equivalency diploma preparation  
9 programs shall not be a choice for high school students  
10 leading to any of the four destinations provided in paragraph  
11 (a) since the appropriate coursework, counseling component,  
12 and career preparation cannot be ensured.

13 (i) Schools shall ensure that students and parents are  
14 made aware of the destinations available and provide the  
15 necessary coursework to assist the student in reaching the  
16 chosen destination. Students and parents shall be made aware  
17 of the student's progress toward the chosen destination.

18 (j) The Department of Education shall offer technical  
19 assistance to school districts to ensure that the destinations  
20 offered also meet the academic standards adopted by the state.

21 (3)(a) Access to Level I courses for graduation credit  
22 and for pursuit of a declared destination shall be limited to  
23 only those students for whom assessment indicates a more  
24 rigorous course of study would be inappropriate.

25 (b) The school principal shall:

26 1. Designate a member of the existing instructional or  
27 administrative staff to serve as a specialist to help  
28 coordinate the use of student achievement strategies to help  
29 students succeed in their coursework. The specialist shall  
30 also assist teachers in integrating the academic and career  
31 and technical curricula, utilizing technology, providing

1 feedback regarding student achievement, and implementing the  
2 Blueprint for Career Preparation and Tech Prep programs.

3 2. Institute strategies to eliminate reading, writing,  
4 and mathematics deficiencies of secondary students.

5 Section 347. Section 1007.22, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1007.22 Articulation; postsecondary institution  
8 coordination and collaboration.--

9 (1) The university boards of trustees, community  
10 college boards of trustees, and district school boards may  
11 establish intrainstitutional and interinstitutional programs  
12 to maximize articulation. Programs may include  
13 upper-division-level courses offered at the community college,  
14 distance learning, transfer agreements that facilitate the  
15 transfer of credits between public and nonpublic postsecondary  
16 institutions, and the concurrent enrollment of students at a  
17 community college and a state university to enable students to  
18 take any level of baccalaureate degree coursework.

19 (2) The levels of postsecondary education shall  
20 collaborate in further developing and providing articulated  
21 programs in which students can proceed toward their  
22 educational objectives as rapidly as their circumstances  
23 permit. Time-shortened educational programs, as well as the  
24 use of acceleration mechanisms, shall include, but not be  
25 limited to, the International Baccalaureate, credit by  
26 examination or demonstration of competency, advanced  
27 placement, early admissions, and dual enrollment.

28 (3) Public postsecondary educational institutions  
29 servicing the same students in a geographic and service area are  
30 encouraged to establish appropriate interinstitutional  
31 mechanisms to achieve cooperative planning and delivery of

1 academic programs and related services, share a high-cost  
2 instructional facility and equipment, coordinate credit and  
3 noncredit outreach activities, have access to each other's  
4 library and media holdings and services, and provide  
5 cooperative campus activities and consultative relationships  
6 for the discussion and resolution of interinstitutional issues  
7 and problems which discourage student access or transfer.

8 (4) Public postsecondary education institutions are  
9 encouraged to include independent colleges and universities  
10 and industries within their service areas in mutual planning  
11 of a comprehensive, complementary, cost-effective array of  
12 undergraduate and beginning graduate programs of study to  
13 serve that geographic area.

14 Section 348. Section 1007.23, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.--

17 (1) The State Board of Education shall establish in  
18 rule a statewide articulation agreement that governs:

19 (a) Articulation between secondary and postsecondary  
20 education;

21 (b) Admission of associate in arts degree graduates  
22 from community colleges and state universities;

23 (c) Admission of applied technology diploma program  
24 graduates from community colleges or technical centers;

25 (d) Admission of associate in science degree and  
26 associate in applied science degree graduates from community  
27 colleges;

28 (e) The use of acceleration mechanisms, including  
29 nationally standardized examinations through which students  
30 may earn credit;

31

1           (f) General education requirements and statewide  
2 course numbers as provided for in ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25; and  
3           (g) Articulation among programs in nursing.  
4           (2) The articulation agreement must specifically  
5 provide that every associate in arts graduate of a community  
6 college shall have met all general education requirements and  
7 must be granted admission to the upper division of a state  
8 university except to a limited access or teacher certification  
9 program or a major program requiring an audition. After  
10 admission has been granted to students under provisions of  
11 this section and to university students who have successfully  
12 completed 60 credit hours of coursework, including 36 hours of  
13 general education, and met the requirements of s. 1008.29,  
14 admission shall be granted to state university and community  
15 college students who have successfully completed 60 credit  
16 hours of work, including 36 hours of general education.  
17 Community college associate in arts graduates shall receive  
18 priority for admission to a state university over out-of-state  
19 students. Orientation programs and student handbooks provided  
20 to freshman enrollees and transfer students at state  
21 universities must include an explanation of this provision of  
22 the articulation agreement.  
23           (3) The articulation agreement must guarantee the  
24 statewide articulation of appropriate workforce development  
25 programs and courses between school districts and community  
26 colleges and specifically provide that every applied  
27 technology diploma graduate must be granted the same amount of  
28 credit upon admission to an associate in science degree or  
29 associate in applied science degree program unless it is a  
30 limited access program. Preference for admission must be given  
31 to graduates who are residents of Florida.

1           (4) The articulation agreement must guarantee the  
2 statewide articulation of appropriate courses within associate  
3 in science degree programs to baccalaureate degree programs.  
4 Courses within an associate in applied science degree program  
5 may articulate into a baccalaureate degree program on an  
6 individual or block basis as authorized in local  
7 interinstitutional articulation agreements.

8           Section 349. Section 1007.235, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10           1007.235 District interinstitutional articulation  
11 agreements.--

12           (1) District school superintendents and community  
13 college presidents shall jointly develop and implement a  
14 comprehensive articulated acceleration program for the  
15 students enrolled in their respective school districts and  
16 service areas. Within this general responsibility, each  
17 superintendent and president shall develop a comprehensive  
18 interinstitutional articulation agreement for the school  
19 district and community college that serves the school  
20 district. The district school superintendent and president  
21 shall establish an articulation committee for the purpose of  
22 developing this agreement. Each state university president is  
23 encouraged to designate a university representative to  
24 participate in the development of the interinstitutional  
25 articulation agreements for each school district within the  
26 university service area.

27           (2) The district interinstitutional articulation  
28 agreement for each school year must be completed before high  
29 school registration for the fall term of the following school  
30 year. The agreement must include, but is not limited to, the  
31 following components:

- 1           (a) A ratification or modification of all existing  
2 articulation agreements.
- 3           (b)1. A delineation of courses and programs available  
4 to students eligible to participate in dual enrollment. This  
5 delineation must include a plan for the community college to  
6 provide guidance services to participating students on the  
7 selection of courses in the dual enrollment program. The  
8 process of community college guidance should make maximum use  
9 of the automated advisement system for community colleges. The  
10 plan must assure that each dual enrollment student is  
11 encouraged to identify a postsecondary education objective  
12 with which to guide the course selection. At a minimum, each  
13 student's plan should include a list of courses that will  
14 result in an Applied Technology Diploma, an Associate in  
15 Science degree, or an Associate in Arts degree. If the student  
16 identifies a baccalaureate degree as the objective, the plan  
17 must include courses that will meet the general education  
18 requirements and any prerequisite requirements for entrance  
19 into a selected baccalaureate degree program.
- 20           2. A delineation of the process by which students and  
21 their parents are informed about opportunities to participate  
22 in articulated acceleration programs.
- 23           3. A delineation of the process by which students and  
24 their parents exercise their option to participate in an  
25 articulated acceleration program.
- 26           4. A delineation of high school credits earned for  
27 completion of each dual enrollment course.
- 28           5. Provision for postsecondary courses that meet the  
29 criteria for inclusion in a district articulated acceleration  
30 program to be counted toward meeting the graduation  
31 requirements of s. 1003.43.

1           6. An identification of eligibility criteria for  
2 student participation in dual enrollment courses and programs.

3           7. A delineation of institutional responsibilities  
4 regarding student screening prior to enrollment and monitoring  
5 student performance subsequent to enrollment in dual  
6 enrollment courses and programs.

7           8. An identification of the criteria by which the  
8 quality of dual enrollment courses and programs are to be  
9 judged and a delineation of institutional responsibilities for  
10 the maintenance of instructional quality.

11           9. A delineation of institutional responsibilities for  
12 assuming the cost of dual enrollment courses and programs that  
13 includes such responsibilities for student instructional  
14 materials.

15           10. An identification of responsibility for providing  
16 student transportation if the dual enrollment instruction is  
17 conducted at a facility other than the high school campus.

18           11. A delineation of the process for converting  
19 college credit hours earned through dual enrollment and early  
20 admission programs to high school credit based on mastery of  
21 course outcomes as determined by the Department of Education  
22 in accordance with s. 1007.271(6).

23           (c) Mechanisms and strategies for reducing the  
24 incidence of postsecondary remediation in math, reading, and  
25 writing for first-time-enrolled recent high school graduates,  
26 based upon the findings in the postsecondary  
27 readiness-for-college report produced pursuant to s. 1008.37.  
28 Each articulation committee shall annually analyze and assess  
29 the effectiveness of the mechanisms toward meeting the goal of  
30 reducing postsecondary remediation needs. Results of the  
31 assessment shall be annually presented to participating

1 district school boards and community college boards of  
2 trustees and shall include, but not be limited to:  
3       1. Mechanisms currently being initiated.  
4       2. An analysis of problems and corrective actions.  
5       3. Anticipated outcomes.  
6       4. Strategies for the better preparation of students  
7 upon graduation from high school.  
8       5. An analysis of costs associated with the  
9 implementation of postsecondary remedial education and  
10 secondary-level corrective actions.  
11       6. The identification of strategies for reducing costs  
12 of the delivery of postsecondary remediation for recent high  
13 school graduates, including the consideration and assessment  
14 of alternative instructional methods and services such as  
15 those produced by private providers.  
16  
17 Wherever possible, public schools and community colleges are  
18 encouraged to share resources, form partnerships with private  
19 industries, and implement innovative strategies and mechanisms  
20 such as distance learning, summer student and faculty  
21 workshops, parental involvement activities, and the  
22 distribution of information over the Internet.  
23       (d) Mechanisms and strategies for promoting "tech  
24 prep" programs of study. Such mechanisms should raise  
25 awareness about the programs, promote enrollment in the  
26 programs, and articulate students from a secondary portion  
27 into a planned, related postsecondary portion of a sequential  
28 program of study that leads to a terminal postsecondary career  
29 or technical education degree or certificate.  
30       (3) The district interinstitutional articulation  
31 agreement shall include a plan that outlines the mechanisms

1 and strategies for improving the preparation of elementary,  
2 middle, and high school teachers. Effective collaboration  
3 among school districts, postsecondary institutions, and  
4 practicing educators is essential to improving teaching in  
5 Florida's elementary and secondary schools and consequently,  
6 the retention and success of students through high school  
7 graduation and into postsecondary education. Professional  
8 development programs shall be developed cooperatively and  
9 include curricular content which focuses upon local and state  
10 needs and responds to state, national, and district policy and  
11 program priorities. School districts and community colleges  
12 are encouraged to develop plans which utilize new  
13 technologies, address critical needs in their implementation,  
14 and include both preservice and inservice initiatives.

15 (4) The district school superintendent is responsible  
16 for incorporating, either directly or by reference, all dual  
17 enrollment courses contained within the district  
18 interinstitutional articulation agreement within the district  
19 school board's student progression plan.

20 (5) The Department of Education shall review each  
21 articulation agreement and certify the statewide course number  
22 of postsecondary courses that meet each district's graduation  
23 requirements.

24 (6) District school boards and community colleges may  
25 enter into additional interinstitutional articulation  
26 agreements with state universities for the purposes of this  
27 section. School districts may also enter into  
28 interinstitutional articulation agreements with eligible  
29 independent colleges and universities pursuant to s.  
30 1011.62(1)(i).

31

1           (7) State universities and community colleges may  
2 enter into interinstitutional articulation agreements with  
3 nonpublic secondary schools pursuant to s. 1007.271(2).

4           Section 350. Section 1007.24, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1007.24 Statewide course numbering system.--

7           (1) The Department of Education shall develop,  
8 coordinate, and maintain a statewide course numbering system  
9 for postsecondary and dual enrollment education in school  
10 districts, public postsecondary educational institutions, and  
11 participating nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions  
12 that will improve program planning, increase communication  
13 among all delivery systems, and facilitate student  
14 acceleration and the transfer of students and credits between  
15 public school districts, public postsecondary educational  
16 institutions, and participating nonpublic educational  
17 institutions. The continuing maintenance of the system shall  
18 be accomplished with the assistance of appropriate faculty  
19 committees representing public and participating nonpublic  
20 educational institutions.

21           (2) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint  
22 faculty committees representing faculties of participating  
23 institutions to recommend a single level for each course,  
24 including postsecondary career and technical education  
25 courses, included in the statewide course numbering system.

26           (a) Any course designated as an upper-division-level  
27 course must be characterized by a need for advanced academic  
28 preparation and skills that a student would be unlikely to  
29 achieve without significant prior coursework.

30           (b) A course that is offered as part of an associate  
31 in science degree program and as an upper-division course for

1 a baccalaureate degree shall be designated for both the lower  
2 and upper division.

3 (c) A course designated as lower-division may be  
4 offered by any community college.

5 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall recommend to  
6 the State Board of Education the levels for the courses.

7 (4) The statewide course numbering system shall  
8 include the courses at the recommended levels.

9 (5) The registration process at each state university  
10 and community college shall include the courses at their  
11 designated levels and statewide course number.

12 (6) Nonpublic colleges and schools that are fully  
13 accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency  
14 recognized by the United States Department of Education and  
15 are either eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV,  
16 Florida Resident Access Grant or have been issued a regular  
17 license pursuant to s. 1005.31, may participate in the  
18 statewide course numbering system pursuant to s. 1007.24.  
19 Participating colleges and schools shall bear the costs  
20 associated with inclusion in the system and shall meet the  
21 terms and conditions for institutional participation in the  
22 system. The department shall adopt a fee schedule that  
23 includes the expenses incurred through data processing,  
24 faculty task force travel and per diem, and staff and clerical  
25 support time. Such fee schedule may differentiate between the  
26 costs associated with initial course inclusion in the system  
27 and costs associated with subsequent course maintenance in the  
28 system. Decisions regarding initial course inclusion and  
29 subsequent course maintenance must be made within 360 days  
30 after submission of the required materials and fees by the  
31 institution. The Department of Education may select a date by

1 which colleges must submit requests for new courses to be  
2 included, and may delay review of courses submitted after that  
3 date until the next year's cycle. Any college that currently  
4 participates in the system, and that participated in the  
5 system prior to July 1, 1986, shall not be required to pay the  
6 costs associated with initial course inclusion in the system.  
7 Fees collected for participation in the statewide course  
8 numbering system pursuant to the provisions of this section  
9 shall be deposited in the Institutional Assessment Trust Fund.  
10 Any nonpublic, nonprofit college or university that is  
11 eligible to participate in the statewide course numbering  
12 system shall not be required to pay the costs associated with  
13 participation in the system. No college or school shall  
14 record student transcripts or document courses offered by the  
15 college or school in accordance with this subsection unless  
16 the college or school is actually participating in the system  
17 pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education. Any  
18 college or school deemed to be in violation of this section  
19 shall be subject to the provisions of s. 1005.38.

20 (7) Any student who transfers among postsecondary  
21 institutions that are fully accredited by a regional or  
22 national accrediting agency recognized by the United States  
23 Department of Education and that participate in the statewide  
24 course numbering system shall be awarded credit by the  
25 receiving institution for courses satisfactorily completed by  
26 the student at the previous institutions. Credit shall be  
27 awarded if the courses are judged by the appropriate statewide  
28 course numbering system faculty committees representing school  
29 districts, public postsecondary educational institutions, and  
30 participating nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions  
31 to be academically equivalent to courses offered at the

1 receiving institution, including equivalency of faculty  
2 credentials, regardless of the public or nonpublic control of  
3 the previous institution. The Department of Education shall  
4 ensure that credits to be accepted by a receiving institution  
5 are generated in courses for which the faculty possess  
6 credentials that are comparable to those required by the  
7 accrediting association of the receiving institution. The  
8 award of credit may be limited to courses that are entered in  
9 the statewide course numbering system. Credits awarded  
10 pursuant to this subsection shall satisfy institutional  
11 requirements on the same basis as credits awarded to native  
12 students.

13 (8) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
14 that provide for the conduct of regularly scheduled purges of  
15 courses that are listed in the statewide course numbering  
16 system but have not been taught at an institution for the  
17 preceding 5 years. These rules must include waiver provisions  
18 that allow course continuation if an institution has  
19 reasonable cause for having not offered a course within the  
20 5-year limit and an expectation that the course will be  
21 offered again within the following 5 years.

22 Section 351. Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1007.25 General education courses; common  
25 prerequisites; and other degree requirements.--

26 (1) The department shall identify the degree programs  
27 offered by public postsecondary educational institutions.

28 (2) The department shall identify postsecondary career  
29 and technical education programs offered by community colleges  
30 and district school boards. The department shall also identify  
31 career and technical courses designated as college credit

1 courses applicable toward a career and technical education  
2 diploma or degree. Such courses must be identified within the  
3 statewide course numbering system.

4 (3) The department shall identify those courses that  
5 meet general education requirements within the subject areas  
6 of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities,  
7 and natural sciences. The courses shall be identified by their  
8 statewide course code number. All public postsecondary  
9 educational institutions shall accept these general education  
10 courses.

11 (4) The department shall identify those courses  
12 offered by universities and accepted for credit toward a  
13 degree. The department shall identify courses designated as  
14 either general education or required as a prerequisite for a  
15 degree. The courses shall be identified by their statewide  
16 course number.

17 (5) The department shall identify common prerequisite  
18 courses and course substitutions for degree programs across  
19 all institutions. Common degree program prerequisites shall be  
20 offered and accepted by all state universities and community  
21 colleges, except in cases approved by the State Board of  
22 Education pursuant to s. 1001.02(2)(x). The department shall  
23 develop a centralized database containing the list of courses  
24 and course substitutions that meet the prerequisite  
25 requirements for each baccalaureate degree program.

26 (6) The boards of trustees of the community colleges  
27 and state universities shall identify their core curricula,  
28 which shall include courses required by the State Board of  
29 Education. The universities and community colleges shall work  
30 with their school districts to assure that high school  
31 curricula coordinate with the core curricula and to prepare

1 students for college-level work. Core curricula for associate  
2 in arts programs shall be adopted in rule by the State Board  
3 of Education and shall include 36 semester hours of general  
4 education courses in the subject areas of communication,  
5 mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural  
6 sciences.

7 (7) An associate in arts degree shall require no more  
8 than 60 semester hours of college credit, including 36  
9 semester hours of general education coursework. Except for  
10 college-preparatory coursework required pursuant to s.  
11 1008.30, all required coursework shall count toward the  
12 associate in arts degree or the baccalaureate degree.

13 (8) A baccalaureate degree program shall require no  
14 more than 120 semester hours of college credit, including 36  
15 semester hours of general education coursework, unless prior  
16 approval has been granted by the State Board of Education.

17 (9) A student who received an associate in arts degree  
18 for successfully completing 60 semester credit hours may  
19 continue to earn additional credits at a community college.  
20 The university must provide credit toward the student's  
21 baccalaureate degree for an additional community college  
22 course if, according to the statewide course numbering, the  
23 community college course is a course listed in the university  
24 catalog as required for the degree or as prerequisite to a  
25 course required for the degree. Of the courses required for  
26 the degree, at least half of the credit hours required for the  
27 degree shall be achievable through courses designated as lower  
28 division, except in degree programs approved by the State  
29 Board of Education.

30 (10) Students at state universities may request  
31 associate in arts certificates if they have successfully

1 completed the minimum requirements for the degree of associate  
2 in arts (A.A.). The university must grant the student an  
3 associate in arts degree if the student has successfully  
4 completed minimum requirements for college-level communication  
5 and computation skills adopted by the State Board of Education  
6 and 60 academic semester hours or the equivalent within a  
7 degree program area, with 36 semester hours in general  
8 education courses in the subject areas of communication,  
9 mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural  
10 sciences, consistent with the general education requirements  
11 specified in the articulation agreement pursuant to s.  
12 1007.23.

13 (11) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint  
14 faculty committees representing both community college and  
15 public school faculties to recommend to the commissioner for  
16 approval by the State Board of Education a standard program  
17 length and appropriate occupational completion points for each  
18 postsecondary career and technical certificate program,  
19 diploma, and degree.

20 Section 352. Section 1007.261, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22 1007.261 State universities; admissions of  
23 students.--Each university board of trustees is authorized to  
24 adopt rules governing the admission of students, subject to  
25 this section and rules of the State Board of Education.

26 (1) Minimum academic standards for undergraduate  
27 admission to a university include:

28 (a) Each student must have received a high school  
29 diploma pursuant to s. 1003.43, or its equivalent, except as  
30 provided in s. 1007.271(2)-(5) or completed a home education  
31 program according to s. 1002.41.

1           **(b) Each student must have successfully completed a**  
2 **college-preparatory curriculum of 19 credits, as defined in**  
3 **rules of the State Board of Education, including at least 2**  
4 **credits of sequential foreign language at the secondary level**  
5 **or the equivalent of such instruction at the postsecondary**  
6 **level. A student who completes a home education program**  
7 **according to s. 1002.41 is not required to document completion**  
8 **of the 19 credits required by this paragraph. A student whose**  
9 **native language is not English is exempt from the foreign**  
10 **language requirement, provided that the student demonstrates**  
11 **proficiency in the native language. If a standardized test is**  
12 **not available in the student's native language for the**  
13 **demonstration of proficiency, the university may provide an**  
14 **alternative method of assessment. The State Board of Education**  
15 **shall adopt rules for the articulation of foreign language**  
16 **competency and equivalency between secondary and postsecondary**  
17 **institutions. A student who received an associate in arts**  
18 **degree prior to September 1, 1989, or who enrolled in a**  
19 **program of studies leading to an associate degree from a**  
20 **community college prior to August 1, 1989, and maintains**  
21 **continuous enrollment shall be exempt from this admissions**  
22 **requirement.**

23           **(c) Each student must have submitted a test score from**  
24 **the Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance**  
25 **Examination Board or the American College Testing Program.**

26           **(2) The minimum admission standards adopted by the**  
27 **State Board of Education or a university board of trustees**  
28 **must permit a student to earn at least 4 of the 19 credits**  
29 **constituting the college-preparatory curriculum required for**  
30 **admission as electives in any one of the following manners:**  
31

1           (a) Successful completion of any course identified in  
2 the Department of Education course code directory as level two  
3 or higher in one or more of the following subject areas:  
4 English, mathematics, natural science, social science, and  
5 foreign language;

6           (b) Successful completion of any course identified in  
7 the Department of Education course code directory as level  
8 three in the same or related disciplines;

9           (c) Any combination of the courses identified in  
10 paragraphs (a) and (b); or

11           (d) Successful completion of two credits from the  
12 courses identified in paragraph (a), plus no more than two  
13 total credits from the following categories of courses:

14           1. Courses identified in the Department of Education  
15 course code directory as ROTC and military training;

16           2. Courses identified in the Department of Education  
17 course code directory as level two in art-visual arts, dance,  
18 drama-theatre arts, language arts, or music; or

19           3. Any additional courses determined to be equivalent  
20 by the Department of Education.

21           (3) Each university may admit a limited number of  
22 students notwithstanding the admission requirements of  
23 paragraph (1)(b) relating to credits in foreign language, if  
24 there is evidence that the applicant is expected to do  
25 successful academic work at the admitting university. The  
26 percent of applicants admitted under this subsection may not  
27 exceed a level established for the university by the State  
28 Board of Education. Any lower-division student admitted  
29 without meeting the foreign language requirement must earn  
30 such credits prior to admission to the upper division of a  
31 state university. Any associate in arts degree graduate from a

1 community college or university in Florida, or other  
2 upper-division transfer student, admitted without meeting the  
3 foreign language requirement, must earn such credits prior to  
4 graduation from a state university. Students shall be exempt  
5 from the provisions of this subsection if they can demonstrate  
6 proficiency in American sign language equivalent to that of  
7 students who have completed two credits of such instruction in  
8 high school.

9       (4) Nonresident students may be admitted to the  
10 university upon such terms as the university may establish.  
11 However, such terms shall include, but shall not be limited  
12 to: completion of a secondary school curriculum which  
13 includes 4 years of English; 3 years each of mathematics,  
14 science, and social sciences; and 2 years of a foreign  
15 language.

16       (5) Within the admission standards provided for in  
17 subsection (1), the State Board of Education shall develop  
18 procedures for weighting courses which are necessary to meet  
19 the requirements of a college-preparatory curriculum at a  
20 higher value than less rigorous courses. Credits received in  
21 such courses shall be given greater value in determining  
22 admission by universities than cumulative grade point averages  
23 in high school.

24       (6) Consideration shall be given to the past actions  
25 of any person applying for admission as a student to any state  
26 university, either as a new applicant, an applicant for  
27 continuation of studies, or a transfer student, when such  
28 actions have been found to disrupt or interfere with the  
29 orderly conduct, processes, functions, or programs of any  
30 other university, college, or community college.

31

1       (7) In any application for admission by a student as a  
2 citizen of the state, the applicant, if 18 years of age, or,  
3 if a minor, his or her parents or guardian shall make and file  
4 with such application a written statement under oath that such  
5 applicant is a citizen and resident of the state and entitled,  
6 as such, to admission upon the terms and conditions prescribed  
7 for citizens and residents of the state.

8       (8) Rules of the State Board of Education shall  
9 require the use of scores on tests of college-level  
10 communication and computation skills provided in s. 1008.29 as  
11 a condition for admission of students to upper-division  
12 instructional programs from community colleges, including  
13 those who have been awarded associate in arts degrees. Use of  
14 such test scores as an admission requirement shall extend  
15 equally and uniformly to students enrolled in lower divisions  
16 in a state university and to transfer students from other  
17 colleges and universities. The tests shall be required for  
18 community college students seeking associate in arts degrees  
19 and students seeking admission to upper-division instructional  
20 programs in a state university. The use of test scores prior  
21 to August 1, 1984, shall be limited to student counseling and  
22 curriculum improvement.

23       (9) For the purposes of this section, American sign  
24 language constitutes a foreign language. Florida high schools  
25 may offer American sign language as a for-credit elective or  
26 as a substitute for any already authorized foreign language  
27 requirement.

28       (10) A Florida resident who is denied admission as an  
29 undergraduate to a state university for failure to meet the  
30 high school grade point average requirement may appeal the  
31 decision to the university and request a recalculation of the

1 grade point average including in the revised calculation the  
2 grades earned in up to three credits of advanced fine arts  
3 courses. The university shall provide the student with a  
4 description of the appeals process at the same time as  
5 notification of the admissions decision. The university shall  
6 recalculate the student's grade point average using the  
7 additional courses and advise the student of any changes in  
8 the student's admission status. For purposes of this section,  
9 fine arts courses include courses in music, drama, painting,  
10 sculpture, speech, debate, or a course in any art form that  
11 requires manual dexterity. Advanced level fine arts courses  
12 include fine arts courses identified in the course code  
13 directory as Advanced Placement, pre-International  
14 Baccalaureate, or International Baccalaureate, or fine arts  
15 courses taken in the third or fourth year of a fine arts  
16 curriculum.

17 Section 353. Section 1007.262, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1007.262 Foreign language competence; equivalence  
20 determinations.--The Department of Education shall identify  
21 the competencies demonstrated by students upon the successful  
22 completion of 2 credits of sequential high school foreign  
23 language instruction. For the purpose of determining  
24 postsecondary equivalence pursuant to s. 1007.261(1)(b), the  
25 department shall develop rules through which community  
26 colleges correlate such competencies to the competencies  
27 required of students in the colleges' respective courses.  
28 Based on this correlation, each community college shall  
29 identify the minimum number of postsecondary credits that  
30 students must earn in order to demonstrate a level of  
31 competence in a foreign language at least equivalent to that

1 of students who have completed 2 credits of such instruction  
2 in high school. The department may also specify alternative  
3 means by which students can demonstrate equivalent foreign  
4 language competence, including means by which a student whose  
5 native language is not English may demonstrate proficiency in  
6 the native language. A student who demonstrates proficiency in  
7 a native language other than English is exempt from the  
8 requirement of completing foreign language courses at the  
9 secondary or postsecondary level.

10 Section 354. Section 1007.263, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1007.263 Community colleges; admissions of  
13 students.--Each community college board of trustees is  
14 authorized to adopt rules governing admissions of students  
15 subject to this section and rules of the State Board of  
16 Education. These rules shall include the following:

17 (1) Admissions counseling shall be provided to all  
18 students entering college credit programs, which counseling  
19 shall utilize tests to measure achievement of college-level  
20 communication and computation competencies by all students  
21 entering college credit programs.

22 (2) Admission to associate degree programs is subject  
23 to minimum standards adopted by the State Board of Education  
24 and shall require:

25 (a) A standard high school diploma, a high school  
26 equivalency diploma as prescribed in s. 1003.435, previously  
27 demonstrated competency in college credit postsecondary  
28 coursework, or, in the case of a student who is home educated,  
29 a signed affidavit submitted by the student's parent or legal  
30 guardian attesting that the student has completed a home  
31 education program pursuant to the requirements of s. 1002.41.

1 Students who are enrolled in a dual enrollment or early  
2 admission program pursuant to ss. 1007.27 and 1007.271 and  
3 secondary students enrolled in college-level instruction  
4 creditable toward the associate degree, but not toward the  
5 high school diploma, shall be exempt from this requirement.

6 (b) A demonstrated level of achievement of  
7 college-level communication and computation skills.

8 (c) Any other requirements established by the board of  
9 trustees.

10 (3) Admission to other programs within the community  
11 college shall include education requirements as established by  
12 the board of trustees.

13  
14 Each board of trustees shall establish policies that notify  
15 students about, and place students into, adult basic  
16 education, adult secondary education, or other instructional  
17 programs that provide students with alternatives to  
18 traditional college-preparatory instruction, including private  
19 provider instruction. A student is prohibited from enrolling  
20 in additional college-level courses until the student scores  
21 above the cut-score on all sections of the common placement  
22 test.

23 Section 355. Section 1007.264, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25 1007.264 Impaired and learning disabled persons;  
26 admission and graduation, substitute requirements; rules.--Any  
27 person who is hearing impaired, visually impaired, or  
28 dyslexic, or who has a specific learning disability, shall be  
29 eligible for reasonable substitution for any requirement for  
30 admission into a public postsecondary educational institution,  
31 admission into a program of study, or graduation, where

1 documentation can be provided that the person's failure to  
2 meet the requirement is related to the disability and where  
3 the failure to meet the graduation requirement or program  
4 admission requirement does not constitute a fundamental  
5 alteration in the nature of the program. The State Board of  
6 Education shall adopt rules to implement this section and  
7 shall develop substitute requirements where appropriate.

8 Section 356. Section 1007.27, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1007.27 Articulated acceleration mechanisms.--

11 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that a variety  
12 of articulated acceleration mechanisms be available for  
13 secondary and postsecondary students attending public  
14 educational institutions. It is intended that articulated  
15 acceleration serve to shorten the time necessary for a student  
16 to complete the requirements associated with the conference of  
17 a high school diploma and a postsecondary degree, broaden the  
18 scope of curricular options available to students, or increase  
19 the depth of study available for a particular subject.  
20 Articulated acceleration mechanisms shall include, but not be  
21 limited to, dual enrollment as provided for in s. 1007.271,  
22 early admission, advanced placement, credit by examination,  
23 the International Baccalaureate Program, and the Advanced  
24 International Certificate of Education Program. Credit earned  
25 through the Florida Virtual School shall provide additional  
26 opportunities for early graduation and acceleration.

27 (2) The Department of Education shall identify the  
28 minimum scores, maximum credit, and course or courses for  
29 which credit is to be awarded for each College Level  
30 Examination Program (CLEP) general examination, CLEP subject  
31 examination, College Board Advanced Placement Program

1 examination, and International Baccalaureate examination. In  
2 addition, the department shall identify such courses in the  
3 general education core curriculum of each state university and  
4 community college.

5 (3) Each community college and state university must  
6 award credit for specific courses for which competency has  
7 been demonstrated by successful passage of one of the  
8 examinations in subsection (2) unless the award of credit  
9 duplicates credit already awarded. Community colleges and  
10 state universities may not exempt students from courses  
11 without the award of credit if competencies have been so  
12 demonstrated.

13 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide  
14 articulated acceleration mechanisms for students who are in  
15 home education programs, as defined in s. 1003.01(11),  
16 consistent with the educational opportunities available to  
17 public and private secondary school students. Home education  
18 students may participate in dual enrollment, career and  
19 technical dual enrollment, early admission, and credit by  
20 examination. Credit earned by home education students through  
21 dual enrollment shall apply toward the completion of a home  
22 education program that meets the requirements of s. 1002.41.

23 (5) Early admission shall be a form of dual enrollment  
24 through which eligible secondary students enroll in a  
25 postsecondary institution on a full-time basis in courses that  
26 are creditable toward the high school diploma and the  
27 associate or baccalaureate degree. Students enrolled pursuant  
28 to this subsection shall be exempt from the payment of  
29 registration, tuition, and laboratory fees.

30 (6) Advanced placement shall be the enrollment of an  
31 eligible secondary student in a course offered through the

1 Advanced Placement Program administered by the College Board.  
2 Postsecondary credit for an advanced placement course shall be  
3 limited to students who score a minimum of 3, on a 5-point  
4 scale, on the corresponding Advanced Placement Examination.  
5 The specific courses for which students receive such credit  
6 shall be determined by the department. Students of Florida  
7 public secondary schools enrolled pursuant to this subsection  
8 shall be exempt from the payment of any fees for  
9 administration of the examination regardless of whether or not  
10 the student achieves a passing score on the examination.

11 (7) Credit by examination shall be the program through  
12 which secondary and postsecondary students generate  
13 postsecondary credit based on the receipt of a specified  
14 minimum score on nationally standardized general or  
15 subject-area examinations. For the purpose of statewide  
16 application, such examinations and the corresponding minimum  
17 scores required for an award of credit shall be delineated by  
18 the State Board of Education in the statewide articulation  
19 agreement. The maximum credit generated by a student pursuant  
20 to this subsection shall be mitigated by any related  
21 postsecondary credit earned by the student prior to the  
22 administration of the examination. This subsection shall not  
23 preclude community colleges and universities from awarding  
24 credit by examination based on student performance on  
25 examinations developed within and recognized by the individual  
26 postsecondary institutions.

27 (8) The International Baccalaureate Program shall be  
28 the curriculum in which eligible secondary students are  
29 enrolled in a program of studies offered through the  
30 International Baccalaureate Program administered by the  
31 International Baccalaureate Office. The State Board of

1 Education shall establish rules which specify the cutoff  
2 scores and International Baccalaureate Examinations which will  
3 be used to grant postsecondary credit at community colleges  
4 and universities. Any such rules, which have the effect of  
5 raising the required cutoff score or of changing the  
6 International Baccalaureate Examinations which will be used to  
7 grant postsecondary credit, shall only apply to students  
8 taking International Baccalaureate Examinations after such  
9 rules are adopted by the State Board of Education. Students  
10 shall be awarded a maximum of 30 semester credit hours  
11 pursuant to this subsection. The specific course for which a  
12 student receives such credit shall be determined by the  
13 department. Students enrolled pursuant to this subsection  
14 shall be exempt from the payment of any fees for  
15 administration of the examinations regardless of whether or  
16 not the student achieves a passing score on the examination.

17       (9) The Advanced International Certificate of  
18 Education Program shall be the curriculum in which eligible  
19 secondary students are enrolled in a program of studies  
20 offered through the Advanced International Certificate of  
21 Education Program administered by the University of Cambridge  
22 Local Examinations Syndicate. The State Board of Education  
23 shall establish rules which specify the cutoff scores and  
24 Advanced International Certificate of Education examinations  
25 which will be used to grant postsecondary credit at community  
26 colleges and universities. Any such rules, which have the  
27 effect of raising the required cutoff score or of changing the  
28 Advanced International Certification of Education examinations  
29 which will be used to grant postsecondary credit, shall apply  
30 to students taking Advanced International Certificate of  
31 Education Examinations after such rules are adopted by the

1 State Board of Education. Students shall be awarded a maximum  
 2 of 30 semester credit hours pursuant to this subsection. The  
 3 specific course for which a student receives such credit shall  
 4 be determined by the community college or university that  
 5 accepts the student for admission. Students enrolled pursuant  
 6 to this subsection shall be exempt from the payment of any  
 7 fees for administration of the examinations regardless of  
 8 whether or not the student achieves a passing score on the  
 9 examination.

10 (10) Any student who earns 9 or more credits from one  
 11 or more of the acceleration mechanisms provided for in this  
 12 section is exempt from any requirement of a public  
 13 postsecondary educational institution mandating enrollment  
 14 during a summer term.

15 Section 357. Section 1007.271, Florida Statutes, is  
 16 created to read:

17 1007.271 Dual enrollment programs.--

18 (1) The dual enrollment program is the enrollment of  
 19 an eligible secondary student or home education student in a  
 20 postsecondary course creditable toward a career and technical  
 21 certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

22 (2) For the purpose of this section, an eligible  
 23 secondary student is a student who is enrolled in a Florida  
 24 public secondary school or in a Florida private secondary  
 25 school which is in compliance with s. 1002.42(2) and conducts  
 26 a secondary curriculum pursuant to s. 1003.43. Students  
 27 enrolled in postsecondary instruction that is not creditable  
 28 toward the high school diploma shall not be classified as dual  
 29 enrollments. Students who are eligible for dual enrollment  
 30 pursuant to this section shall be permitted to enroll in dual  
 31 enrollment courses conducted during school hours, after school

1 hours, and during the summer term. Instructional time for such  
2 enrollment may exceed 900 hours; however, the school district  
3 may only report the student for a maximum of 1.0 FTE, as  
4 provided in s. 1011.61(4). Any student so enrolled is exempt  
5 from the payment of registration, tuition, and laboratory  
6 fees. Vocational-preparatory instruction, college-preparatory  
7 instruction and other forms of precollegiate instruction, as  
8 well as physical education courses that focus on the physical  
9 execution of a skill rather than the intellectual attributes  
10 of the activity, are ineligible for inclusion in the dual  
11 enrollment program. Recreation and leisure studies courses  
12 shall be evaluated individually in the same manner as physical  
13 education courses for potential inclusion in the program.

14 (3) The Department of Education shall adopt guidelines  
15 designed to achieve comparability across school districts of  
16 both student qualifications and teacher qualifications for  
17 dual enrollment courses. Student qualifications must  
18 demonstrate readiness for college-level coursework if the  
19 student is to be enrolled in college courses. Student  
20 qualifications must demonstrate readiness for career and  
21 technical-level coursework if the student is to be enrolled in  
22 career and technical courses. In addition to the common  
23 placement examination, student qualifications for enrollment  
24 in college credit dual enrollment courses must include a 3.0  
25 unweighted grade point average, and student qualifications for  
26 enrollment in career and technical certificate dual enrollment  
27 courses must include a 2.0 unweighted grade point average.  
28 Exceptions to the required grade point averages may be granted  
29 if the educational entities agree and the terms of the  
30 agreement are contained within the dual enrollment  
31 interinstitutional articulation agreement. Community college

1 boards of trustees may establish additional admissions  
2 criteria, which shall be included in the district  
3 interinstitutional articulation agreement developed according  
4 to s. 1007.235, to ensure student readiness for postsecondary  
5 instruction. Additional requirements included in the agreement  
6 shall not arbitrarily prohibit students who have demonstrated  
7 the ability to master advanced courses from participating in  
8 dual enrollment courses. District school boards may not refuse  
9 to enter into an agreement with a local community college if  
10 that community college has the capacity to offer dual  
11 enrollment courses.

12 (4) Career and technical dual enrollment shall be  
13 provided as a curricular option for secondary students to  
14 pursue in order to earn a series of elective credits toward  
15 the high school diploma. However, career and technical dual  
16 enrollment shall not supplant student acquisition of the  
17 diploma. Career and technical dual enrollment shall be  
18 available for secondary students seeking a degree or  
19 certificate from a complete job-preparatory program, but shall  
20 not sustain student enrollment in isolated career and  
21 technical courses. It is the intent of the Legislature that  
22 career and technical dual enrollment reflect the interests and  
23 aptitudes of the student. The provision of a comprehensive  
24 academic and career and technical dual enrollment program  
25 within the area technical center or community college is  
26 supportive of legislative intent; however, such provision is  
27 not mandatory.

28 (5) Each district school board shall inform all  
29 secondary students of dual enrollment as an educational option  
30 and mechanism for acceleration. Students shall be informed of  
31 eligibility criteria, the option for taking dual enrollment

1 courses beyond the regular school year, and the 24 minimum  
2 academic credits required for graduation. District school  
3 boards shall annually assess the demand for dual enrollment  
4 and other advanced courses, and the district school board  
5 shall consider strategies and programs to meet that demand.

6 (6) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint  
7 faculty committees representing public school, community  
8 college, and university faculties to identify postsecondary  
9 courses that meet the high school graduation requirements of  
10 s. 1003.43, and to establish the number of postsecondary  
11 semester credit hours of instruction and equivalent high  
12 school credits earned through dual enrollment pursuant to s.  
13 1007.271 that are necessary to meet high school graduation  
14 requirements. Such equivalencies shall be determined solely on  
15 comparable course content and not on seat time traditionally  
16 allocated to such courses in high school. The Commissioner of  
17 Education shall recommend to the State Board of Education  
18 those courses identified to meet high school graduation  
19 requirements, based on mastery of course outcomes, by their  
20 statewide course number, and all high schools shall accept  
21 these postsecondary education courses toward meeting the  
22 requirements of s. 1003.43.

23 (7) Early admission shall be a form of dual enrollment  
24 through which eligible secondary students enroll in a  
25 postsecondary institution on a full-time basis in courses that  
26 are creditable toward the high school diploma and the  
27 associate or baccalaureate degree. Students enrolled pursuant  
28 to this subsection shall be exempt from the payment of  
29 registration, tuition, and laboratory fees.

30 (8) Career and technical early admission is a form of  
31 career and technical dual enrollment through which eligible

1 secondary students enroll full time in an area technical  
2 center or a community college in courses that are creditable  
3 toward the high school diploma and the certificate or  
4 associate degree. Participation in the career and technical  
5 early admission program shall be limited to students who have  
6 completed a minimum of 6 semesters of full-time secondary  
7 enrollment, including studies undertaken in the ninth grade.  
8 Students enrolled pursuant to this section are exempt from the  
9 payment of registration, tuition, and laboratory fees.

10 (9) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for  
11 any dual enrollment programs involving requirements for high  
12 school graduation.

13 (10)(a) The dual enrollment program for home education  
14 students consists of the enrollment of an eligible home  
15 education secondary student in a postsecondary course  
16 creditable toward an associate degree, a career or technical  
17 certificate, or a baccalaureate degree. To participate in the  
18 dual enrollment program, an eligible home education secondary  
19 student must:

20 1. Provide proof of enrollment in a home education  
21 program pursuant to s. 1002.41.

22 2. Be responsible for his or her own instructional  
23 materials and transportation unless provided for otherwise.

24 (b) Each technical center, community college, and  
25 state university shall:

26 1. Delineate courses and programs for dually enrolled  
27 home education students. Courses and programs may be added,  
28 revised, or deleted at any time.

29 2. Identify eligibility criteria for home education  
30 student participation, not to exceed those required of other  
31 dually enrolled students.

1       (11) The Department of Education shall approve any  
2 course for inclusion in the dual enrollment program that is  
3 contained within the statewide course numbering system.  
4 However, college-preparatory and other forms of precollegiate  
5 instruction, and physical education and other courses that  
6 focus on the physical execution of a skill rather than the  
7 intellectual attributes of the activity, may not be so  
8 approved, but must be evaluated individually for potential  
9 inclusion in the dual enrollment program.

10       (12) The Department of Education shall develop a  
11 statement on transfer guarantees which will inform students,  
12 prior to enrollment in a dual enrollment course, of the  
13 potential for the dual enrollment course to articulate as an  
14 elective or a general education course into a postsecondary  
15 education certificate or degree program. The statement shall  
16 be provided to each district school superintendent, who shall  
17 include the statement in the information provided to all  
18 secondary students as required pursuant to this subsection.  
19 The statement may also include additional information,  
20 including, but not limited to, dual enrollment options,  
21 guarantees, privileges, and responsibilities.

22       (13) It is the intent of the Legislature that students  
23 who meet the eligibility requirements of this subsection and  
24 who choose to participate in dual enrollment programs be  
25 exempt from the payment of registration, tuition, and  
26 laboratory fees.

27       (14) Instructional materials assigned for use within  
28 dual enrollment courses shall be made available to dual  
29 enrollment students from Florida public high schools free of  
30 charge. This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit a  
31 community college from providing instructional materials at no

1 cost to a home education student or student from a private  
2 school. Students enrolled in postsecondary instruction not  
3 creditable toward a high school diploma shall not be  
4 considered dual enrollments and shall be required to assume  
5 the cost of instructional materials necessary for such  
6 instruction.

7 (15) Instructional materials purchased by a district  
8 school board or community college board of trustees on behalf  
9 of dual enrollment students shall be the property of the board  
10 against which the purchase is charged.

11 (16) School districts and community colleges must  
12 weigh college-level dual enrollment courses the same as honors  
13 courses and advanced placement courses when grade point  
14 averages are calculated. Alternative grade calculation or  
15 weighting systems that discriminate against dual enrollment  
16 courses are prohibited.

17 (17) The Commissioner of Education may approve dual  
18 enrollment agreements for limited course offerings that have  
19 statewide appeal. Such programs shall be limited to a single  
20 site with multiple county participation.

21 Section 358. Section 1007.272, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23 1007.272 Joint dual enrollment and advanced placement  
24 instruction.--

25 (1) Each school district, community college, and state  
26 university may conduct advanced placement instruction within  
27 dual enrollment courses. Each joint dual enrollment and  
28 advanced placement course shall be incorporated within and  
29 subject to the provisions of the district interinstitutional  
30 articulation agreement pursuant to s. 1007.235. Such agreement  
31 shall certify that each joint dual enrollment and advanced

1 placement course integrates, at a minimum, the course  
2 structure recommended by the College Board and the structure  
3 that corresponds to the common course number.

4 (2) Each student enrolled in a joint dual enrollment  
5 and advanced placement course may be funded pursuant to either  
6 the dual enrollment or advanced placement formula specified in  
7 s. 1011.62; however, no student shall be funded through both  
8 programs for enrollment in a course provided through this  
9 section. The district school board reporting enrollments for  
10 such courses shall utilize the funding formula that more  
11 closely approximates the cost of conducting the course. No  
12 student shall be reported for advanced placement funding who  
13 fails to meet the examination requirement for such funding.

14 (3) Postsecondary credit for student completion of a  
15 joint dual enrollment and advanced placement course shall be  
16 awarded, based on the stated preference of the student, as  
17 either dual enrollment or advanced placement credit; however,  
18 an award of advanced placement credit shall be limited to  
19 students who score a minimum of 3, on a 5-point scale, on the  
20 Advanced Placement Examination. No student shall claim double  
21 credit based on the completion of a single joint dual  
22 enrollment and advanced placement course, nor shall any  
23 student enrolled pursuant to this section be required to  
24 complete the Advanced Placement Examination.

25 Section 359. Section 1007.28, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 1007.28 Computer-assisted student advising  
28 system.--The State Board of Education shall establish and  
29 maintain within the Department of Education a single,  
30 statewide computer-assisted student advising system, which  
31 must be an integral part of the process of advising,

1 registering, and certifying students for graduation. It is  
2 intended that an advising system be the primary advising and  
3 tracking tool for students enrolled in public postsecondary  
4 educational institutions and be accessible to all Florida  
5 students. The state universities and community colleges shall  
6 interface institutional systems with the computer-assisted  
7 advising system required by this section. The State Board of  
8 Education shall prescribe by rule the roles and  
9 responsibilities of the department, the state universities,  
10 and the community colleges in the design, implementation,  
11 promotion, development, and analysis of the system. The system  
12 shall consist of a degree audit and an articulation component  
13 that includes the following characteristics:

14       (1) The system shall constitute an integral part of  
15 the process of advising students and assisting them in course  
16 selection. The system shall be accessible to students in the  
17 following ways:

18           (a) A student must be able to access the system, at  
19 any time, to identify course options that will meet the  
20 requirements of a selected path toward a degree.

21           (b) A status report from the system shall be generated  
22 and sent with each grade report to each student enrolled in  
23 public postsecondary educational institutions with a declared  
24 major.

25       (2) The system shall be an integral part of the  
26 registration process at public postsecondary educational  
27 institutions. As part of the process, the system shall:

28           (a) Provide reports that document each student's  
29 status toward completion of a degree.

30           (b) Verify that a student has completed requirements  
31 for graduation.

1           (3) The system must provide students information  
2 related to career descriptions and corresponding educational  
3 requirements, admissions requirements, and available sources  
4 of student financial assistance. Such advising must enable  
5 students to examine their interests and aptitudes for the  
6 purpose of curricular and career planning.

7           (4) The system must provide management information to  
8 decisionmakers, including information relating student  
9 enrollment patterns and course demands to plans for  
10 corresponding course offerings and information useful in  
11 planning the student registration process.

12           Section 360. Part III of chapter 1007, Florida  
13 Statutes, shall be entitled "Access to Postsecondary  
14 Education" and shall consist of ss. 1007.31-1007.34.

15           Section 361. Section 1007.31, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17           1007.31 Limited access programs.--

18           (1) The State Board of Education shall establish  
19 criteria for assigning limited access status to an educational  
20 program and a process for the periodic review of such programs  
21 so that a university board of trustees can determine the need  
22 for retention or removal of limited access status.

23           (2) Each university board of trustees shall monitor  
24 limited access programs within the university and conduct  
25 periodic reviews of such programs to determine the need for  
26 retention or removal of the limited access status.

27           Section 362. Section 1007.32, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29           1007.32 Transfer students.--

30           (1) Each university shall provide registration  
31 opportunities for transfer students that allow such students

1 access to high demand courses comparable to that provided  
2 native students.

3 (2) Each university that provides an orientation  
4 program for freshman enrollees shall also provide orientation  
5 programs for transfer students.

6 Section 363. Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8 1007.33 Site-determined baccalaureate degree access.--

9 (1) The Legislature recognizes that public and private  
10 postsecondary educational institutions play essential roles in  
11 improving the quality of life and economic well-being of the  
12 state and its residents. The Legislature also recognizes that  
13 economic development needs and the educational needs of  
14 place-bound, nontraditional students have increased the demand  
15 for local access to baccalaureate degree programs. In some,  
16 but not all, geographic regions, baccalaureate degree programs  
17 are being delivered successfully at the local community  
18 college through agreements between the community college and  
19 4-year postsecondary institutions within or outside of the  
20 state. It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to  
21 further expand access to baccalaureate degree programs through  
22 the use of community colleges.

23 (2) A community college may enter into a formal  
24 agreement pursuant to the provisions of s. 1007.22 for the  
25 delivery of specified baccalaureate degree programs.

26 (3) A community college may develop a proposal to  
27 deliver specified baccalaureate degree programs in its  
28 district to meet local workforce needs. The proposal must be  
29 submitted to the State Board of Education for approval. The  
30 community college's proposal must include the following  
31 information:

1           (a) Demand for the baccalaureate degree program is  
2 identified by the workforce development board, local  
3 businesses and industry, local chambers of commerce, and  
4 potential students.

5           (b) Unmet need for graduates of the proposed degree  
6 program is substantiated.

7           (c) The community college has the facilities and  
8 academic resources to deliver the program.

9  
10 The proposal must be submitted to the Council for Education  
11 Policy Research and Improvement for review and comment. Upon  
12 approval of the State Board of Education for the specific  
13 degree program or programs, the community college shall pursue  
14 regional accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the  
15 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Any additional  
16 baccalaureate degree programs the community college wishes to  
17 offer must be approved by the State Board of Education.

18           (4) A community college may not terminate its  
19 associate in arts or associate in science degree programs as a  
20 result of the authorization provided in subsection (3). The  
21 Legislature intends that the primary mission of a community  
22 college, including a community college that offers  
23 baccalaureate degree programs, continues to be the provision  
24 of associate degrees that provide access to a university.

25           Section 364. Section 1007.34, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27           1007.34 College reach-out program.--

28           (1) There is established a college reach-out program  
29 to increase the number of low-income educationally  
30 disadvantaged students in grades 6-12 who, upon high school  
31 graduation, are admitted to and successfully complete

1 postsecondary education. Participants should be students who  
2 otherwise would be unlikely to seek admission to a community  
3 college, state university, or independent postsecondary  
4 institution without special support and recruitment efforts.  
5 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that provide  
6 for the following:

7       (a) Definition of "low-income educationally  
8 disadvantaged student."

9       (b) Specific criteria and guidelines for selection of  
10 college reach-out participants.

11       (2) In developing the definition for "low-income  
12 educationally disadvantaged student," the State Board of  
13 Education shall include such factors as: the family's taxable  
14 income; family receipt of temporary cash assistance in the  
15 preceding year; family receipt of public assistance in the  
16 preceding year; the student's cumulative grade point average;  
17 the student's promotion and attendance patterns; the student's  
18 performance on state standardized tests; the student's  
19 enrollment in mathematics and science courses; and the  
20 student's participation in a dropout prevention program.

21       (3) To participate in the college reach-out program, a  
22 postsecondary educational institution may submit a proposal to  
23 the Department of Education. The State Board of Education  
24 shall consider the proposals and determine which proposals to  
25 implement as programs that will strengthen the educational  
26 motivation and preparation of low-income educationally  
27 disadvantaged students.

28       (4) Postsecondary educational institutions that  
29 participate in the program must provide procedures for  
30 continuous contact with students from the point at which they  
31 are selected for participation until they enroll in a

1 postsecondary educational institution. These procedures must  
2 assist students in selecting courses required for graduation  
3 from high school and admission to a postsecondary educational  
4 institution and ensure that students continue to participate  
5 in program activities. Institutions that participate must  
6 provide on-campus academic and advisory activities during  
7 summer vacation and provide opportunities for interacting with  
8 college and university students as mentors, tutors, or role  
9 models. Proposals submitted by universities and consortia  
10 involving universities must provide students with an  
11 opportunity to live on campus.

12 (5) In selecting proposals for approval, the State  
13 Board of Education shall give preference to:

14 (a) Proposals submitted jointly by two or more  
15 eligible postsecondary educational institutions.

16 (b) A program that will use institutional, federal, or  
17 private resources to supplement state appropriations.

18 (c) An applicant that has demonstrated success in  
19 conducting similar programs.

20 (d) A program that includes innovative approaches,  
21 provides a great variety of activities, and includes a large  
22 percentage of low-income educationally disadvantaged minority  
23 students in the college reach-out program.

24 (e) An applicant that demonstrates commitment to the  
25 program by proposing to match the grant funds at least  
26 one-to-one in cash or services, with cash being the preferred  
27 match.

28 (f) An applicant that demonstrates an interest in  
29 cultural diversity and that addresses the unmet regional needs  
30 of varying communities.

31

- 1           (6) A participating postsecondary educational  
2 institution is encouraged to use its resources to meet program  
3 objectives. A participating postsecondary educational  
4 institution must establish an advisory committee composed of  
5 high school and middle school personnel, as well as community  
6 leaders, to provide advice and assistance in implementing its  
7 program.
- 8           (7) A proposal must contain the following information:
- 9           (a) A statement of purpose that includes a description  
10 of the need for, and the results expected from, the proposed  
11 program.
- 12           (b) An identification of the service area that names  
13 the schools to be served, provides community and school  
14 demographics, and sets forth the postsecondary enrollment  
15 rates of high school graduates within the area.
- 16           (c) An identification of existing programs for  
17 enhancing the academic performance of minority and low-income  
18 educationally disadvantaged students for enrollment in  
19 postsecondary education.
- 20           (d) A description of the proposed program that  
21 describes criteria to be used to identify schools for  
22 participation in the program. At least 60 percent of the  
23 students recruited in any one year must be in grades 6-9.
- 24           (e) A description of the program activities that must  
25 support the following goals:
- 26           1. Motivate students to pursue a postsecondary  
27 education.
- 28           2. Enhance students' basic learning skills and  
29 performance.
- 30           3. Strengthen students' and parents' understanding of  
31 the benefits of postsecondary education.

1           4. Foster academic, personal, and career development  
2 through supplemental instruction.

3           (f) An evaluation component that provides for the  
4 collection, maintenance, retrieval, and analysis of the data  
5 required by this paragraph. The data must be used to assess  
6 the extent to which programs have accomplished specific  
7 objectives and achieved the goals of the college reach-out  
8 program. The Department of Education shall develop  
9 specifications and procedures for the collection and  
10 transmission of the data. The annual project evaluation  
11 component must contain:

12           1. The student identification number and social  
13 security number, if available; the name of the public school  
14 attended; gender; ethnicity; grade level; and grade point  
15 average of each participant at the time of entry into the  
16 program.

17           2. The grade point average, grade, and promotion  
18 status of each of the participants in the program at the end  
19 of the academic year and any suspension or expulsion of a  
20 participant, if applicable.

21           3. The number and percentage of high school  
22 participants who satisfactorily complete 2 sequential years of  
23 a foreign language and Level 2 and 3 mathematics and science  
24 courses.

25           4. The number and percentage of participants eligible  
26 for high school graduation who receive a standard high school  
27 diploma or a high school equivalency diploma, pursuant to s.  
28 229.814.

29           5. The number and percentage of 12th grade  
30 participants who are accepted for enrollment and who enroll in  
31 a postsecondary educational institution.

1           6. The number of participants who receive  
2 scholarships, grant aid, and work-study awards.

3           7. The number and percentage of participants who  
4 enroll in a public postsecondary educational institution and  
5 who fail to achieve a passing score, as defined in State Board  
6 of Education rule, on college placement tests pursuant to s.  
7 1008.30.

8           8. The number and percentage of participants who  
9 enroll in a postsecondary educational institution and have a  
10 minimum cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale by  
11 the end of the second semester.

12           9. The number of disabled students participating in  
13 the project and the nature of their disabilities.

14           (8) Proposals must be funded competitively in  
15 accordance with the following methodology:

16           (a) The funds appropriated must be distributed to  
17 projects on the basis of minimum standards that include:

18           1. A summer residency program of at least 1 week in  
19 duration.

20           2. A minimum number of hours of academic instructional  
21 and developmental activities, career counseling, and personal  
22 counseling.

23           (b) Subject to legislative appropriations,  
24 continuation projects that satisfy the minimum requirements  
25 should have their funds increased each year by the same  
26 percentage as the rate of inflation. Projects funded for 3  
27 consecutive years should have a cumulative institutional cash  
28 match of not less than 50 percent of the total cost of the  
29 project over the 3-year period. Any college reach-out program  
30 project operating for 3 years which does not provide the  
31

1 minimum 50-percent institutional cash match must not be  
2 considered for continued funding.

3 (9) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint an  
4 advisory council to review the proposals and recommend to the  
5 State Board of Education an order of priority for funding the  
6 proposals.

7 (10) On or before February 15 of each year, each  
8 participating institution shall submit to the Department of  
9 Education an interim report containing program expenditures  
10 and participant information as required in State Board of  
11 Education rules.

12 (11) On or before November 1 of each year,  
13 postsecondary educational institutions participating in the  
14 program shall submit to the Department of Education an  
15 end-of-the-year report on the effectiveness of their  
16 participation in the program. The end-of-the-year report must  
17 include, without limitation:

18 (a) A copy of the certificate-of-expenditures form  
19 showing expenditures by category, state grant funds, and  
20 institutional matching in cash and in-kind services.

21 (b) A listing of students participating in the program  
22 by grade level, gender, and race.

23 (c) A statement of how the program addresses the four  
24 program goals identified in paragraph (7)(e).

25 (d) A brief description and analysis of program  
26 characteristics and activities critical to program success.

27 (e) A description of the cooperation received from  
28 other units or organizations.

29 (f) An explanation of the program's outcomes,  
30 including data related to student performance on the measures  
31 provided for in paragraph (7)(f).

1           (12) By February 15 of each year, the Department of  
2 Education shall submit to the President of the Senate, the  
3 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Commissioner of  
4 Education, and the Governor a report that evaluates the  
5 effectiveness of the college reach-out program. To the extent  
6 feasible, the performance of college reach-out program  
7 participants must be compared to the performance of comparable  
8 cohorts of students in public school and postsecondary  
9 education.

10           (13) Funding for the college reach-out program shall  
11 be provided in the General Appropriations Act.

12           Section 365. Chapter 1008, Florida Statutes, shall be  
13 entitled "Assessment and Accountability" and shall consist of  
14 ss. 1008.01-1008.51.

15           Section 366. Part I of chapter 1008, Florida Statutes,  
16 shall be entitled "Assessment, K-20" and shall consist of ss.  
17 1008.21-1008.30.

18           Section 367. Effective upon this act becoming a law,  
19 section 1008.21, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

20           1008.21 School readiness uniform screening  
21 (kindergarten).--

22           (1) The Department of Education shall implement the  
23 school readiness uniform screening developed by the Florida  
24 Partnership for School Readiness, and shall require that all  
25 school districts administer the kindergarten uniform screening  
26 to each kindergarten student in the district school system  
27 upon the student's entry into kindergarten.

28           (2)(a) The Department of Education shall implement the  
29 school readiness uniform screening to validate the system  
30 recommended by the Florida Partnership for School Readiness as  
31 part of a comprehensive evaluation design. Beginning with the

1 2002-2003 school year, the department shall require that all  
2 school districts administer the school readiness uniform  
3 screening to each kindergarten student in the district school  
4 system upon the student's entry into kindergarten. Children  
5 who enter public school for the first time in first grade must  
6 be administered the school readiness uniform screening adopted  
7 for use in first grade. The department shall incorporate  
8 school readiness data into the K-20 data warehouse for  
9 longitudinal tracking.

10 (b) The uniform screening shall provide objective data  
11 regarding the following expectations for school readiness  
12 which shall include, at a minimum:

- 13 1. The child's immunizations and other health  
14 requirements as necessary, including appropriate vision and  
15 hearing screening and examinations.
- 16 2. The child's physical development.
- 17 3. The child's compliance with rules, limitations, and  
18 routines.
- 19 4. The child's ability to perform tasks.
- 20 5. The child's interactions with adults.
- 21 6. The child's interactions with peers.
- 22 7. The child's ability to cope with challenges.
- 23 8. The child's self-help skills.
- 24 9. The child's ability to express his or her needs.
- 25 10. The child's verbal communication skills.
- 26 11. The child's problem-solving skills.
- 27 12. The child's ability to follow verbal directions.
- 28 13. The child's demonstration of curiosity,  
29 persistence, and exploratory behavior.
- 30 14. The child's interest in books and other printed  
31 materials.

1           15. The child's ability to pay attention to stories.

2           16. The child's participation in art and music

3 activities.

4           17. The child's ability to identify colors, geometric

5 shapes, letters of the alphabet, numbers, and spatial and

6 temporal relationships.

7           Section 368. Section 1008.22, Florida Statutes, is

8 created to read:

9           1008.22 Student assessment program for public  
10 schools.--

11           (1) PURPOSE.--The primary purposes of the student  
12 assessment program are to provide information needed to  
13 improve the public schools by enhancing the learning gains of  
14 all students and to inform parents of the educational progress  
15 of their public school children. The program must be designed  
16 to:

17           (a) Assess the annual learning gains of each student  
18 toward achieving the Sunshine State Standards appropriate for  
19 the student's grade level.

20           (b) Provide data for making decisions regarding school  
21 accountability and recognition.

22           (c) Identify the educational strengths and needs of  
23 students and the readiness of students to be promoted to the  
24 next grade level or to graduate from high school with a  
25 standard high school diploma.

26           (d) Assess how well educational goals and performance  
27 standards are met at the school, district, and state levels.

28           (e) Provide information to aid in the evaluation and  
29 development of educational programs and policies.

30           (f) Provide information on the performance of Florida  
31 students compared with others across the United States.

1           (2) NATIONAL EDUCATION COMPARISONS.--It is Florida's  
2 intent to participate in the measurement of national  
3 educational goals. The Commissioner of Education shall direct  
4 Florida school districts to participate in the administration  
5 of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or a  
6 similar national assessment program, both for the national  
7 sample and for any state-by-state comparison programs which  
8 may be initiated. Such assessments must be conducted using  
9 the data collection procedures, the student surveys, the  
10 educator surveys, and other instruments included in the  
11 National Assessment of Educational Progress or similar program  
12 being administered in Florida. The results of these  
13 assessments shall be included in the annual report of the  
14 Commissioner of Education specified in this section. The  
15 administration of the National Assessment of Educational  
16 Progress or similar program shall be in addition to and  
17 separate from the administration of the statewide assessment  
18 program.

19           (3) STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM.--The commissioner  
20 shall design and implement a statewide program of educational  
21 assessment that provides information for the improvement of  
22 the operation and management of the public schools, including  
23 schools operating for the purpose of providing educational  
24 services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs.  
25 Pursuant to the statewide assessment program, the commissioner  
26 shall:

27           (a) Submit to the State Board of Education a list that  
28 specifies student skills and competencies to which the goals  
29 for education specified in the state plan apply, including,  
30 but not limited to, reading, writing, science, and  
31 mathematics. The skills and competencies must include

1 problem-solving and higher-order skills as appropriate and  
2 shall be known as the Sunshine State Standards as defined in  
3 s. 1000.21. The commissioner shall select such skills and  
4 competencies after receiving recommendations from educators,  
5 citizens, and members of the business community. The  
6 commissioner shall submit to the State Board of Education  
7 revisions to the list of student skills and competencies in  
8 order to maintain continuous progress toward improvements in  
9 student proficiency.

10 (b) Develop and implement a uniform system of  
11 indicators to describe the performance of public school  
12 students and the characteristics of the public school  
13 districts and the public schools. These indicators must  
14 include, without limitation, information gathered by the  
15 comprehensive management information system created pursuant  
16 to s. 1008.385 and student achievement information obtained  
17 pursuant to this section.

18 (c) Develop and implement a student achievement  
19 testing program known as the Florida Comprehensive Assessment  
20 Test (FCAT) as part of the statewide assessment program, to be  
21 administered annually in grades 3 through 10 to measure  
22 reading, writing, science, and mathematics. Other content  
23 areas may be included as directed by the commissioner. The  
24 testing program must be designed so that:

25 1. The tests measure student skills and competencies  
26 adopted by the State Board of Education as specified in  
27 paragraph (a). The tests must measure and report student  
28 proficiency levels in reading, writing, mathematics, and  
29 science. The commissioner shall provide for the tests to be  
30 developed or obtained, as appropriate, through contracts and  
31 project agreements with private vendors, public vendors,

1 public agencies, postsecondary educational institutions, or  
2 school districts. The commissioner shall obtain input with  
3 respect to the design and implementation of the testing  
4 program from state educators and the public.

5 2. The testing program will include a combination of  
6 norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests and include, to  
7 the extent determined by the commissioner, questions that  
8 require the student to produce information or perform tasks in  
9 such a way that the skills and competencies he or she uses can  
10 be measured.

11 3. Each testing program, whether at the elementary,  
12 middle, or high school level, includes a test of writing in  
13 which students are required to produce writings that are then  
14 scored by appropriate methods.

15 4. A score is designated for each subject area tested,  
16 below which score a student's performance is deemed  
17 inadequate. The school districts shall provide appropriate  
18 remedial instruction to students who score below these levels.

19 5. Students must earn a passing score on the grade 10  
20 assessment test described in this paragraph in reading,  
21 writing, and mathematics to qualify for a regular high school  
22 diploma. The State Board of Education shall designate a  
23 passing score for each part of the grade 10 assessment test.  
24 In establishing passing scores, the state board shall consider  
25 any possible negative impact of the test on minority students.  
26 All students who took the grade 10 FCAT during the 2000-2001  
27 school year shall be required to earn the passing scores in  
28 reading and mathematics established by the State Board of  
29 Education for the March 2001 test administration. Such  
30 students who did not earn the established passing scores and  
31 must repeat the grade 10 FCAT are required to earn the passing

1 scores established for the March 2001 test administration.  
2 All students who take the grade 10 FCAT for the first time in  
3 March 2002 and thereafter shall be required to earn the  
4 passing scores in reading and mathematics established by the  
5 State Board of Education for the March 2002 test  
6 administration. The State Board of Education shall adopt  
7 rules which specify the passing scores for the grade 10 FCAT.  
8 Any such rules, which have the effect of raising the required  
9 passing scores, shall only apply to students taking the grade  
10 10 FCAT after such rules are adopted by the State Board of  
11 Education.

12 6. Participation in the testing program is mandatory  
13 for all students attending public school, including students  
14 served in Department of Juvenile Justice programs, except as  
15 otherwise prescribed by the commissioner. If a student does  
16 not participate in the statewide assessment, the district must  
17 notify the student's parent and provide the parent with  
18 information regarding the implications of such  
19 nonparticipation. If modifications are made in the student's  
20 instruction to provide accommodations that would not be  
21 permitted on the statewide assessment tests, the district must  
22 notify the student's parent of the implications of such  
23 instructional modifications. A parent must provide signed  
24 consent for a student to receive instructional modifications  
25 that would not be permitted on the statewide assessments and  
26 must acknowledge in writing that he or she understands the  
27 implications of such accommodations. The State Board of  
28 Education shall adopt rules, based upon recommendations of the  
29 commissioner, for the provision of test accommodations and  
30 modifications of procedures as necessary for students in  
31 exceptional education programs and for students who have

1 limited English proficiency. Accommodations that negate the  
2 validity of a statewide assessment are not allowable.

3 7. A student seeking an adult high school diploma must  
4 meet the same testing requirements that a regular high school  
5 student must meet.

6 8. District school boards must provide instruction to  
7 prepare students to demonstrate proficiency in the skills and  
8 competencies necessary for successful grade-to-grade  
9 progression and high school graduation. If a student is  
10 provided with accommodations or modifications that are not  
11 allowable in the statewide assessment program, as described in  
12 the test manuals, the district must inform the parent in  
13 writing and must provide the parent with information regarding  
14 the impact on the student's ability to meet expected  
15 proficiency levels in reading, writing, and math. The  
16 commissioner shall conduct studies as necessary to verify that  
17 the required skills and competencies are part of the district  
18 instructional programs.

19 9. The Department of Education must develop, or  
20 select, and implement a common battery of assessment tools  
21 that will be used in all juvenile justice programs in the  
22 state. These tools must accurately measure the skills and  
23 competencies established in the Florida Sunshine State  
24 Standards.

25  
26 The commissioner may design and implement student testing  
27 programs, for any grade level and subject area, necessary to  
28 effectively monitor educational achievement in the state.

29 (d) Conduct ongoing research to develop improved  
30 methods of assessing student performance, including, without  
31 limitation, the use of technology to administer tests, score,

1 or report the results of, the use of electronic transfer of  
2 data, the development of work-product assessments, and the  
3 development of process assessments.

4 (e) Conduct ongoing research and analysis of student  
5 achievement data, including, without limitation, monitoring  
6 trends in student achievement, identifying school programs  
7 that are successful, and analyzing correlates of school  
8 achievement.

9 (f) Provide technical assistance to school districts  
10 in the implementation of state and district testing programs  
11 and the use of the data produced pursuant to such programs.

12 (4) DISTRICT TESTING PROGRAMS.--Each district school  
13 board shall periodically assess student performance and  
14 achievement within each school of the district. The assessment  
15 programs must be based upon local goals and objectives that  
16 are compatible with the state plan for education and that  
17 supplement the skills and competencies adopted by the State  
18 Board of Education. All school districts must participate in  
19 the statewide assessment program designed to measure annual  
20 student learning and school performance. All district school  
21 boards shall report assessment results as required by the  
22 state management information system.

23 (5) SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAMS.--Each public school shall  
24 participate in the statewide assessment program, unless  
25 specifically exempted by state board rule based on serving a  
26 specialized population for which standardized testing is not  
27 appropriate. Student performance data shall be analyzed and  
28 reported to parents, the community, and the state. Student  
29 performance data shall be used in developing objectives of the  
30 school improvement plan, evaluation of instructional  
31 personnel, evaluation of administrative personnel, assignment

1 of staff, allocation of resources, acquisition of  
2 instructional materials and technology, performance-based  
3 budgeting, and promotion and assignment of students into  
4 educational programs. The analysis of student performance data  
5 also must identify strengths and needs in the educational  
6 program and trends over time. The analysis must be used in  
7 conjunction with the budgetary planning processes developed  
8 pursuant to s. 1008.385 and the development of the programs of  
9 remediation.

10 (6) REQUIRED ANALYSES.--The commissioner shall  
11 provide, at a minimum, for the following analyses of data  
12 produced by the student achievement testing program:

13 (a) The statistical system for the annual assessments  
14 shall use measures of student learning, such as the FCAT, to  
15 determine teacher, school, and school district statistical  
16 distributions, which shall be determined using available data  
17 from the FCAT, and other data collection as deemed appropriate  
18 by the Department of Education, to measure the differences in  
19 student prior year achievement compared to the current year  
20 achievement for the purposes of accountability and  
21 recognition.

22 (b) The statistical system shall provide the best  
23 estimates of teacher, school, and school district effects on  
24 student progress. The approach used by the department shall be  
25 approved by the commissioner before implementation.

26 (c) The annual testing program shall be administered  
27 to provide for valid statewide comparisons of learning gains  
28 to be made for purposes of accountability and recognition. The  
29 commissioner shall establish a schedule for the administration  
30 of the statewide assessments. In establishing such schedule,  
31 the commissioner is charged with the duty to accomplish the

1 latest possible administration of the statewide assessments  
2 and the earliest possible provision of the results to the  
3 school districts feasible within available technology and  
4 specific appropriation. District school boards shall not  
5 establish school calendars that jeopardize or limit the valid  
6 testing and comparison of student learning gains.

7 (7) LOCAL ASSESSMENTS.--Measurement of the learning  
8 gains of students in all subjects and grade levels other than  
9 subjects and grade levels required for the state student  
10 achievement testing program is the responsibility of the  
11 school districts.

12 (8) APPLICABILITY OF TESTING STANDARDS.--A student  
13 must meet the testing requirements for high school graduation  
14 that were in effect at the time the student entered 9th grade,  
15 provided the student's enrollment was continuous.

16 (9) RULES.--The State Board of Education shall adopt  
17 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the  
18 provisions of this section.

19 Section 369. Section 1008.23, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21 1008.23 Confidentiality of assessment  
22 instruments.--All examination and assessment instruments,  
23 including developmental materials and workpapers directly  
24 related thereto, which are prepared, prescribed, or  
25 administered pursuant to ss. 1003.43, 1008.22, and 1008.25  
26 shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.  
27 119.07(1) and from s. 1001.52. Provisions governing access,  
28 maintenance, and destruction of such instruments and related  
29 materials shall be prescribed by rules of the State Board of  
30 Education.

31

1           Section 370. Section 1008.24, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1008.24 Test security.--

4           (1) It is unlawful for anyone knowingly and willfully  
5 to violate test security rules adopted by the State Board of  
6 Education for mandatory tests administered by or through the  
7 State Board of Education or the Commissioner of Education to  
8 students, educators, or applicants for certification or  
9 administered by school districts pursuant to s. 1008.22, or,  
10 with respect to any such test, knowingly and willfully to:

11           (a) Give examinees access to test questions prior to  
12 testing;

13           (b) Copy, reproduce, or use in any manner inconsistent  
14 with test security rules all or any portion of any secure test  
15 booklet;

16           (c) Coach examinees during testing or alter or  
17 interfere with examinees' responses in any way;

18           (d) Make answer keys available to examinees;

19           (e) Fail to follow security rules for distribution and  
20 return of secure test as directed, or fail to account for all  
21 secure test materials before, during, and after testing;

22           (f) Fail to follow test administration directions  
23 specified in the test administration manuals; or

24           (g) Participate in, direct, aid, counsel, assist in,  
25 or encourage any of the acts prohibited in this section.

26           (2) Any person who violates this section commits a  
27 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.  
28 775.082 or s. 775.083.

29           (3) A district school superintendent, a president of a  
30 public postsecondary educational institution, or a president  
31 of a nonpublic postsecondary educational institution shall

1 cooperate with the Commissioner of Education in any  
2 investigation concerning the administration of a test  
3 administered pursuant to state statute or rule.

4 Section 371. Section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1008.25 Public school student progression; remedial  
7 instruction; reporting requirements.--

8 (1) INTENT.--It is the intent of the Legislature that  
9 each student's progression from one grade to another be  
10 determined, in part, upon proficiency in reading, writing,  
11 science, and mathematics; that district school board policies  
12 facilitate such proficiency; and that each student and his or  
13 her parent be informed of that student's academic progress.

14 (2) COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM.--Each district school board  
15 shall establish a comprehensive program for student  
16 progression which must include:

17 (a) Standards for evaluating each student's  
18 performance, including how well he or she masters the  
19 performance standards approved by the State Board of  
20 Education.

21 (b) Specific levels of performance in reading,  
22 writing, science, and mathematics for each grade level,  
23 including the levels of performance on statewide assessments  
24 as defined by the commissioner, below which a student must  
25 receive remediation, or be retained within an intensive  
26 program that is different from the previous year's program and  
27 that takes into account the student's learning style.

28 (c) Appropriate alternative placement for a student  
29 who has been retained 2 or more years.

30  
31

- 1           (3) ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.--District school boards  
2 shall allocate remedial and supplemental instruction resources  
3 to students in the following priority:
- 4           (a) Students who are deficient in reading by the end  
5 of grade 3.
- 6           (b) Students who fail to meet performance levels  
7 required for promotion consistent with the district school  
8 board's plan for student progression required in paragraph  
9 (2)(b).
- 10          (4) ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION.--
- 11          (a) Each student must participate in the statewide  
12 assessment tests required by s. 1008.22. Each student who does  
13 not meet specific levels of performance as determined by the  
14 district school board in reading, writing, science, and  
15 mathematics for each grade level, or who does not meet  
16 specific levels of performance as determined by the  
17 commissioner on statewide assessments at selected grade  
18 levels, must be provided with additional diagnostic  
19 assessments to determine the nature of the student's  
20 difficulty and areas of academic need.
- 21          (b) The school in which the student is enrolled must  
22 develop, in consultation with the student's parent, and must  
23 implement an academic improvement plan designed to assist the  
24 student in meeting state and district expectations for  
25 proficiency. Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, if the  
26 student has been identified as having a deficiency in reading,  
27 the academic improvement plan shall identify the student's  
28 specific areas of deficiency in phonemic awareness, phonics,  
29 fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary; the desired levels of  
30 performance in these areas; and the instructional and support  
31 services to be provided to meet the desired levels of

1 performance. Schools shall also provide for the frequent  
2 monitoring of the student's progress in meeting the desired  
3 levels of performance. District school boards shall assist  
4 schools and teachers to implement research-based reading  
5 activities that have been shown to be successful in teaching  
6 reading to low-performing students. Remedial instruction  
7 provided during high school may not be in lieu of English and  
8 mathematics credits required for graduation.

9 (c) Upon subsequent evaluation, if the documented  
10 deficiency has not been remediated in accordance with the  
11 academic improvement plan, the student may be retained. Each  
12 student who does not meet the minimum performance expectations  
13 defined by the Commissioner of Education for the statewide  
14 assessment tests in reading, writing, science, and mathematics  
15 must continue to be provided with remedial or supplemental  
16 instruction until the expectations are met or the student  
17 graduates from high school or is not subject to compulsory  
18 school attendance.

19 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.--

20 (a) It is the ultimate goal of the Legislature that  
21 every student read at or above grade level. Any student who  
22 exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading, based upon  
23 locally determined or statewide assessments conducted in  
24 kindergarten or grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3, or through  
25 teacher observations, must be given intensive reading  
26 instruction immediately following the identification of the  
27 reading deficiency. The student's reading proficiency must be  
28 reassessed by locally determined assessments or through  
29 teacher observations at the beginning of the grade following  
30 the intensive reading instruction. The student must continue  
31

1 to be provided with intensive reading instruction until the  
2 reading deficiency is remedied.

3 (b) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, if the  
4 student's reading deficiency, as identified in paragraph (a),  
5 is not remedied by the end of grade 3, as demonstrated by  
6 scoring at Level 2 or higher on the statewide assessment test  
7 in reading for grade 3, the student must be retained.

8 (c) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, the  
9 parent of any student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in  
10 reading, as described in paragraph (a), must be notified in  
11 writing of the following:

12 1. That his or her child has been identified as having  
13 a substantial deficiency in reading.

14 2. A description of the current services that are  
15 provided to the child.

16 3. A description of the proposed supplemental  
17 instructional services and supports that will be provided to  
18 the child that are designed to remediate the identified area  
19 of reading deficiency.

20 4. That if the child's reading deficiency is not  
21 remediated by the end of grade 3, the child must be retained  
22 unless he or she is exempt from mandatory retention for good  
23 cause.

24 (6) ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL PROMOTION.--

25 (a) No student may be assigned to a grade level based  
26 solely on age or other factors that constitute social  
27 promotion.

28 (b) The district school board may only exempt students  
29 from mandatory retention, as provided in paragraph (5)(b), for  
30 good cause. Good cause exemptions shall be limited to the  
31 following:

- 1           1. Limited English proficient students who have had  
2 less than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of  
3 Other Languages program.
- 4           2. Students with disabilities whose individual  
5 education plan indicates that participation in the statewide  
6 assessment program is not appropriate, consistent with the  
7 requirements of State Board of Education rule.
- 8           3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of  
9 performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment  
10 approved by the State Board of Education.
- 11           4. Students who demonstrate, through a student  
12 portfolio, that the student is reading on grade level as  
13 evidenced by demonstration of mastery of the Sunshine State  
14 Standards in reading equal to at least a Level 2 performance  
15 on the FCAT.
- 16           5. Students with disabilities who participate in the  
17 FCAT and who have an individual education plan or a Section  
18 504 plan that reflects that the student has received the  
19 intensive remediation in reading, as required by paragraph  
20 (4)(b), for more than 2 years but still demonstrates a  
21 deficiency in reading and was previously retained in  
22 kindergarten, grade 1, or grade 2.
- 23           6. Students who have received the intensive  
24 remediation in reading as required by paragraph (4)(b) for 2  
25 or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading  
26 and who were previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or  
27 grade 2 for a total of 2 years. Intensive reading instruction  
28 for students so promoted must include an altered instructional  
29 day based upon an academic improvement plan that includes  
30 specialized diagnostic information and specific reading  
31 strategies for each student. The district school board shall

1 assist schools and teachers to implement reading strategies  
2 that research has shown to be successful in improving reading  
3 among low performing readers.

4 (c) Requests for good cause exemptions for students  
5 from the mandatory retention requirement as described in  
6 subparagraphs (b)3. and 4. shall be made consistent with the  
7 following:

8 1. Documentation shall be submitted from the student's  
9 teacher to the school principal that indicates that the  
10 promotion of the student is appropriate and is based upon the  
11 student's academic record. In order to minimize paperwork  
12 requirements, such documentation shall consist only of the  
13 existing academic improvement plan, individual educational  
14 plan, if applicable, report card, or student portfolio.

15 2. The school principal shall review and discuss such  
16 recommendation with the teacher and make the determination as  
17 to whether the student should be promoted or retained. If the  
18 school principal determines that the student should be  
19 promoted, the school principal shall make such recommendation  
20 in writing to the district school superintendent. The  
21 district school superintendent shall accept or reject the  
22 school principal's recommendation in writing.

23 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.--

24 (a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph  
25 (5)(b), each district school board must annually report to the  
26 parent of each student the progress of the student towards  
27 achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in  
28 reading, writing, science, and mathematics. The district  
29 school board must report to the parent the student's results  
30 on each statewide assessment test. The evaluation of each  
31 student's progress must be based upon the student's classroom

1 work, observations, tests, district and state assessments, and  
2 other relevant information. Progress reporting must be  
3 provided to the parent in writing in a format adopted by the  
4 district school board.

5 (b) Beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, each  
6 district school board must annually publish in the local  
7 newspaper, and report in writing to the State Board of  
8 Education by September 1 of each year, the following  
9 information on the prior school year:

10 1. The provisions of this section relating to public  
11 school student progression and the district school board's  
12 policies and procedures on student retention and promotion.

13 2. By grade, the number and percentage of all students  
14 in grades 3 through 10 performing at Levels 1 and 2 on the  
15 reading portion of the FCAT.

16 3. By grade, the number and percentage of all students  
17 retained in grades 3 through 10.

18 4. Information on the total number of students who  
19 were promoted for good cause, by each category of good cause  
20 as specified in paragraph (6)(b).

21 5. Any revisions to the district school board's policy  
22 on student retention and promotion from the prior year.

23 (8) STATE BOARD AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES.--

24 (a) The State Board of Education shall have authority  
25 as provided in s. 1008.32 to enforce this section.

26 (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
27 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 for the administration  
28 of this section.

29 (9) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.--The department shall  
30 provide technical assistance as needed to aid district school  
31 boards in administering this section.

1           Section 372. Section 1008.29, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1008.29 College-level communication and mathematics  
4 skills examination (CLAST).--

5           (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
6 examination of college-level communication and mathematics  
7 skills provided in s. 1008.345(3) serve as a mechanism for  
8 students to demonstrate that they have mastered the academic  
9 competencies prerequisite to upper-division undergraduate  
10 instruction. It is further intended that the examination  
11 serve as both a summative evaluation instrument prior to  
12 student enrollment in upper-division programs and as a source  
13 of information for student advisers. It is not intended that  
14 student passage of the examination supplant the need for a  
15 student to complete the general education curriculum  
16 prescribed by an institution.

17           (2) Public postsecondary educational institutions  
18 shall administer a minimum of two administrations, one of  
19 which may consist of an alternative administration, of the  
20 college-level communication and computation skills examination  
21 per academic term. Such administrations shall be available to  
22 all lower-division students seeking associate in arts or  
23 baccalaureate degrees upon completion of at least 18 semester  
24 hours or the equivalent. Public postsecondary educational  
25 institutions shall report at a minimum the examination scores  
26 of all students tested at each administration of the  
27 college-level communication and computation skills  
28 examination.

29           (3) No public postsecondary educational institution  
30 shall confer an associate in arts or baccalaureate degree upon  
31 any student who fails to complete successfully the examination

1 of college-level communication and computation skills.  
2 Students who received their associate in arts degree prior to  
3 September 1, 1982, shall be exempt from the provisions of this  
4 subsection.

5 (4) The State Board of Education, by rule, shall set  
6 the minimum scores that constitute successful completion of  
7 the examination. In establishing the minimum scores that  
8 constitute successful completion of the examination, the State  
9 Board of Education shall consider any possible negative impact  
10 of the tests on minority students. Determinations regarding a  
11 student's successful completion of the examination shall be  
12 based on the minimum standards prescribed by rule for the date  
13 the student initially takes the examination.

14 (5) Any student who, in the best professional opinion  
15 of the university, has a specific learning disability such  
16 that the student can not demonstrate successful completion of  
17 one or more sections of the college-level communication and  
18 computation skills examination and is achieving at the college  
19 level in every area except that of the disability, and whose  
20 diagnosis indicates that further remediation will not succeed  
21 in overcoming the disability, may appeal through the  
22 appropriate dean to a committee appointed by the president or  
23 vice president for academic affairs for special consideration.  
24 The committee shall examine the evidence of the student's  
25 academic and medical records and may hear testimony relevant  
26 to the case. The committee may grant a waiver for one or more  
27 sections of the college-level communication and computation  
28 skills examination based on the results of its review.

29 (6) Each public postsecondary educational institution  
30 president shall establish a committee to consider requests for  
31 waivers from the provisions of subsection (3). The committee

1 shall be chaired by the chief academic officer of the  
2 institution and shall have four additional members appointed  
3 by the president: a member of the mathematics department, a  
4 member of the English department, the institutional test  
5 administrator, and a fourth faculty member from a department  
6 other than English or mathematics. Any student who has taken a  
7 subtest of the examination required by this section at least  
8 four times and has not achieved a passing score, but has  
9 otherwise demonstrated proficiency in coursework in the same  
10 subject area, may request a waiver from that particular  
11 subtest. Waivers shall be considered only after students have  
12 been provided test accommodations or other administrative  
13 adjustments to permit the accurate measurement of the  
14 student's proficiency in the subject areas measured by the  
15 examination authorized in this section. The committee shall  
16 consider the student's educational records and other evidence  
17 as to whether the student should be able to pass the subtest  
18 under consideration. A waiver may be recommended to the  
19 president upon majority vote of the committee. The president  
20 may approve or disapprove the recommendation. The president  
21 may not approve a request which the committee has disapproved.  
22 If a waiver for a given subtest is approved, the student's  
23 transcript shall include a statement that the student did not  
24 meet the requirements of subsection (3) and that a waiver was  
25 granted.

26 (7) The State Board of Education, by rule, shall  
27 establish fees for the administration of the examination to  
28 private postsecondary students.

29 (8) The State Board of Education, by rule, shall  
30 establish fees for the administration of the examination at  
31 times other than regularly scheduled dates to accommodate

1 examinees who are unable to be tested on those dates. The  
2 board shall establish the conditions under which examinees may  
3 be admitted to the special administrations.

4 (9) Any student fulfilling one or both of the  
5 following requirements before completion of associate in arts  
6 degree requirements or baccalaureate degree requirements is  
7 exempt from the testing requirements of this section:

8 (a) Achieves a score that meets or exceeds a minimum  
9 score on a nationally standardized examination, as established  
10 by the State Board of Education; or

11 (b) Demonstrates successful remediation of any  
12 academic deficiencies identified by the college placement test  
13 and achieves a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above,  
14 on a 4.0 scale, in postsecondary-level coursework identified  
15 by the State Board of Education. The Department of Education  
16 shall specify the means by which a student may demonstrate  
17 successful remediation.

18  
19 Any student denied a degree prior to January 1, 1996, based on  
20 the failure of at least one subtest of the CLAST may use  
21 either of the alternatives specified in this subsection for  
22 receipt of a degree if such student meets all degree program  
23 requirements at the time of application for the degree under  
24 the exemption provisions of this subsection. This section does  
25 not require a student to take the CLAST before being given the  
26 opportunity to use any of the alternatives specified in this  
27 subsection. The exemptions provided herein do not apply to  
28 requirements for certification as provided in s. 1012.56.

29 Section 373. Section 1008.30, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:  
31

1           1008.30 Common placement testing for public

2 postsecondary education.--

3           (1) The State Board of Education shall develop and  
4 implement a common placement test for the purpose of assessing  
5 the basic computation and communication skills of students who  
6 intend to enter a degree program at any public postsecondary  
7 educational institution. The State Board of Education shall  
8 adopt rules which enable public postsecondary educational  
9 institutions to implement appropriate modifications of the  
10 test instruments or test procedures for students with  
11 disabilities.

12           (2) The common placement testing program shall include  
13 at a minimum the following: the capacity to diagnose basic  
14 competencies in the areas of English, reading, and mathematics  
15 which are essential to perform college-level work;  
16 prerequisite skills that relate to progressively advanced  
17 instruction in mathematics, such as algebra and geometry;  
18 prerequisite skills that relate to progressively advanced  
19 instruction in language arts, such as English composition and  
20 literature; prerequisite skills which relate to the College  
21 Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST); and provision of test  
22 information to students on the specific deficiencies.

23           (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
24 that would require high schools to give the common placement  
25 test prescribed in this section, or an equivalent test  
26 identified by the State Board of Education, at the beginning  
27 of the tenth grade year before enrollment in the eleventh  
28 grade year in public high school for the purpose of obtaining  
29 remedial instruction prior to entering public postsecondary  
30 education.

31

1           (4)(a) Public postsecondary educational institution  
2 students who have been identified as requiring additional  
3 preparation pursuant to subsection (1) shall enroll in  
4 college-preparatory or other adult education pursuant to s.  
5 1004.93 in community colleges to develop needed college-entry  
6 skills. These students shall be permitted to take courses  
7 within their degree program concurrently in other curriculum  
8 areas for which they are qualified while enrolled in  
9 college-preparatory instruction courses. A student enrolled  
10 in a college-preparatory course may concurrently enroll only  
11 in college credit courses that do not require the skills  
12 addressed in the college-preparatory course. The State Board  
13 of Education shall specify the college credit courses that are  
14 acceptable for students enrolled in each college-preparatory  
15 skill area, pursuant to s. 1001.02(7)(g). A student who wishes  
16 to earn an associate in arts or a baccalaureate degree, but  
17 who is required to complete a college-preparatory course, must  
18 successfully complete the required college-preparatory studies  
19 by the time the student has accumulated 12 hours of  
20 lower-division college credit degree coursework; however, a  
21 student may continue enrollment in degree-earning coursework  
22 provided the student maintains enrollment in  
23 college-preparatory coursework for each subsequent semester  
24 until college-preparatory coursework requirements are  
25 completed, and the student demonstrates satisfactory  
26 performance in degree-earning coursework. A passing score on  
27 a standardized, institutionally developed test must be  
28 achieved before a student is considered to have met basic  
29 computation and communication skills requirements; however, no  
30 student shall be required to retake any test or subtest that  
31 was previously passed by said student. Credit awarded for

1 college-preparatory instruction may not be counted towards  
2 fulfilling the number of credits required for a degree.

3 (b) The university board of trustees may contract with  
4 a community college board of trustees for the community  
5 college to provide such instruction on the state university  
6 campus. Any state university in which the percentage of  
7 incoming students requiring college-preparatory instruction  
8 equals or exceeds the average percentage of such students for  
9 the community college system may offer college-preparatory  
10 instruction without contracting with a community college;  
11 however, any state university offering college-preparatory  
12 instruction as of January 1, 1996, may continue to provide  
13 such services.

14 (5) A student may not be enrolled in a college credit  
15 mathematics or English course on a dual enrollment basis  
16 unless the student has demonstrated adequate precollegiate  
17 preparation on the section of the basic computation and  
18 communication skills assessment required pursuant to  
19 subsection (1) that is appropriate for successful student  
20 participation in the course.

21 Section 374. Part II of chapter 1008, Florida  
22 Statutes, shall be entitled "Accountability, K-20" and shall  
23 consist of ss. 1008.31-1008.46.

24 Section 375. Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26 1008.31 Florida's K-20 education performance  
27 accountability system; legislative intent; performance-based  
28 funding; mission, goals, and systemwide measures.--

29 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the intent of the  
30 Legislature that:  
31

- 1       (a) The performance accountability system implemented  
2 to assess the effectiveness of Florida's seamless K-20  
3 education delivery system provide answers to the following  
4 questions in relation to its mission and goals:
- 5           1. What is the public receiving in return for funds it  
6 invests in education?
- 7           2. How effectively is Florida's K-20 education system  
8 educating its students?
- 9           3. How effectively are the major delivery sectors  
10 promoting student achievement?
- 11          4. How are individual schools and postsecondary  
12 education institutions performing their responsibility to  
13 educate their students as measured by how students are  
14 performing and how much they are learning?
- 15       (b) The State Board of Education recommend to the  
16 Legislature systemwide performance standards; the Legislature  
17 establish systemwide performance measures and standards; and  
18 the systemwide measures and standards provide Floridians with  
19 information on what the public is receiving in return for the  
20 funds it invests in education and how well the K-20 system  
21 educates its students.
- 22       (c) The State Board of Education establish performance  
23 measures and set performance standards for individual  
24 components of the public education system, including  
25 individual schools and postsecondary educational institutions,  
26 with measures and standards based primarily on student  
27 achievement.
- 28       (2) PERFORMANCE-BASED FUNDING.--The State Board of  
29 Education shall cooperate with the Commissioner of Education  
30 and each delivery system to develop proposals for  
31 performance-based funding, using performance measures

1 established by the Legislature. The proposals must provide  
2 that at least 10 percent of the state funds appropriated for  
3 the K-20 education system are conditional upon meeting or  
4 exceeding established performance standards. The State Board  
5 of Education must submit the recommendations to the  
6 Legislature in the following sequence:

7 (a) By December 1, 2002, recommendations for state  
8 universities, for consideration by the 2003 Legislature and  
9 implementation in the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

10 (b) By December 1, 2003, recommendations for public  
11 schools and workforce education, for consideration by the 2004  
12 Legislature and implementation in the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

13 (c) By December 1, 2004, recommendations for community  
14 colleges, for consideration by the 2005 Legislature and  
15 implementation in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

16 (d) By December 1, 2005, recommendations for all other  
17 programs that receive state funds within the Department of  
18 Education.

19 (3) MISSION, GOALS, AND SYSTEMWIDE MEASURES.--The  
20 mission of Florida's K-20 education system shall be to  
21 increase the proficiency of all students within one seamless,  
22 efficient system, by allowing them the opportunity to expand  
23 their knowledge and skills through learning opportunities and  
24 research valued by students, parents, and communities, and to  
25 maintain an accountability system that measures student  
26 progress toward the following goals:

27 (a) Highest student achievement, as measured by:  
28 student FCAT performance and annual learning gains; the number  
29 and percentage of schools that improve at least one school  
30 performance grade designation or maintain a school performance  
31 grade designation of "A" pursuant to s. 1008.34; graduation or

1 completion rates at all learning levels; and other measures  
2 identified in law or rule.

3 (b) Seamless articulation and maximum access, as  
4 measured by: the percentage of students who demonstrate  
5 readiness for the educational level they are entering, from  
6 kindergarten through postsecondary education and into the  
7 workforce; the number and percentage of students needing  
8 remediation; the percentage of Floridians who complete  
9 associate, baccalaureate, professional, and postgraduate  
10 degrees; the number and percentage of credits that articulate;  
11 the extent to which each set of exit-point requirements  
12 matches the next set of entrance-point requirements; and other  
13 measures identified in law or rule.

14 (c) Skilled workforce and economic development, as  
15 measured by: the number and percentage of graduates employed  
16 in their areas of preparation; the percentage of Floridians  
17 with high school diplomas and postsecondary education  
18 credentials; the percentage of business and community members  
19 who find that Florida's graduates possess the skills they  
20 need; and other measures identified in law or rule.

21 (d) Quality efficient services, as measured by: cost  
22 per completer or graduate; average cost per noncompleter at  
23 each educational level; cost disparity across institutions  
24 offering the same degrees; the percentage of education  
25 customers at each educational level who are satisfied with the  
26 education provided; and other measures identified in law or  
27 rule.

28 (4) SYSTEMWIDE DATA COLLECTION.--School districts and  
29 public postsecondary educational institutions shall maintain  
30 information systems that will provide the State Board of  
31 Education and the Legislature with information and reports at

1 a level of comprehensiveness and quality no less than that  
2 which was available as of June 30, 2001.

3 Section 376. Section 1008.32, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1008.32 State Board of Education oversight enforcement  
6 authority.--The State Board of Education shall oversee the  
7 performance of district school boards and public postsecondary  
8 educational institution boards in enforcement of all laws and  
9 rules. District school boards and public postsecondary  
10 educational institution boards shall be primarily responsible  
11 for compliance with law and state board rule.

12 (1) In order to ensure compliance with law or state  
13 board rule, the State Board of Education shall have the  
14 authority to request and receive information, data, and  
15 reports from school districts and public postsecondary  
16 educational institutions. District school superintendents and  
17 public postsecondary educational institution presidents are  
18 responsible for the accuracy of the information and data  
19 reported to the state board.

20 (2) The Commissioner of Education may investigate  
21 allegations of noncompliance with law or state board rule and  
22 determine probable cause, the commissioner shall report to the  
23 State Board of Education which shall require the district  
24 school board or public postsecondary educational institution  
25 board to document compliance with law or state board rule.

26 (3) If the district school board or public  
27 postsecondary educational institution board cannot  
28 satisfactorily document compliance, the State Board of  
29 Education may order compliance within a specified timeframe.

30 (4) If the State Board of Education determines that a  
31 district school board or public postsecondary educational

1 institution board is unwilling or unable to comply with law or  
2 state board rule within the specified time, the state board  
3 shall have the authority to initiate any of the following  
4 actions:

5 (a) Report to the Legislature that the school district  
6 or public postsecondary educational institution has been  
7 unwilling or unable to comply with law or state board rule and  
8 recommend action to be taken by the Legislature.

9 (b) Reduce the discretionary lottery appropriation  
10 until the school district or public postsecondary education  
11 institution complies with the law or state board rule.

12 (c) Withhold the transfer of state funds,  
13 discretionary grant funds, or any other funds specified as  
14 eligible for this purpose by the Legislature until the school  
15 district or public postsecondary educational institution  
16 complies with the law or state board rule.

17 (d) Declare the school district or public  
18 postsecondary educational institution ineligible for  
19 competitive grants.

20 (e) Require monthly or periodic reporting on the  
21 situation related to noncompliance until it is remedied.

22 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
23 create a private cause of action or create any rights for  
24 individuals or entities in addition to those provided  
25 elsewhere in law or rule.

26 Section 377. Section 1008.33, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1008.33 Authority to enforce public school  
29 improvement.--It is the intent of the Legislature that all  
30 public schools be held accountable for students performing at  
31 acceptable levels. A system of school improvement and

1 accountability that assesses student performance by school,  
2 identifies schools in which students are not making adequate  
3 progress toward state standards, institutes appropriate  
4 measures for enforcing improvement, and provides rewards and  
5 sanctions based on performance shall be the responsibility of  
6 the State Board of Education.

7       (1) Pursuant to Art. IX of the State Constitution  
8 prescribing the duty of the State Board of Education to  
9 supervise Florida's public school system and notwithstanding  
10 any other statutory provisions to the contrary, the State  
11 Board of Education shall intervene in the operation of a  
12 district school system when one or more schools in the school  
13 district have failed to make adequate progress for 2 school  
14 years in a 4-year period. For purposes of determining when a  
15 school is eligible for state board action and opportunity  
16 scholarships for its students, the terms "2 years in any  
17 4-year period" and "2 years in a 4-year period" mean that in  
18 any year that a school has a grade of "F," the school is  
19 eligible for state board action and opportunity scholarships  
20 for its students if it also has had a grade of "F" in any of  
21 the previous 3 school years. The State Board of Education may  
22 determine that the school district or school has not taken  
23 steps sufficient for students in the school to be academically  
24 well served. Considering recommendations of the Commissioner  
25 of Education, the State Board of Education shall recommend  
26 action to a district school board intended to improve  
27 educational services to students in each school that is  
28 designated as performance grade category "F." Recommendations  
29 for actions to be taken in the school district shall be made  
30 only after thorough consideration of the unique  
31 characteristics of a school, which shall include student

1 mobility rates, the number and type of exceptional students  
2 enrolled in the school, and the availability of options for  
3 improved educational services. The state board shall adopt by  
4 rule steps to follow in this process. Such steps shall  
5 provide school districts sufficient time to improve student  
6 performance in schools and the opportunity to present evidence  
7 of assistance and interventions that the district school board  
8 has implemented.

9 (2) The State Board of Education may recommend one or  
10 more of the following actions to district school boards to  
11 enable students in schools designated as performance grade  
12 category "F" to be academically well served by the public  
13 school system:

14 (a) Provide additional resources, change certain  
15 practices, and provide additional assistance if the state  
16 board determines the causes of inadequate progress to be  
17 related to school district policy or practice;

18 (b) Implement a plan that satisfactorily resolves the  
19 education equity problems in the school;

20 (c) Contract for the educational services of the  
21 school, or reorganize the school at the end of the school year  
22 under a new school principal who is authorized to hire new  
23 staff and implement a plan that addresses the causes of  
24 inadequate progress;

25 (d) Allow parents of students in the school to send  
26 their children to another district school of their choice; or

27 (e) Other action appropriate to improve the school's  
28 performance.

29 (3) In recommending actions to district school boards,  
30 the State Board of Education shall specify the length of time  
31 available to implement the recommended action. The State

1 Board of Education may adopt rules to further specify how it  
2 may respond in specific circumstances. No action taken by the  
3 State Board of Education shall relieve a school from state  
4 accountability requirements.

5 (4) The State Board of Education may require the  
6 Department of Education or Comptroller to withhold any  
7 transfer of state funds to the school district if, within the  
8 timeframe specified in state board action, the school district  
9 has failed to comply with the action ordered to improve the  
10 district's low-performing schools. Withholding the transfer of  
11 funds shall occur only after all other recommended actions for  
12 school improvement have failed to improve performance. The  
13 State Board of Education may impose the same penalty on any  
14 district school board that fails to develop and implement a  
15 plan for assistance and intervention for low-performing  
16 schools as specified in s. 1001.42(16)(c).

17 Section 378. Section 1008.34, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1008.34 School grading system; district performance  
20 grade.--

21 (1) ANNUAL REPORTS.--The Commissioner of Education  
22 shall prepare annual reports of the results of the statewide  
23 assessment program which describe student achievement in the  
24 state, each district, and each school. The commissioner shall  
25 prescribe the design and content of these reports, which must  
26 include, without limitation, descriptions of the performance  
27 of all schools participating in the assessment program and all  
28 of their major student populations as determined by the  
29 Commissioner of Education, and must also include the median  
30 scores of all eligible students who scored at or in the lowest  
31 25th percentile of the state in the previous school year;

1 provided, however, that the provisions of s. 1002.22  
 2 pertaining to student records apply to this section.

3 (2) SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADE CATEGORIES.--The annual  
 4 report shall identify schools as being in one of the following  
 5 grade categories defined according to rules of the State Board  
 6 of Education:

7 (a) "A," schools making excellent progress.  
 8 (b) "B," schools making above average progress.  
 9 (c) "C," schools making satisfactory progress.  
 10 (d) "D," schools making less than satisfactory  
 11 progress.

12 (e) "F," schools failing to make adequate progress.

13

14 Each school designated in performance grade category "A,"  
 15 making excellent progress, or having improved at least two  
 16 performance grade categories, shall have greater authority  
 17 over the allocation of the school's total budget generated  
 18 from the FEFP, state categoricals, lottery funds, grants, and  
 19 local funds, as specified in state board rule. The rule must  
 20 provide that the increased budget authority shall remain in  
 21 effect until the school's performance grade declines.

22 (3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADE  
 23 CATEGORIES.--School performance grade category designations  
 24 itemized in subsection (2) shall be based on the following:

25 (a) Timeframes.--

26 1. School performance grade category designations  
 27 shall be based on the school's current year performance and  
 28 the school's annual learning gains.

29 2. A school's performance grade category designation  
 30 shall be based on a combination of student achievement scores,  
 31 student learning gains as measured by annual FCAT assessments

1 in grades 3 through 10, and improvement of the lowest 25th  
2 percentile of students in the school in reading, math, or  
3 writing on the FCAT, unless these students are performing  
4 above satisfactory performance.

5 (b) Student assessment data.--Student assessment data  
6 used in determining school performance grade categories shall  
7 include:

8 1. The aggregate scores of all eligible students  
9 enrolled in the school who have been assessed on the FCAT.

10 2. The aggregate scores of all eligible students  
11 enrolled in the school who have been assessed on the FCAT,  
12 including Florida Writes, and who have scored at or in the  
13 lowest 25th percentile of students in the school in reading,  
14 math, or writing, unless these students are performing above  
15 satisfactory performance.

16  
17 The Department of Education shall study the effects of  
18 mobility on the performance of highly mobile students and  
19 recommend programs to improve the performance of such  
20 students. The State Board of Education shall adopt appropriate  
21 criteria for each school performance grade category. The  
22 criteria must also give added weight to student achievement in  
23 reading. Schools designated as performance grade category "C,"  
24 making satisfactory progress, shall be required to demonstrate  
25 that adequate progress has been made by students in the school  
26 who are in the lowest 25th percentile in reading, math, or  
27 writing on the FCAT, including Florida Writes, unless these  
28 students are performing above satisfactory performance.

29 (4) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT RATINGS.--The annual report  
30 shall identify each school's performance as having improved,  
31 remained the same, or declined. This school improvement rating

1 shall be based on a comparison of the current year's and  
2 previous year's student and school performance data. Schools  
3 that improve at least one performance grade category are  
4 eligible for school recognition awards pursuant to s. 1008.36.

5 (5) SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADE CATEGORY AND IMPROVEMENT  
6 RATING REPORTS.--School performance grade category  
7 designations and improvement ratings shall apply to each  
8 school's performance for the year in which performance is  
9 measured. Each school's designation and rating shall be  
10 published annually by the Department of Education and the  
11 school district. Parents shall be entitled to an easy-to-read  
12 report card about the designation and rating of the school in  
13 which their child is enrolled.

14 (6) RULES.--The State Board of Education shall adopt  
15 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the  
16 provisions of this section.

17 (7) PERFORMANCE-BASED FUNDING.--The Legislature may  
18 factor in the performance of schools in calculating any  
19 performance-based funding policy that is provided for annually  
20 in the General Appropriations Act.

21 (8) DISTRICT PERFORMANCE GRADE.--The annual report  
22 required by subsection (1) shall include district performance  
23 grades, which shall consist of weighted district average  
24 grades, by level, for all elementary schools, middle schools,  
25 and high schools in the district. A district's weighted  
26 average grade shall be calculated by weighting individual  
27 school grades determined pursuant to subsection (2) by school  
28 enrollment.

29 Section 379. Section 1008.345, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:  
31

1           1008.345 Implementation of state system of school  
2 improvement and education accountability.--

3           (1) The Commissioner of Education is responsible for  
4 implementing and maintaining a system of intensive school  
5 improvement and stringent education accountability, which  
6 shall include policies and programs to implement the  
7 following:

8           (a) A system of data collection and analysis that will  
9 improve information about the educational success of  
10 individual students and schools, including schools operating  
11 for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in  
12 Department of Juvenile Justice programs. The information and  
13 analyses must be capable of identifying educational programs  
14 or activities in need of improvement, and reports prepared  
15 pursuant to this paragraph shall be distributed to the  
16 appropriate district school boards prior to distribution to  
17 the general public. This provision shall not preclude access  
18 to public records as provided in chapter 119.

19           (b) A program of school improvement that will analyze  
20 information to identify schools, including schools operating  
21 for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in  
22 Department of Juvenile Justice programs, educational programs,  
23 or educational activities in need of improvement.

24           (c) A method of delivering services to assist school  
25 districts and schools to improve, including schools operating  
26 for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in  
27 Department of Juvenile Justice programs.

28           (d) A method of coordinating with the state  
29 educational goals and school improvement plans any other state  
30 program that creates incentives for school improvement.

31

1           (2) The commissioner shall be held responsible for the  
2 implementation and maintenance of the system of school  
3 improvement and education accountability outlined in this  
4 section. There shall be an annual determination of whether  
5 adequate progress is being made toward implementing and  
6 maintaining a system of school improvement and education  
7 accountability.

8           (3) The annual feedback report shall be developed by  
9 the Department of Education.

10           (4) The commissioner shall review each district school  
11 board's feedback report and submit findings to the State Board  
12 of Education. If adequate progress is not being made toward  
13 implementing and maintaining a system of school improvement  
14 and education accountability, the State Board of Education  
15 shall direct the commissioner to prepare and implement a  
16 corrective action plan. The commissioner and State Board of  
17 Education shall monitor the development and implementation of  
18 the corrective action plan.

19           (5) The commissioner shall report to the Legislature  
20 and recommend changes in state policy necessary to foster  
21 school improvement and education accountability. Included in  
22 the report shall be a list of the schools, including schools  
23 operating for the purpose of providing educational services to  
24 youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs, for which  
25 district school boards have developed assistance and  
26 intervention plans and an analysis of the various strategies  
27 used by the school boards. School reports shall be distributed  
28 pursuant to this subsection and s. 1001.42(16)(e) and  
29 according to rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

30           (6)(a) The Department of Education shall implement a  
31 training program to develop among state and district educators

1 a cadre of facilitators of school improvement. These  
2 facilitators shall assist schools and districts to conduct  
3 needs assessments and develop and implement school improvement  
4 plans to meet state goals.

5 (b) Upon request, the department shall provide  
6 technical assistance and training to any school, including any  
7 school operating for the purpose of providing educational  
8 services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs,  
9 school advisory council, district, or district school board  
10 for conducting needs assessments, developing and implementing  
11 school improvement plans, developing and implementing  
12 assistance and intervention plans, or implementing other  
13 components of school improvement and accountability. Priority  
14 for these services shall be given to schools designated as  
15 performance grade category "D" or "F" and school districts in  
16 rural and sparsely populated areas of the state.

17 (c) Pursuant to s. 24.121(5)(d), the department shall  
18 not release funds from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund  
19 to any district in which a school, including schools operating  
20 for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in  
21 Department of Juvenile Justice programs, does not have an  
22 approved school improvement plan, pursuant to s. 1001.42(16),  
23 after 1 full school year of planning and development, or does  
24 not comply with school advisory council membership composition  
25 requirements pursuant to s. 1001.452. The department shall  
26 send a technical assistance team to each school without an  
27 approved plan to develop such school improvement plan or to  
28 each school without appropriate school advisory council  
29 membership composition to develop a strategy for corrective  
30 action. The department shall release the funds upon approval  
31 of the plan or upon establishment of a plan of corrective

1 action. Notice shall be given to the public of the  
2 department's intervention and shall identify each school  
3 without a plan or without appropriate school advisory council  
4 membership composition.

5 (d) The department shall assign a community assessment  
6 team to each school district with a school designated as  
7 performance grade category "D" or "F" to review the school  
8 performance data and determine causes for the low performance.  
9 The team shall make recommendations to the school board, to  
10 the department, and to the State Board of Education for  
11 implementing an assistance and intervention plan that will  
12 address the causes of the school's low performance. The  
13 assessment team shall include, but not be limited to, a  
14 department representative, parents, business representatives,  
15 educators, and community activists, and shall represent the  
16 demographics of the community from which they are appointed.

17 (7)(a) Schools designated in performance grade  
18 category "A," making excellent progress, shall, if requested  
19 by the school, be given deregulated status as specified in s.  
20 1003.63(5), (7), (8), (9), and (10).

21 (b) Schools that have improved at least two  
22 performance grade categories and that meet the criteria of the  
23 Florida School Recognition Program pursuant to s. 1008.36 may  
24 be given deregulated status as specified in s. 1003.63(5),  
25 (7), (8), (9), and (10).

26 (8) As a part of the system of educational  
27 accountability, the Department of Education shall:

28 (a) Develop minimum performance standards for various  
29 grades and subject areas, as required in ss. 1001.03, 1008.22,  
30 and 1008.34.

31

- 1           (b) Administer the statewide assessment testing  
2 program created by s. 1008.22.
- 3           (c) Review the school advisory councils of each  
4 district as required by s. 1001.452.
- 5           (d) Conduct the program evaluations required by s.  
6 1001.03.
- 7           (e) Maintain a listing of college-level communication  
8 and mathematics skills defined by the State Board of Education  
9 as being associated with successful student performance  
10 through the baccalaureate level and submit the same to the  
11 State Board of Education for approval.
- 12           (f) Maintain a listing of tests and other assessment  
13 procedures which measure and diagnose student achievement of  
14 college-level communication and computation skills and submit  
15 the same to the State Board of Education for approval.
- 16           (g) Maintain for the information of the State Board of  
17 Education and the Legislature a file of data to reflect  
18 achievement of college-level communication and mathematics  
19 competencies by students in state universities and community  
20 colleges.
- 21           (h) Develop or contract for, and submit to the State  
22 Board of Education for approval, tests which measure and  
23 diagnose student achievement of college-level communication  
24 and mathematics skills. Any tests and related documents  
25 developed are exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1). The  
26 commissioner shall maintain statewide responsibility for the  
27 administration of such tests and may assign administrative  
28 responsibilities for the tests to any state university or  
29 community college. The state board, upon recommendation of  
30 the commissioner, may enter into contracts for such services  
31 beginning in one fiscal year and continuing into the next year

1 which are paid from the appropriation for either or both  
2 fiscal years.

3 (i) Perform any other functions that may be involved  
4 in educational planning, research, and evaluation or that may  
5 be required by the commissioner, the State Board of Education,  
6 or law.

7 Section 380. Section 1008.35, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9 1008.35 Best financial management practices for school  
10 districts; standards; reviews; designation of school  
11 districts.--

12 (1) The purpose of best financial management practices  
13 reviews is to improve Florida school district management and  
14 use of resources and to identify cost savings. The Office of  
15 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA)  
16 and the Office of the Auditor General are directed to develop  
17 a system for reviewing the financial management practices of  
18 school districts. In this system, the Auditor General shall  
19 assist OPPAGA in examining district operations to determine  
20 whether they meet "best financial management practices."

21 (2) The best financial management practices adopted by  
22 the Commissioner of Education may be updated periodically  
23 after consultation with the Legislature, the Governor, the  
24 Department of Education, school districts, and the Auditor  
25 General. OPPAGA shall submit to the Commissioner of Education  
26 for review and adoption proposed revisions to the best  
27 financial management practices adopted by the commissioner.  
28 The best financial management practices, at a minimum, must  
29 instill public confidence by addressing the school district's  
30 use of resources, identifying ways that the district could  
31 save funds, and improving districts' performance

1 accountability systems, including public accountability. To  
2 achieve these objectives, best practices shall be developed  
3 for, but need not be limited to, the following areas:  
4       (a) Management structures.  
5       (b) Performance accountability.  
6       (c) Efficient delivery of educational services,  
7 including instructional materials.  
8       (d) Administrative and instructional technology.  
9       (e) Personnel systems and benefits management.  
10       (f) Facilities construction.  
11       (g) Facilities maintenance.  
12       (h) Student transportation.  
13       (i) Food service operations.  
14       (j) Cost control systems, including asset management,  
15 risk management, financial management, purchasing, internal  
16 auditing, and financial auditing.  
17  
18 In areas for which the commissioner has not adopted best  
19 practices, OPPAGA may develop additional best financial  
20 management practices, with input from a broad range of  
21 stakeholders. OPPAGA shall present any additional best  
22 practices to the commissioner for review and adoption. Revised  
23 best financial management practices adopted by the  
24 commissioner must be used in the next year's scheduled school  
25 district reviews conducted according to this section.  
26       (3) OPPAGA shall contract with a private firm selected  
27 through a formal request for proposal process to perform the  
28 review, to the extent that funds are provided for this purpose  
29 in the General Appropriations Act each year. When sufficient  
30 funds are not provided to contract for all the scheduled best  
31 financial management practices reviews, OPPAGA shall conduct

1 the remaining reviews scheduled for that year, except as  
2 otherwise provided in this act. At least one member of the  
3 private firm review team shall have expertise in school  
4 district finance. The scope of the review shall focus on the  
5 best practices adopted by the Commissioner of Education,  
6 pursuant to subsection (2). OPPAGA may include additional  
7 items in the scope of the review after seeking input from the  
8 school district and the Department of Education.

9 (4) OPPAGA shall consult with the Commissioner of  
10 Education throughout the best practices review process to  
11 ensure that the technical expertise of the Department of  
12 Education benefits the review process and supports the school  
13 districts before, during, and after the review.

14 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature that each  
15 school district shall be subject to a best financial  
16 management practices review. The Legislature also intends that  
17 all school districts shall be reviewed on a continuing 5-year  
18 cycle, as follows, unless specified otherwise in the General  
19 Appropriations Act, or as provided in this section:

20 (a) Year 1: Hillsborough, Sarasota, Collier, Okaloosa,  
21 Alachua, St. Lucie, Santa Rosa, Hernando, Indian River,  
22 Monroe, Osceola, and Bradford.

23 (b) Year 2: Miami-Dade, Duval, Volusia, Bay, Columbia,  
24 Suwannee, Wakulla, Baker, Union, Hamilton, Jefferson, Gadsden,  
25 and Franklin.

26 (c) Year 3: Palm Beach, Orange, Seminole, Lee,  
27 Escambia, Leon, Levy, Taylor, Madison, Gilchrist, Gulf, Dixie,  
28 Liberty, and Lafayette.

29 (d) Year 4: Pinellas, Pasco, Marion, Manatee, Clay,  
30 Charlotte, Citrus, Highlands, Nassau, Hendry, Okeechobee,  
31 Hardee, DeSoto, and Glades.

1           (e) Year 5: Broward, Polk, Brevard, Lake, St. Johns,  
2 Martin, Putnam, Jackson, Flagler, Walton, Sumter, Holmes,  
3 Washington, and Calhoun.

4           (6)(a) The Joint Legislative Auditing Committee may  
5 adjust the schedule of districts to be reviewed when  
6 unforeseen circumstances prevent initiation of reviews  
7 scheduled in a given year.

8           (b) Once the 5-year cycle has been completed, reviews  
9 shall continue, beginning again with those districts included  
10 in year one of the cycle unless a district has requested and  
11 received a waiver as provided in subsection (17).

12           (7) At the direction of the Joint Legislative Auditing  
13 Committee or the President of the Senate and the Speaker of  
14 the House of Representatives, and subject to funding by the  
15 Legislature, OPPAGA may conduct, or contract with a private  
16 firm to conduct, up to two additional best financial  
17 management practices reviews in districts not scheduled for  
18 review during that year if such review is necessary to address  
19 adverse financial conditions.

20           (8) Reviews shall be conducted by OPPAGA and the  
21 consultant to the extent specifically funded by the  
22 Legislature in the General Appropriations Act for this  
23 purpose. Such funds may be used for the cost of reviews by  
24 OPPAGA and private consultants contracted by the director of  
25 OPPAGA. Costs may include professional services, travel  
26 expenses of OPPAGA and staff of the Auditor General, and any  
27 other necessary expenses incurred as part of a best financial  
28 management practices review.

29           (9) Districts scheduled for review must complete a  
30 self-assessment instrument provided by OPPAGA which indicates  
31 the school district's evaluation of its performance on each

1 best practice. The district must begin the self-assessment not  
2 later than 60 days prior to the commencement of the review.  
3 The completed self-assessment instrument and supporting  
4 documentation must be submitted to OPPAGA not later than the  
5 date of commencement of the review as notified by OPPAGA. The  
6 best practice review team will use this self-assessment  
7 information during their review of the district.

8 (10) During the review, OPPAGA and the consultant  
9 conducting the review, if any, shall hold at least one  
10 advertised public forum as part of the review in order to  
11 explain the best financial management practices review process  
12 and obtain input from students, parents, the business  
13 community, and other district residents regarding their  
14 concerns about the operations and management of the school  
15 district.

16 (11) District reviews conducted under this section  
17 must be completed within 6 months after commencement. OPPAGA  
18 shall issue a final report to the President of the Senate, the  
19 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the district  
20 regarding the district's use of best financial management  
21 practices and cost savings recommendations within 60 days  
22 after completing the reviews. Copies of the final report shall  
23 be provided to the Governor, the Commissioner of Education,  
24 and to the chairs of school advisory councils and district  
25 advisory councils established pursuant to s. 229.58(1)(a) and  
26 (b). The district school board shall notify all members of  
27 the school advisory councils and district advisory council by  
28 mail that the final report has been delivered to the school  
29 district and to the council chairs. The notification shall  
30 also inform members of the OPPAGA website address at which an  
31 electronic copy of the report is available.

1           (12) After receipt of the final report and before the  
2 district school board votes whether to adopt the action plan,  
3 or if no action plan was required because the district was  
4 found to be using the best practices, the district school  
5 board shall hold an advertised public forum to accept public  
6 input and review the findings and recommendations of the  
7 report. The district school board shall advertise and promote  
8 this forum in a manner appropriate to inform school and  
9 district advisory councils, parents, school district  
10 employees, the business community, and other district  
11 residents of the opportunity to attend this meeting. OPPAGA  
12 and the consultant, if any, shall also be represented at this  
13 forum.

14           (13)(a) If the district is found not to conform to  
15 best financial management practices, the report must contain  
16 an action plan detailing how the district could meet the best  
17 practices within 2 years. The district school board must  
18 decide, by a majority plus one vote within 90 days after  
19 receipt of the final report, whether or not to implement the  
20 action plan and pursue a "Seal of Best Financial Management"  
21 awarded by the State Board of Education to qualified school  
22 districts. If a district fails to vote on the action plan  
23 within 90 days, district school board members may be required  
24 to appear and present testimony before a legislative  
25 committee, pursuant to s. 11.143.

26           (b) The district school board may vote to reverse a  
27 decision not to implement an action plan, provided that the  
28 action plan is implemented and there is still sufficient time,  
29 as determined by the district school board, to meet the best  
30 practices within 2 years after issuance of the final report.  
31

1           (c) Within 90 days after the receipt of the final  
2 report, the district school board must notify OPPAGA and the  
3 Commissioner of Education in writing of the date and outcome  
4 of the district school board vote on whether to adopt the  
5 action plan. If the district school board fails to vote on  
6 whether to adopt the action plan, the district school  
7 superintendent must notify OPPAGA and the Commissioner of  
8 Education. The Department of Education may contact the school  
9 district, assess the situation, urge the district school board  
10 to vote, and offer technical assistance, if needed.

11           (14) If a district school board votes to implement the  
12 action plan:

13           (a) No later than 1 year after receipt of the final  
14 report, the district school board must submit an initial  
15 status report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of  
16 the House of Representatives, the Governor, OPPAGA, the  
17 Auditor General, the State Board of Education, and the  
18 Commissioner of Education on progress made towards  
19 implementing the action plan and whether changes have occurred  
20 in other areas of operation that would affect compliance with  
21 the best practices.

22           (b) A second status report must be submitted by the  
23 school district to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of  
24 the House of Representatives, the Governor, OPPAGA, the  
25 Auditor General, the Commissioner of Education, and the State  
26 Board of Education no later than 1 year after submission of  
27 the initial report.

28  
29 Status reports are not required once OPPAGA concludes that the  
30 district is using best practices.

31

1           (15) After receipt of each of a district's two status  
2 reports required by subsection (14), OPPAGA shall assess the  
3 district's implementation of the action plan and progress  
4 toward implementing the best financial management practices in  
5 areas covered by the plan. Following each assessment, OPPAGA  
6 shall issue a report to the President of the Senate, the  
7 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the district  
8 indicating whether the district has successfully implemented  
9 the best financial management practices. Copies of the report  
10 must be provided to the Governor, the Auditor General, the  
11 Commissioner of Education, and the State Board of Education.  
12 If a district has failed to implement an action plan adopted  
13 pursuant to subsection (13), district school board members and  
14 the district school superintendent may be required to appear  
15 before a legislative committee, pursuant to s. 11.143, to  
16 present testimony regarding the district's failure to  
17 implement such action plan.

18           (16) District school boards that successfully  
19 implement the best financial management practices within 2  
20 years, or are determined in the review to be using the best  
21 practices, are eligible to receive a "Seal of Best Financial  
22 Management." Upon notification to the Commissioner of  
23 Education and the State Board of Education by OPPAGA that a  
24 district has been found to be using the best financial  
25 management practices, the State Board of Education shall award  
26 that district a "Seal of Best Financial Management" certifying  
27 that the district is adhering to the state's best financial  
28 management practices. The State Board of Education designation  
29 shall be effective for 5 years from the certification date or  
30 until the next review is completed, whichever is later. During  
31 the designation period, the district school board shall

1 annually, not later than the anniversary date of the  
2 certification, notify OPPAGA, the Auditor General, the  
3 Commissioner of Education, and the State Board of Education of  
4 any changes in policies or operations or any other situations  
5 that would not conform to the state's best financial  
6 management practices. The State Board of Education may revoke  
7 the designation of a district school board at any time if it  
8 determines that a district is no longer complying with the  
9 state's best financial management practices. If no such  
10 changes have occurred and the district school board determines  
11 that the school district continues to conform to the best  
12 financial management practices, the district school board  
13 shall annually report that information to the State Board of  
14 Education, with copies to OPPAGA, the Auditor General, and the  
15 Commissioner of Education.

16 (17)(a) A district school board that has been awarded  
17 a "Seal of Best Financial Management" by the State Board of  
18 Education and has annually reported to the State Board of  
19 Education that the district is still conforming to the best  
20 financial management practices may request a waiver from  
21 undergoing its next scheduled Best Financial Management  
22 Practices review.

23 (b) To apply for such waiver, not later than September  
24 1 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the  
25 district is next scheduled for review, the district school  
26 board shall certify to OPPAGA and the Department of Education  
27 the district school board's determination that the school  
28 district is still conforming to the best financial management  
29 practices.

30 (c) After consultation with the Department of  
31 Education and review of the district school board's

1 determination, OPPAGA may recommend to the Legislative Budget  
2 Commission that the district be granted a waiver for the next  
3 scheduled Best Financial Management Practices review. If  
4 approved for waiver, OPPAGA shall notify the school district  
5 and the Department of Education that no review of that  
6 district will be conducted during the next scheduled review  
7 cycle. In that event, the district school board must continue  
8 annual reporting to the State Board of Education as required  
9 in subsection (16). District school boards granted a waiver  
10 for one review cycle are not eligible for waiver of the next  
11 scheduled review cycle.

12 (18) District school boards that receive a best  
13 financial management practices review must maintain records  
14 that will enable independent verification of the  
15 implementation of the action plan and any related fiscal  
16 impacts.

17 (19) Unrestricted cost savings resulting from  
18 implementation of the best financial management practices must  
19 be spent at the school and classroom levels for teacher  
20 salaries, teacher training, improved classroom facilities,  
21 student supplies, textbooks, classroom technology, and other  
22 direct student instruction activities. Cost savings identified  
23 for a program that has restrictive expenditure requirements  
24 shall be used for the enhancement of the specific program.

25 Section 381. Section 1008.36, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 1008.36 Florida School Recognition Program.--

28 (1) The Legislature finds that there is a need for a  
29 performance incentive program for outstanding faculty and  
30 staff in highly productive schools. The Legislature further  
31 finds that performance-based incentives are commonplace in the

1 private sector and should be infused into the public sector as  
2 a reward for productivity.

3 (2) The Florida School Recognition Program is created  
4 to provide financial awards to public schools that:

5 (a) Sustain high performance by receiving a school  
6 grade of "A," making excellent progress; or

7 (b) Demonstrate exemplary improvement due to  
8 innovation and effort by improving a letter grade.

9 (3) All public schools, including charter schools,  
10 that receive a school grade pursuant to s. 1008.34 are  
11 eligible to participate in the program.

12 (4) All selected schools shall receive financial  
13 awards depending on the availability of funds appropriated and  
14 the number and size of schools selected to receive an award.  
15 Funds must be distributed to the school's fiscal agent and  
16 placed in the school's account and must be used for purposes  
17 listed in subsection (5) as determined jointly by the school's  
18 staff and school advisory council. If school staff and the  
19 school advisory council cannot reach agreement by November 1,  
20 the awards must be equally distributed to all classroom  
21 teachers currently teaching in the school.

22 (5) School recognition awards must be used for the  
23 following:

24 (a) Nonrecurring bonuses to the faculty and staff;

25 (b) Nonrecurring expenditures for educational  
26 equipment or materials to assist in maintaining and improving  
27 student performance; or

28 (c) Temporary personnel for the school to assist in  
29 maintaining and improving student performance.

30  
31

1 Notwithstanding statutory provisions to the contrary,  
2 incentive awards are not subject to collective bargaining.

3 Section 382. Section 1008.37, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1008.37 Postsecondary feedback of information to high  
6 schools.--

7 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
8 that require the Commissioner of Education to report to the  
9 State Board of Education, the Legislature, and the district  
10 school boards on the performance of each  
11 first-time-in-postsecondary education student from each public  
12 high school in this state who is enrolled in a public  
13 postsecondary institution or public technical center. Such  
14 reports must be based on information databases maintained by  
15 the Department of Education. In addition, the public  
16 postsecondary educational institutions and technical centers  
17 shall provide district school boards access to information on  
18 student performance in regular and preparatory courses and  
19 shall indicate students referred for remediation pursuant to  
20 s. 1008.30 or s. 1008.28.

21 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall report, by  
22 high school, to the State Board of Education and the  
23 Legislature, no later than November 31 of each year, on the  
24 number of prior year Florida high school graduates who  
25 enrolled for the first time in public postsecondary education  
26 in this state during the previous summer, fall, or spring  
27 term, indicating the number of students whose scores on the  
28 common placement test indicated the need for remediation  
29 through college-preparatory or vocational-preparatory  
30 instruction pursuant to s. 1004.91 or s. 1008.30.  
31

1           (3) The Commissioner of Education shall organize  
2 school summary reports and student-level records by school  
3 district and high school in which the postsecondary education  
4 students were enrolled and report the information to each  
5 school district no later than January 31 of each year.

6           (4) As a part of the school improvement plan pursuant  
7 to s. 1008.345, the State Board of Education shall ensure that  
8 each school district and high school develops strategies to  
9 improve student readiness for the public postsecondary level  
10 based on annual analysis of the feedback report data.

11           (5) The Commissioner of Education shall annually  
12 recommend to the Legislature statutory changes to reduce the  
13 incidence of postsecondary remediation in mathematics,  
14 reading, and writing for first-time-enrolled recent high  
15 school graduates.

16           Section 383. Section 1008.38, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18           1008.38 Articulation accountability process.--The  
19 State Board of Education shall develop articulation  
20 accountability measures which assess the status of systemwide  
21 articulation processes authorized under s. 1007.23. The State  
22 Board of Education shall establish an articulation  
23 accountability process which at a minimum shall address:

24           (1) The impact of articulation processes on ensuring  
25 educational continuity and the orderly and unobstructed  
26 transition of students between public secondary and  
27 postsecondary education systems and facilitating the  
28 transition of students between the public and private sectors.

29           (2) The adequacy of preparation of public secondary  
30 students to smoothly articulate to a public postsecondary  
31 institution.

1           (3) The effectiveness of articulated acceleration  
2 mechanisms available to secondary students.

3           (4) The smooth transfer of community college associate  
4 in arts degree graduates to a state university.

5           (5) An examination of degree requirements that exceed  
6 the parameters of 60 credit hours for an associate degree and  
7 120 hours for a baccalaureate degree in public postsecondary  
8 programs.

9           (6) The relationship between the College Level  
10 Academic Skills Test Program and articulation to the upper  
11 division in public postsecondary institutions.

12           Section 384. Section 1008.385, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14           1008.385 Educational planning and information  
15 systems.--

16           (1) EDUCATIONAL PLANNING.--

17           (a) The Commissioner of Education is responsible for  
18 all planning functions for the department, including  
19 collection, analysis, and interpretation of all data,  
20 information, test results, evaluations, and other indicators  
21 that are used to formulate policy, identify areas of concern  
22 and need, and serve as the basis for short-range and  
23 long-range planning. Such planning shall include assembling  
24 data, conducting appropriate studies and surveys, and  
25 sponsoring research and development activities designed to  
26 provide information about educational needs and the effect of  
27 alternative educational practices.

28           (b) Each district school board shall maintain a  
29 continuing system of planning and budgeting designed to aid in  
30 identifying and meeting the educational needs of students and  
31 the public. Provision shall be made for coordination between

1 district school boards and community college boards of  
2 trustees concerning the planning for career and technical  
3 education and adult educational programs. The major emphasis  
4 of the system shall be upon locally determined goals and  
5 objectives, the state plan for education, and the Sunshine  
6 State Standards developed by the Department of Education and  
7 adopted by the State Board of Education. The district  
8 planning and budgeting system must include consideration of  
9 student achievement data obtained pursuant to ss. 1008.22 and  
10 1008.34. The system shall be structured to meet the specific  
11 management needs of the district and to align the budget  
12 adopted by the district school board with the plan the board  
13 has also adopted. Each district school board shall utilize its  
14 system of planning and budgeting to emphasize a system of  
15 school-based management in which individual school centers  
16 become the principal planning units and to integrate planning  
17 and budgeting at the school level.

18 (2) COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS.--The  
19 Commissioner of Education shall develop and implement an  
20 integrated information system for educational management. The  
21 system must be designed to collect, via electronic transfer,  
22 all student and school performance data required to ascertain  
23 the degree to which schools and school districts are meeting  
24 state performance standards, and must be capable of producing  
25 data for a comprehensive annual report on school and district  
26 performance. In addition, the system shall support, as  
27 feasible, the management decisions to be made in each division  
28 of the department and at the individual school and district  
29 levels. Similar data elements among divisions and levels  
30 shall be compatible. The system shall be based on an overall  
31 conceptual design; the information needed for such decisions,

1 including fiscal, student, program, personnel, facility,  
2 community, evaluation, and other relevant data; and the  
3 relationship between cost and effectiveness. The system shall  
4 be managed and administered by the commissioner and shall  
5 include a district subsystem component to be administered at  
6 the district level, with input from the reports-and-forms  
7 control management committees. Each district school system  
8 with a unique management information system shall assure that  
9 compatibility exists between its unique system and the  
10 district component of the state system so that all data  
11 required as input to the state system is made available via  
12 electronic transfer and in the appropriate input format.

13 (a) The specific responsibilities of the commissioner  
14 shall include:

15 1. Consulting with school district representatives in  
16 the development of the system design model and implementation  
17 plans for the management information system for public school  
18 education management;

19 2. Providing operational definitions for the proposed  
20 system;

21 3. Determining the information and specific data  
22 elements required for the management decisions made at each  
23 educational level, recognizing that the primary unit for  
24 information input is the individual school and recognizing  
25 that time and effort of instructional personnel expended in  
26 collection and compilation of data should be minimized;

27 4. Developing standardized terminology and procedures  
28 to be followed at all levels of the system;

29 5. Developing a standard transmittal format to be used  
30 for collection of data from the various levels of the system;  
31

1           6. Developing appropriate computer programs to assure  
2 integration of the various information components dealing with  
3 students, personnel, facilities, fiscal, program, community,  
4 and evaluation data;

5           7. Developing the necessary programs to provide  
6 statistical analysis of the integrated data provided in  
7 subparagraph 6. in such a way that required reports may be  
8 disseminated, comparisons may be made, and relationships may  
9 be determined in order to provide the necessary information  
10 for making management decisions at all levels;

11           8. Developing output report formats which will provide  
12 district school systems with information for making management  
13 decisions at the various educational levels;

14           9. Developing a phased plan for distributing computer  
15 services equitably among all public schools and school  
16 districts in the state as rapidly as possible. The plan shall  
17 describe alternatives available to the state in providing such  
18 computing services and shall contain estimates of the cost of  
19 each alternative, together with a recommendation for action.  
20 In developing the plan, the feasibility of shared use of  
21 computing hardware and software by school districts, community  
22 colleges, and universities shall be examined. Laws or  
23 administrative rules regulating procurement of data processing  
24 equipment, communication services, or data processing services  
25 by state agencies shall not be construed to apply to local  
26 agencies which share computing facilities with state agencies;

27           10. Assisting the district school systems in  
28 establishing their subsystem components and assuring  
29 compatibility with current district systems;

30           11. Establishing procedures for continuous evaluation  
31 of system efficiency and effectiveness;

1           12. Initiating a reports-management and  
2 forms-management system to ascertain that duplication in  
3 collection of data does not exist and that forms and reports  
4 for reporting under state and federal requirements and other  
5 forms and reports are prepared in a logical and uncomplicated  
6 format, resulting in a reduction in the number and complexity  
7 of required reports, particularly at the school level; and  
8           13. Initiating such other actions as are necessary to  
9 carry out the intent of the Legislature that a management  
10 information system for public school management needs be  
11 implemented. Such other actions shall be based on criteria  
12 including, but not limited to:  
13           a. The purpose of the reporting requirement;  
14           b. The origination of the reporting requirement;  
15           c. The date of origin of the reporting requirement;  
16 and  
17           d. The date of repeal of the reporting requirement.  
18           (b) The specific responsibilities of each district  
19 school system shall include:  
20           1. Establishing, at the district level, a  
21 reports-control and forms-control management system committee  
22 composed of school administrators and classroom teachers. The  
23 district school board shall appoint school administrator  
24 members and classroom teacher members or, in school districts  
25 where appropriate, the classroom teacher members shall be  
26 appointed by the bargaining agent. Teachers shall constitute a  
27 majority of the committee membership. The committee shall  
28 periodically recommend procedures to the district school board  
29 for eliminating, reducing, revising, and consolidating  
30 paperwork and data collection requirements and shall submit to  
31 the district school board an annual report of its findings.

1           2. With assistance from the commissioner, developing  
2 systems compatibility between the state management information  
3 system and unique local systems.

4           3. Providing, with the assistance of the department,  
5 inservice training dealing with management information system  
6 purposes and scope, a method of transmitting input data, and  
7 the use of output report information.

8           4. Establishing a plan for continuous review and  
9 evaluation of local management information system needs and  
10 procedures.

11           5. Advising the commissioner of all district  
12 management information needs.

13           6. Transmitting required data input elements to the  
14 appropriate processing locations in accordance with guidelines  
15 established by the commissioner.

16           7. Determining required reports, comparisons, and  
17 relationships to be provided to district school systems by the  
18 system output reports, continuously reviewing these reports  
19 for usefulness and meaningfulness, and submitting recommended  
20 additions, deletions, and change requirements in accordance  
21 with the guidelines established by the commissioner.

22           8. Being responsible for the accuracy of all data  
23 elements transmitted to the department.

24           (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
25 expertise in the state system of public education, as well as  
26 contracted services, be utilized to hasten the plan for full  
27 implementation of a comprehensive management information  
28 system.

29           (3) RULES.--The State Board of Education shall adopt  
30 rules to administer this section.

31

1           Section 385. Section 1008.386, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1008.386 Social security numbers used as student  
4 identification numbers.--Each district school board shall  
5 request that each student enrolled in a public school in this  
6 state provide his or her social security number. Each school  
7 district shall use social security numbers as student  
8 identification numbers in the management information system  
9 maintained by the school district. However, a student is not  
10 required to provide his or her social security number as a  
11 condition for enrollment or graduation. A student satisfies  
12 this requirement by presenting to school enrollment officials  
13 his or her social security card or a copy of the card. The  
14 school district shall include the social security number in  
15 the student's permanent records and shall indicate if the  
16 student identification number is not a social security number.  
17 The Commissioner of Education shall provide assistance to  
18 school districts to assure that the assignment of student  
19 identification numbers other than social security numbers is  
20 kept to a minimum and to avoid duplication of any student  
21 identification number.

22           Section 386. Section 1008.39, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24           1008.39 Florida Education and Training Placement  
25 Information Program.--

26           (1) The Department of Education shall develop and  
27 maintain a continuing program of information management named  
28 the "Florida Education and Training Placement Information  
29 Program," the purpose of which is to compile, maintain, and  
30 disseminate information concerning the educational histories,  
31 placement and employment, enlistments in the United States

1 armed services, and other measures of success of former  
2 participants in state educational and workforce development  
3 programs. Placement and employment information shall contain  
4 data appropriate to calculate job retention and job retention  
5 rates.

6 (2) Any project conducted by the Department of  
7 Education or the workforce development system that requires  
8 placement information shall use information provided through  
9 the Florida Education and Training Placement Information  
10 Program, and shall not initiate automated matching of records  
11 in duplication of methods already in place in the Florida  
12 Education and Training Placement Information Program. The  
13 department shall implement an automated system which matches  
14 the social security numbers of former participants in state  
15 educational and training programs with information in the  
16 files of state and federal agencies that maintain educational,  
17 employment, and United States armed service records and shall  
18 implement procedures to identify the occupations of those  
19 former participants whose social security numbers are found in  
20 employment records, as required by Specific Appropriation  
21 337A, chapter 84-220, Laws of Florida; Specific Appropriation  
22 337B, chapter 85-119, Laws of Florida; Specific Appropriation  
23 350A, chapter 86-167, Laws of Florida; and Specific  
24 Appropriation 351, chapter 87-98, Laws of Florida.

25 (3) The Florida Education and Training Placement  
26 Information Program must not make public any information that  
27 could identify an individual or the individual's employer. The  
28 Department of Education must ensure that the purpose of  
29 obtaining placement information is to evaluate and improve  
30 public programs or to conduct research for the purpose of  
31 improving services to the individuals whose social security

1 numbers are used to identify their placement. If an agreement  
2 assures that this purpose will be served and that privacy will  
3 be protected, the Department of Education shall have access to  
4 the unemployment insurance wage reports maintained by the  
5 Agency for Workforce Innovation, the files of the Department  
6 of Children and Family Services that contain information about  
7 the distribution of public assistance, the files of the  
8 Department of Corrections that contain records of  
9 incarcerations, and the files of the Department of Business  
10 and Professional Regulation that contain the results of  
11 licensure examination.

12 (4) The Florida Education and Training Placement  
13 Information Program may perform longitudinal analyses for all  
14 levels of education and workforce development. These analyses  
15 must include employment stability, annual earnings, and  
16 relatedness of employment to education.

17 Section 387. Section 1008.40, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1008.40 Workforce Development Information System.--The  
20 Department of Education shall:

21 (1) Design specifications for the collection and  
22 reporting of data and performance specifications for the  
23 Workforce Development Information System. This design must  
24 enable parallel reporting and state-level access of workforce  
25 data necessary to use the data reports as a basis for  
26 calculating funding allocations. In addition, the design must  
27 be capable of providing reports necessary to comply with other  
28 program performance documentation required by state or federal  
29 law, without requiring additional data collection or reporting  
30 from local educational agencies.

31

1           (2) Develop the computer programs, software, and edit  
2 processes necessary for local and state users to produce a  
3 single, unified Workforce Development Information System.

4           Section 388. Section 1008.405, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1008.405 Adult student information.--Each school  
7 district and community college shall maintain sufficient  
8 information for each student enrolled in workforce development  
9 education to allow local and state administrators to locate  
10 such student upon the termination of instruction and to  
11 determine the appropriateness of student placement in specific  
12 instructional programs. The State Board of Education shall  
13 adopt, in rule, specific information that must be maintained  
14 and acceptable means of maintaining that information.

15           Section 389. Section 1008.41, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17           1008.41 Workforce Development Education; management  
18 information system.--

19           (1) The Commissioner of Education shall coordinate  
20 uniform program structures, common definitions, and uniform  
21 management information systems for workforce development  
22 education for all divisions within the department. In  
23 performing these functions, the commissioner shall designate  
24 deadlines after which data elements may not be changed for the  
25 coming fiscal or school year. School districts and community  
26 colleges shall be notified of data element changes at least 90  
27 days prior to the start of the subsequent fiscal or school  
28 year. Such systems must provide for:

29           (a) Individual student reporting.

30           (b) Compliance with state and federal confidentiality  
31 requirements, except that the department shall have access to

1 the unemployment insurance wage reports to collect and report  
2 placement information about former students. Such placement  
3 reports must not disclose the individual identities of former  
4 students.

5 (c) Maximum use of automated technology and records in  
6 existing data bases and data systems. To the extent feasible,  
7 the Florida Information Resource Network shall be employed for  
8 this purpose.

9 (d) Annual reports of student enrollment, completion,  
10 and placement by program.

11 (2) The State Board of Education shall identify, by  
12 rule, the components to be included in the workforce  
13 development education management information system. All such  
14 components shall be comparable between school districts and  
15 community colleges.

16 (3) Planning and evaluation of job-preparatory  
17 programs shall be based on standard sources of data and use  
18 standard occupational definitions and coding structures,  
19 including, but not limited to:

20 (a) The Florida Occupational Information System;

21 (b) The Florida Education and Training Placement  
22 Information Program;

23 (c) The Agency for Workforce Innovation;

24 (d) The United States Department of Labor; and

25 (e) Other sources of data developed using

26 statistically valid procedures.

27 Section 390. Section 1008.42, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1008.42 Public information on career and technical  
30 education programs.--

31

1       (1) The Department of Education shall disseminate  
2 information derived from the reports required by s. 1008.43.  
3 The department shall ensure that the information disseminated  
4 does not name or otherwise identify a student, a former  
5 student, or the student's employer.

6       (2) The dissemination shall be conducted in accordance  
7 with the following procedures:

8       (a) Annually, the Department of Education shall  
9 publish the placement rates and average quarterly earnings for  
10 students who complete each type of technical certificate  
11 program and technical degree program. This information must be  
12 aggregated to the state level and must be included in any  
13 accountability reports. A program that was created or modified  
14 so that placement rates cannot be calculated must be so  
15 identified in such reports.

16       (b)1. Each district school board shall publish, at a  
17 minimum, the most recently available placement rate for each  
18 technical certificate program conducted by that school  
19 district at the secondary school level and at the technical  
20 degree level. The placement rates for the preceding 3 years  
21 shall be published if available, shall be included in each  
22 publication that informs the public of the availability of the  
23 program, and shall be made available to each school guidance  
24 counselor. If a program does not have a placement rate, a  
25 publication that lists or describes that program must state  
26 that the rate is unavailable.

27       2. Each community college shall publish, at a minimum,  
28 the most recent placement rate for each technical certificate  
29 program and for each technical degree program in its annual  
30 catalog. The placement rates for the preceding 3 years shall  
31 be published, if available, and shall be included in any

1 publication that informs the public of the availability of the  
2 program. If a program does not have a placement rate, the  
3 publication that lists or describes that program must state  
4 that the rate is unavailable.

5       3. If a school district or a community college has  
6 calculated for a program a placement rate that differs from  
7 the rate reported by the department, and if each record of a  
8 placement was obtained through a process that was capable of  
9 being audited, procedurally sound, and consistent statewide,  
10 the district or the community college may use the locally  
11 calculated placement rate in the report required by this  
12 section. However, that rate may not be combined with the rate  
13 maintained in the computer files of the Department of  
14 Education's Florida Education and Training Placement  
15 Information Program.

16       4. An independent career and technical, trade, or  
17 business school may not publish a placement rate unless the  
18 placement rate was determined as provided by this section.

19       Section 391. Section 1008.43, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21       1008.43 Career and technical program reporting  
22 requirements.--

23       (1)(a) The Department of Education shall develop a  
24 system of performance measures in order to evaluate the career  
25 and technical education programs as required in s. 1008.42.  
26 This system must measure program enrollment, completion rates,  
27 placement rates, and amount of earnings at the time of  
28 placement. Placement and employment information, where  
29 applicable, shall contain data relevant to job retention,  
30 including retention rates. The State Board of Education shall  
31

1 adopt by rule the specific measures and any definitions needed  
2 to establish the system of performance measures.

3 (b) To measure and report program enrollment and  
4 completion rates, the Department of Education shall use data  
5 in the automated student databases generated by the public  
6 schools and community colleges. To measure and report  
7 placement rates and amount of earnings at the time of  
8 placement, the department shall use data in the reports  
9 produced by the Florida Education and Training Placement  
10 Information Program as required in s. 1008.39. If any  
11 placement information is not available from the Florida  
12 Education and Training Placement Information Program, the  
13 school district or the community college may provide placement  
14 information collected by the school district or the community  
15 college. However, this supplemental information must be  
16 verifiable by the department and must not be commingled with  
17 the database maintained by the Florida Education and Training  
18 Placement Information Program. The State Board of Education  
19 shall specify by rule the statistically valid, verifiable,  
20 uniform procedures by which school districts and community  
21 colleges may collect and report placement information to  
22 supplement the reports from the Florida Education and Training  
23 Placement Information Program.

24 (c) The State Board of Education shall adopt standards  
25 for the department, district school boards, and community  
26 college district boards of trustees to use in program  
27 planning, program review, and program evaluation. The  
28 standards must include, at a minimum, the completion rates,  
29 placement rates, and earnings from employment of former  
30 students of career and technical education programs.

31

1           (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt  
2 procedures for reviewing the career and technical education  
3 programs administered by the district school boards and the  
4 community college district boards of trustees when program  
5 performance falls below the standards required by this  
6 section.

7           (3) Annually the department shall compile the reports  
8 submitted in compliance with the rules adopted under this  
9 section and shall produce a statewide report that addresses  
10 the extent to which school districts and community colleges  
11 are meeting the standards established under paragraph (1)(c).

12           (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules  
13 necessary to administer this section.

14           Section 392. Section 1008.45, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16           1008.45 Community college accountability process.--

17           (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that a  
18 management and accountability process be implemented which  
19 provides for the systematic, ongoing improvement and  
20 assessment of the improvement of the quality and efficiency of  
21 the Florida community colleges. Accordingly, the State Board  
22 of Education and the community college boards of trustees  
23 shall develop and implement an accountability plan to improve  
24 and evaluate the instructional and administrative efficiency  
25 and effectiveness of the Florida Community College System.  
26 This plan shall be designed in consultation with staff of the  
27 Governor and the Legislature and must address the following  
28 issues:

29           (a) Graduation rates of A.A. and A.S. degree-seeking  
30 students compared to first-time-enrolled students seeking the  
31 associate degree.

- 1           (b) Minority student enrollment and retention rates.  
2           (c) Student performance, including student performance  
3 in college-level academic skills, mean grade point averages  
4 for community college A.A. transfer students, and community  
5 college student performance on state licensure examinations.  
6           (d) Job placement rates of community college career  
7 and technical students.  
8           (e) Student progression by admission status and  
9 program.  
10           (f) Career and technical accountability standards  
11 identified in s. 1008.42.  
12           (g) Institutional assessment efforts related to the  
13 requirements of s. III in the Criteria for Accreditation of  
14 the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of  
15 Colleges and Schools.  
16           (h) Other measures as identified by the Council for  
17 Education Policy Research and Improvement and approved by the  
18 State Board of Education.  
19           (2) The State Board of Education shall submit an  
20 annual report, to coincide with the submission of the agency  
21 strategic plan required by law, providing the results of  
22 initiatives taken during the prior year and the initiatives  
23 and related objective performance measures proposed for the  
24 next year.  
25           (3) The State Board of Education shall address within  
26 the annual evaluation of the performance of the executive  
27 director, and the community college boards of trustees shall  
28 address within the annual evaluation of the presidents, the  
29 achievement of the performance goals established by the  
30 accountability process.  
31

1           Section 393. Section 1008.46, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1008.46 State university accountability process.--It  
4 is the intent of the Legislature that an accountability  
5 process be implemented that provides for the systematic,  
6 ongoing evaluation of quality and effectiveness of state  
7 universities. It is further the intent of the Legislature that  
8 this accountability process monitor performance at the system  
9 level in each of the major areas of instruction, research, and  
10 public service, while recognizing the differing missions of  
11 each of the state universities. The accountability process  
12 shall provide for the adoption of systemwide performance  
13 standards and performance goals for each standard identified  
14 through a collaborative effort involving state universities,  
15 the Legislature, and the Governor's Office. These standards  
16 and goals shall be consistent with s. 216.011(1) to maintain  
17 congruity with the performance-based budgeting process. This  
18 process requires that university accountability reports  
19 reflect measures defined through performance-based budgeting.  
20 The performance-based budgeting measures must also reflect the  
21 elements of teaching, research, and service inherent in the  
22 missions of the state universities.

23           (1) By December 31 of each year, the State Board of  
24 Education shall submit an annual accountability report  
25 providing information on the implementation of performance  
26 standards, actions taken to improve university achievement of  
27 performance goals, the achievement of performance goals during  
28 the prior year, and initiatives to be undertaken during the  
29 next year. The accountability reports shall be designed in  
30 consultation with the Governor's Office, the Office of Program  
31

1 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, and the  
2 Legislature.

3 (2) The State Board of Education shall recommend in  
4 the annual accountability report any appropriate modifications  
5 to this section.

6 Section 394. Part III of chapter 1008, Florida  
7 Statutes, shall be entitled "Council for Education Policy  
8 Research and Improvement (CEPRI)" and shall consist of s.  
9 1008.51.

10 Section 395. Section 1008.51, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1008.51 Council for Education Policy Research and  
13 Improvement.--The Council for Education Policy Research and  
14 Improvement is created as an independent office under the  
15 Office of Legislative Services, pursuant to s. 11.147. The  
16 council shall conduct and review education research, provide  
17 independent analysis on education progress, and provide  
18 independent evaluation of education issues of statewide  
19 concern. The Office of Legislative Services shall provide  
20 administrative functions of the council, pursuant to joint  
21 policies of the Legislature.

22 (1) The council shall serve as a citizen board for  
23 independent policy research and analysis. The council shall be  
24 composed of five members appointed by the Governor, two  
25 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
26 Representatives, and two members appointed by the President of  
27 the Senate. Each member shall be appointed for a term of 6  
28 years. However, for purposes of continuity, the Governor shall  
29 appoint two members, the Speaker of the House of  
30 Representatives shall appoint one member, and the President of  
31 the Senate shall appoint one member for a first term of 4

1 years. Members appointed for 4 years may be reappointed to one  
2 additional term. Members shall not include elected officials  
3 or employees of public or independent education entities.  
4 Members who miss two consecutive meetings may be replaced by  
5 the appointing officer.

6 (2) The council shall meet as often as it considers  
7 necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities.  
8 Members shall be paid travel and per diem expenses as provided  
9 in s. 112.061 while performing their duties under this  
10 section.

11 (3) The council shall appoint an executive director,  
12 who shall serve at the pleasure of the council and shall  
13 perform the duties assigned to him or her by the council. The  
14 executive director is the chief administrative officer of the  
15 council and shall appoint all employees and staff members of  
16 the council, who shall serve under the executive director's  
17 direction and control.

18 (4) The council shall:

19 (a) Provide state policymakers, educators, and the  
20 public with objective and timely information that supports the  
21 seamless K-20 education system and the K-20 education  
22 accountability process designed to provide all students an  
23 opportunity for a high-quality education, in accordance with  
24 the policies and guiding principles of s. 1000.02 and the  
25 performance accountability system in s. 1008.31.

26 (b) Explore national and state emerging educational  
27 issues and examine how these issues should be addressed by  
28 education institutions in Florida.

29 (c) Prepare and submit to the State Board of Education  
30 a long-range master plan for education. The plan must include  
31 consideration of the promotion of quality, fundamental

1 educational goals, programmatic access, needs for remedial  
2 education, regional and state economic development,  
3 international education programs, demographic patterns,  
4 student demand for programs, needs of particular subgroups of  
5 the population, implementation of innovative educational  
6 techniques and technology, and requirements of the labor  
7 market. The plan must evaluate the capacity of existing  
8 programs in public and independent institutions to respond to  
9 identified needs, and the council shall recommend efficient  
10 alternatives to address unmet needs. The council shall update  
11 the master plan at least every 5 years.

12 (d) Prepare and submit for approval by the State Board  
13 of Education a long-range performance plan for K-20 education  
14 in Florida, and annually review and recommend improvement in  
15 the implementation of the plan.

16 (e) Annually report on the progress of public schools  
17 and postsecondary education institutions toward meeting  
18 educational goals and standards as defined by s. 1008.31.

19 (f) Recommend to the Legislature and the State Board  
20 of Education legislation and rules for the educational  
21 accountability system that support the policies and guiding  
22 principles of s. 1000.02.

23 (g) Recommend to the State Board of Education  
24 revisions and new initiatives to further improve the K-20  
25 education accountability system.

26 (h) Provide public education institutions and the  
27 public with information on the K-20 education accountability  
28 system, recommend refinements and improvements, and evaluate  
29 issues pertaining to student learning gains.

30 (i) On its own initiative or in response to the  
31 Governor, the Legislature, the State Board of Education, or

1 the Commissioner of Education, issue reports and  
2 recommendations on matters relating to any education sector.

3 (j) By January 1, 2003, and on a 3-year cycle  
4 thereafter, review and make recommendations to the Legislature  
5 regarding the activities of research centers and institutes  
6 supported with state funds to assess the return on the state's  
7 investment in research conducted by public postsecondary  
8 education institutions, in coordination with the Leadership  
9 Board for Applied Research and Public Service, created  
10 pursuant to s. 1004.58.

11 (k) Apply for and receive grants for the study of K-20  
12 education system improvement consistent with its  
13 responsibilities.

14 (l) Assist the State Board of Education in the conduct  
15 of its educational responsibilities in such capacities as the  
16 board considers appropriate.

17 Section 396. Chapter 1009, Florida Statutes, shall be  
18 entitled "Educational Scholarships, Fees, and Financial  
19 Assistance" and shall consist of ss. 1009.01-1009.9994.

20 Section 397. Part I of chapter 1009, Florida Statutes,  
21 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of s.  
22 1009.01.

23 Section 398. Section 1009.01, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25 1009.01 Definitions.--The term:

26 (1) "Tuition" means the basic fee charged to a student  
27 for instruction provided by a public postsecondary educational  
28 institution in this state. A charge for any other purpose  
29 shall not be included within this fee.

30 (2) "Out-of-state fee" means the additional fee for  
31 instruction provided by a public postsecondary educational

1 institution in this state, which fee is charged to a  
2 non-Florida student as defined in rules of the State Board of  
3 Education. A charge for any other purpose shall not be  
4 included within this fee.

5 Section 399. Part II of chapter 1009, Florida  
6 Statutes, shall be entitled "Postsecondary Student Fees" and  
7 shall consist of ss. 1009.21-1009.29.

8 Section 400. Section 1009.21, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1009.21 Determination of resident status for tuition  
11 purposes.--Students shall be classified as residents or  
12 nonresidents for the purpose of assessing tuition in community  
13 colleges and state universities.

14 (1) As used in this section:

15 (a) The term "dependent child" means any person,  
16 whether or not living with his or her parent, who is eligible  
17 to be claimed by his or her parent as a dependent under the  
18 federal income tax code.

19 (b) The term "institution of higher education" means  
20 any public community college or state university.

21 (c) A "legal resident" or "resident" is a person who  
22 has maintained his or her residence in this state for the  
23 preceding year, has purchased a home which is occupied by him  
24 or her as his or her residence, or has established a domicile  
25 in this state pursuant to s. 222.17.

26 (d) The term "parent" means the natural or adoptive  
27 parent or legal guardian of a dependent child.

28 (e) A "resident for tuition purposes" is a person who  
29 qualifies as provided in subsection (2) for the in-state  
30 tuition rate; a "nonresident for tuition purposes" is a person  
31 who does not qualify for the in-state tuition rate.

1           (2)(a) To qualify as a resident for tuition purposes:  
2           1. A person or, if that person is a dependent child,  
3 his or her parent or parents must have established legal  
4 residence in this state and must have maintained legal  
5 residence in this state for at least 12 months immediately  
6 prior to his or her qualification.  
7           2. Every applicant for admission to an institution of  
8 higher education shall be required to make a statement as to  
9 his or her length of residence in the state and, further,  
10 shall establish that his or her presence or, if the applicant  
11 is a dependent child, the presence of his or her parent or  
12 parents in the state currently is, and during the requisite  
13 12-month qualifying period was, for the purpose of maintaining  
14 a bona fide domicile, rather than for the purpose of  
15 maintaining a mere temporary residence or abode incident to  
16 enrollment in an institution of higher education.  
17           (b) However, with respect to a dependent child living  
18 with an adult relative other than the child's parent, such  
19 child may qualify as a resident for tuition purposes if the  
20 adult relative is a legal resident who has maintained legal  
21 residence in this state for at least 12 months immediately  
22 prior to the child's qualification, provided the child has  
23 resided continuously with such relative for the 5 years  
24 immediately prior to the child's qualification, during which  
25 time the adult relative has exercised day-to-day care,  
26 supervision, and control of the child.  
27           (c) The legal residence of a dependent child whose  
28 parents are divorced, separated, or otherwise living apart  
29 will be deemed to be this state if either parent is a legal  
30 resident of this state, regardless of which parent is entitled  
31

1 to claim, and does in fact claim, the minor as a dependent  
2 pursuant to federal individual income tax provisions.

3 (3) An individual shall not be classified as a  
4 resident for tuition purposes and, thus, shall not be eligible  
5 to receive the in-state tuition rate until he or she has  
6 provided such evidence related to legal residence and its  
7 duration as may be required by officials of the institution of  
8 higher education from which he or she seeks the in-state  
9 tuition rate.

10 (4) With respect to a dependent child, the legal  
11 residence of such individual's parent or parents is prima  
12 facie evidence of the individual's legal residence, which  
13 evidence may be reinforced or rebutted, relative to the age  
14 and general circumstances of the individual, by the other  
15 evidence of legal residence required of or presented by the  
16 individual. However, the legal residence of an individual  
17 whose parent or parents are domiciled outside this state is  
18 not prima facie evidence of the individual's legal residence  
19 if that individual has lived in this state for 5 consecutive  
20 years prior to enrolling or reregistering at the institution  
21 of higher education at which resident status for tuition  
22 purposes is sought.

23 (5) In making a domiciliary determination related to  
24 the classification of a person as a resident or nonresident  
25 for tuition purposes, the domicile of a married person,  
26 irrespective of sex, shall be determined, as in the case of an  
27 unmarried person, by reference to all relevant evidence of  
28 domiciliary intent. For the purposes of this section:

29 (a) A person shall not be precluded from establishing  
30 or maintaining legal residence in this state and subsequently  
31 qualifying or continuing to qualify as a resident for tuition

1 purposes solely by reason of marriage to a person domiciled  
2 outside this state, even when that person's spouse continues  
3 to be domiciled outside of this state, provided such person  
4 maintains his or her legal residence in this state.

5 (b) A person shall not be deemed to have established  
6 or maintained a legal residence in this state and subsequently  
7 to have qualified or continued to qualify as a resident for  
8 tuition purposes solely by reason of marriage to a person  
9 domiciled in this state.

10 (c) In determining the domicile of a married person,  
11 irrespective of sex, the fact of the marriage and the place of  
12 domicile of such person's spouse shall be deemed relevant  
13 evidence to be considered in ascertaining domiciliary intent.

14 (6) Any nonresident person, irrespective of sex, who  
15 marries a legal resident of this state or marries a person who  
16 later becomes a legal resident may, upon becoming a legal  
17 resident of this state, accede to the benefit of the spouse's  
18 immediately precedent duration as a legal resident for  
19 purposes of satisfying the 12-month durational requirement of  
20 this section.

21 (7) A person shall not lose his or her resident status  
22 for tuition purposes solely by reason of serving, or, if such  
23 person is a dependent child, by reason of his or her parent's  
24 or parents' serving, in the Armed Forces outside this state.

25 (8) A person who has been properly classified as a  
26 resident for tuition purposes but who, while enrolled in an  
27 institution of higher education in this state, loses his or  
28 her resident tuition status because the person or, if he or  
29 she is a dependent child, the person's parent or parents  
30 establish domicile or legal residence elsewhere shall continue  
31 to enjoy the in-state tuition rate for a statutory grace

1 period, which period shall be measured from the date on which  
2 the circumstances arose that culminated in the loss of  
3 resident tuition status and shall continue for 12 months.  
4 However, if the 12-month grace period ends during a semester  
5 or academic term for which such former resident is enrolled,  
6 such grace period shall be extended to the end of that  
7 semester or academic term.

8 (9) Any person who ceases to be enrolled at or who  
9 graduates from an institution of higher education while  
10 classified as a resident for tuition purposes and who  
11 subsequently abandons his or her domicile in this state shall  
12 be permitted to reenroll at an institution of higher education  
13 in this state as a resident for tuition purposes without the  
14 necessity of meeting the 12-month durational requirement of  
15 this section if that person has reestablished his or her  
16 domicile in this state within 12 months of such abandonment  
17 and continuously maintains the reestablished domicile during  
18 the period of enrollment. The benefit of this subsection shall  
19 not be accorded more than once to any one person.

20 (10) The following persons shall be classified as  
21 residents for tuition purposes:

22 (a) Active duty members of the Armed Services of the  
23 United States residing or stationed in this state, their  
24 spouses, and dependent children.

25 (b) Active duty members of the Armed Services of the  
26 United States and their spouses attending a public community  
27 college or state university within 50 miles of the military  
28 establishment where they are stationed, if such military  
29 establishment is within a county contiguous to Florida.

30 (c) United States citizens living on the Isthmus of  
31 Panama, who have completed 12 consecutive months of college

1 work at the Florida State University Panama Canal Branch, and  
2 their spouses and dependent children.

3 (d) Full-time instructional and administrative  
4 personnel employed by state public schools, community  
5 colleges, and institutions of higher education, as defined in  
6 s. 1000.04, and their spouses and dependent children.

7 (e) Students from Latin America and the Caribbean who  
8 receive scholarships from the federal or state government.  
9 Any student classified pursuant to this paragraph shall  
10 attend, on a full-time basis, a Florida institution of higher  
11 education.

12 (f) Southern Regional Education Board's Academic  
13 Common Market graduate students attending Florida's state  
14 universities.

15 (g) Full-time employees of state agencies or political  
16 subdivisions of the state when the student fees are paid by  
17 the state agency or political subdivision for the purpose of  
18 job-related law enforcement or corrections training.

19 (h) McKnight Doctoral Fellows and Finalists who are  
20 United States citizens.

21 (i) United States citizens living outside the United  
22 States who are teaching at a Department of Defense Dependent  
23 School or in an American International School and who enroll  
24 in a graduate level education program which leads to a Florida  
25 teaching certificate.

26 (j) Active duty members of the Canadian military  
27 residing or stationed in this state under the North American  
28 Air Defense (NORAD) agreement, and their spouses and dependent  
29 children, attending a community college or state university  
30 within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are  
31 stationed.

1           (11) The State Board of Education shall by rule  
2 designate classifications of students as residents or  
3 nonresidents for tuition purposes at community colleges and  
4 state universities.

5           Section 401. Section 1009.22, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7           1009.22 Workforce development postsecondary student  
8 fees.--

9           (1) This section applies to students enrolled in  
10 workforce development programs who are reported for funding  
11 through the Workforce Development Education Fund, except that  
12 college credit fees for the community colleges are governed by  
13 s. 1009.23.

14           (2) All students shall be charged fees except students  
15 who are exempt from fees or students whose fees are waived.

16           (3)(a) The Commissioner of Education shall provide to  
17 the State Board of Education no later than December 31 of each  
18 year a schedule of fees for workforce development education,  
19 excluding continuing workforce education, for school districts  
20 and community colleges. The fee schedule shall be based on the  
21 amount of student fees necessary to produce 25 percent of the  
22 prior year's average cost of a course of study leading to a  
23 certificate or diploma. Except as otherwise provided by law,  
24 fees for students who are not residents for tuition purposes  
25 must offset the full cost of instruction. Fee-nonexempt  
26 students enrolled in vocational-preparatory instruction shall  
27 be charged fees equal to the fees charged for certificate  
28 career education instruction. Each community college that  
29 conducts college-preparatory and vocational-preparatory  
30 instruction in the same class section may charge a single fee  
31 for both types of instruction.

1           **(b) Fees for continuing workforce education shall be**  
2 **locally determined by the district school board or community**  
3 **college board. However, at least 50 percent of the**  
4 **expenditures for the continuing workforce education program**  
5 **provided by the community college or school district must be**  
6 **derived from fees.**

7           **(c) The State Board of Education shall adopt a fee**  
8 **schedule for school districts and community colleges that**  
9 **produces the fee revenues calculated pursuant to paragraph**  
10 **(a). The schedule so calculated shall take effect, unless**  
11 **otherwise specified in the General Appropriations Act.**

12           **(d) The State Board of Education shall adopt, by rule,**  
13 **the definitions and procedures that district school boards**  
14 **shall use in the calculation of cost borne by students.**

15           **(4) A district school board or community college board**  
16 **that has a service area that borders another state may**  
17 **implement a plan for a differential out-of-state fee.**

18           **(5) Each district school board and community college**  
19 **board of trustees may establish a separate fee for financial**  
20 **aid purposes in an additional amount of up to 10 percent of**  
21 **the student fees collected for workforce development programs**  
22 **funded through the Workforce Development Education Fund. All**  
23 **fees collected shall be deposited into a separate workforce**  
24 **development student financial aid fee trust fund of the school**  
25 **district or community college to support students enrolled in**  
26 **workforce development programs. Any undisbursed balance**  
27 **remaining in the trust fund and interest income accruing to**  
28 **investments from the trust fund shall increase the total funds**  
29 **available for distribution to workforce development education**  
30 **students. Awards shall be based on student financial need and**  
31 **distributed in accordance with a nationally recognized system**

1 of need analysis approved by the State Board of Education.  
2 Fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be allocated  
3 in an expeditious manner.  
4 (6) Each district school board and community college  
5 board of trustees may establish a separate fee for capital  
6 improvements, technology enhancements, or equipping buildings  
7 which may not exceed 5 percent of tuition for resident  
8 students or 5 percent of tuition and out-of-state fees for  
9 nonresident students. Funds collected by community colleges  
10 through these fees may be bonded only for the purpose of  
11 financing or refinancing new construction and equipment,  
12 renovation, or remodeling of educational facilities. The fee  
13 shall be collected as a component part of the tuition and  
14 fees, paid into a separate account, and expended only to  
15 construct and equip, maintain, improve, or enhance the  
16 certificate career education or adult education facilities of  
17 the school district or community college. Projects funded  
18 through the use of the capital improvement fee must meet the  
19 survey and construction requirements of chapter 1013. Pursuant  
20 to s. 216.0158, each district school board and community  
21 college board of trustees shall identify each project,  
22 including maintenance projects, proposed to be funded in whole  
23 or in part by such fee. Capital improvement fee revenues may  
24 be pledged by a board of trustees as a dedicated revenue  
25 source to the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase  
26 agreements and revenue bonds, with a term not to exceed 20  
27 years, and not to exceed the useful life of the asset being  
28 financed, only for the new construction and equipment,  
29 renovation, or remodeling of educational facilities. Community  
30 colleges may use the services of the Division of Bond Finance  
31 of the State Board of Administration to issue any bonds

1 authorized through the provisions of this subsection. Any such  
2 bonds issued by the Division of Bond Finance shall be in  
3 compliance with the provisions of the State Bond Act. Bonds  
4 issued pursuant to the State Bond Act shall be validated in  
5 the manner provided by chapter 75. The complaint for such  
6 validation shall be filed in the circuit court of the county  
7 where the seat of state government is situated, the notice  
8 required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published only  
9 in the county where the complaint is filed, and the complaint  
10 and order of the circuit court shall be served only on the  
11 state attorney of the circuit in which the action is pending.  
12 A maximum of 15 cents per credit hour may be allocated from  
13 the capital improvement fee for child care centers conducted  
14 by the district school board or community college board of  
15 trustees.

16 (7) Each district school board and community college  
17 board of trustees is authorized to establish a separate fee  
18 for technology, not to exceed \$1.80 per credit hour or  
19 credit-hour equivalent for resident students and not more than  
20 \$5.40 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for  
21 nonresident students, or the equivalent, to be expended in  
22 accordance with technology improvement plans. The technology  
23 fee may apply only to associate degree programs and courses.  
24 Fifty percent of technology fee revenues may be pledged by a  
25 community college board of trustees as a dedicated revenue  
26 source for the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase  
27 agreements, not to exceed the useful life of the asset being  
28 financed. Revenues generated from the technology fee may not  
29 be bonded.

30 (8) Each district school board and community college  
31 board of trustees is authorized to establish specific fees for

1 workforce development instruction not reported for state  
2 funding purposes or for workforce development instruction not  
3 reported as state funded full-time equivalent students.  
4 District school boards and community college boards of  
5 trustees are not required to charge any other fee specified in  
6 this section for this type of instruction.

7 (9) Community college boards of trustees and district  
8 school boards are not authorized to charge students enrolled  
9 in workforce development programs any fee that is not  
10 specifically authorized by statute. In addition to tuition,  
11 out-of-state, financial aid, capital improvement, and  
12 technology fees, as authorized in this section, community  
13 college boards of trustees and district school boards are  
14 authorized to establish fee schedules for the following user  
15 fees and fines: laboratory fees; parking fees and fines;  
16 library fees and fines; fees and fines relating to facilities  
17 and equipment use or damage; access or identification card  
18 fees; duplicating, photocopying, binding, or microfilming  
19 fees; standardized testing fees; diploma replacement fees;  
20 transcript fees; application fees; graduation fees; and late  
21 fees related to registration and payment. Such user fees and  
22 fines shall not exceed the cost of the services provided and  
23 shall only be charged to persons receiving the service.  
24 Parking fee revenues may be pledged by a community college  
25 board of trustees as a dedicated revenue source for the  
26 repayment of debt, including lease-purchase agreements and  
27 revenue bonds with terms not exceeding 20 years and not  
28 exceeding the useful life of the asset being financed.  
29 Community colleges shall use the services of the Division of  
30 Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration to issue any  
31 revenue bonds authorized by the provisions of this subsection.

1 Any such bonds issued by the Division of Bond Finance shall be  
2 in compliance with the provisions of the State Bond Act. Bonds  
3 issued pursuant to the State Bond Act shall be validated in  
4 the manner established in chapter 75. The complaint for such  
5 validation shall be filed in the circuit court of the county  
6 where the seat of state government is situated, the notice  
7 required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published only  
8 in the county where the complaint is filed, and the complaint  
9 and order of the circuit court shall be served only on the  
10 state attorney of the circuit in which the action is pending.

11 (10) Each year the State Board of Education shall  
12 review and evaluate the percentage of the cost of adult  
13 programs and certificate career education programs supported  
14 through student fees. For students who are residents for  
15 tuition purposes, the schedule adopted pursuant to subsection  
16 (3) must produce revenues equal to 25 percent of the prior  
17 year's average program cost for college-preparatory and  
18 certificate-level workforce development programs. Fees for  
19 continuing workforce education shall be locally determined by  
20 the district school board or community college board. However,  
21 at least 50 percent of the expenditures for the continuing  
22 workforce education program provided by the community college  
23 or school district must be derived from fees. Except as  
24 otherwise provided by law, fees for students who are not  
25 residents for tuition purposes must offset the full cost of  
26 instruction.

27 (11) Each school district and community college may  
28 assess a service charge for the payment of tuition and fees in  
29 installments. Such service charge must be approved by the  
30 district school board or community college board of trustees.  
31

1           (12) Any school district or community college that  
2 reports students who have not paid fees in an approved manner  
3 in calculations of full-time equivalent enrollments for state  
4 funding purposes shall be penalized at a rate equal to 2 times  
5 the value of such enrollments. Such penalty shall be charged  
6 against the following year's allocation from the Florida  
7 Workforce Development Education Fund or the Community College  
8 Program Fund and shall revert to the General Revenue Fund.  
9 The State Board of Education shall specify, in rule, approved  
10 methods of student fee payment. Such methods must include,  
11 but need not be limited to, student fee payment; payment  
12 through federal, state, or institutional financial aid; and  
13 employer fee payments.

14           (13) Each school district and community college shall  
15 report only those students who have actually enrolled in  
16 instruction provided or supervised by instructional personnel  
17 under contract with the district or community college in  
18 calculations of actual full-time enrollments for state funding  
19 purposes. A student who has been exempted from taking a  
20 course or who has been granted academic or technical credit  
21 through means other than actual coursework completed at the  
22 granting institution may not be calculated for enrollment in  
23 the course from which the student has been exempted or for  
24 which the student has been granted credit. School districts  
25 and community colleges that report enrollments in violation of  
26 this subsection shall be penalized at a rate equal to 2 times  
27 the value of such enrollments. Such penalty shall be charged  
28 against the following year's allocation from the Workforce  
29 Development Education Fund and shall revert to the General  
30 Revenue Fund.

31

1           Section 402. Section 1009.23, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1009.23 Community college student fees.--

4           (1) Unless otherwise provided, the provisions of this  
5 section apply only to fees charged for college credit  
6 instruction leading to an associate in arts degree, an  
7 associate in applied science degree, or an associate in  
8 science degree and noncollege credit college-preparatory  
9 courses defined in s. 1004.02.

10           (2) All students shall be charged fees except students  
11 who are exempt from fees or students whose fees are waived.

12           (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt by  
13 December 31 of each year a resident fee schedule for the  
14 following fall for advanced and professional, associate in  
15 science degree, and college-preparatory programs that produce  
16 revenues in the amount of 25 percent of the full prior year's  
17 cost of these programs. Fees for courses in  
18 college-preparatory programs and associate in arts and  
19 associate in science degree programs may be established at the  
20 same level. In the absence of a provision to the contrary in  
21 an appropriations act, the fee schedule shall take effect and  
22 the colleges shall expend the funds on instruction. If the  
23 Legislature provides for an alternative fee schedule in an  
24 appropriations act, the fee schedule shall take effect the  
25 subsequent fall semester.

26           (4) Each community college board of trustees shall  
27 establish tuition and out-of-state fees, which may vary no  
28 more than 10 percent below and 15 percent above the combined  
29 total of the fee schedule adopted by the State Board of  
30 Education and the technology fee adopted by a board of  
31 trustees, provided that any amount from 10 to 15 percent above

1 the fee schedule is used only to support safety and security  
2 purposes. In order to assess an additional amount for safety  
3 and security purposes, a community college board of trustees  
4 must provide written justification to the State Board of  
5 Education based on criteria approved by the board of trustees,  
6 including, but not limited to, criteria such as local crime  
7 data and information, and strategies for the implementation of  
8 local safety plans. Should a college decide to increase the  
9 tuition fee, the funds raised by increasing the tuition fee  
10 must be expended solely for additional safety and security  
11 purposes and shall not supplant funding expended in the  
12 1998-1999 budget for safety and security purposes.

13 (5) Except as otherwise provided in law, the sum of  
14 nonresident student tuition and out-of-state fees must be  
15 sufficient to defray the full cost of each program.

16 (6) A community college board of trustees that has a  
17 service area that borders another state may implement a plan  
18 for a differential out-of-state fee.

19 (7) Each community college board of trustees may  
20 establish a separate activity and service fee not to exceed 10  
21 percent of the tuition fee, according to rules of the State  
22 Board of Education. The student activity and service fee shall  
23 be collected as a component part of the tuition and fees. The  
24 student activity and service fees shall be paid into a student  
25 activity and service fund at the community college and shall  
26 be expended for lawful purposes to benefit the student body in  
27 general. These purposes include, but are not limited to,  
28 student publications and grants to duly recognized student  
29 organizations, the membership of which is open to all students  
30 at the community college without regard to race, sex, or  
31 religion.

1       (8)(a) Each community college board of trustees is  
2 authorized to establish a separate fee for financial aid  
3 purposes in an additional amount up to, but not to exceed, 5  
4 percent of the total student tuition or out-of-state fees  
5 collected. Each community college board of trustees may  
6 collect up to an additional 2 percent if the amount generated  
7 by the total financial aid fee is less than \$250,000. If the  
8 amount generated is less than \$250,000, a community college  
9 that charges tuition and out-of-state fees at least equal to  
10 the average fees established by rule may transfer from the  
11 general current fund to the scholarship fund an amount equal  
12 to the difference between \$250,000 and the amount generated by  
13 the total financial aid fee assessment. No other transfer from  
14 the general current fund to the loan, endowment, or  
15 scholarship fund, by whatever name known, is authorized.

16       (b) All funds collected under this program shall be  
17 placed in the loan and endowment fund or scholarship fund of  
18 the college, by whatever name known. Such funds shall be  
19 disbursed to students as quickly as possible. An amount not  
20 greater than 40 percent of the fees collected in a fiscal year  
21 may be carried forward unexpended to the following fiscal  
22 year. However, funds collected prior to July 1, 1989, and  
23 placed in an endowment fund may not be considered part of the  
24 balance of funds carried forward unexpended to the following  
25 fiscal year.

26       (c) Up to 25 percent or \$300,000, whichever is  
27 greater, of the financial aid fees collected may be used to  
28 assist students who demonstrate academic merit; who  
29 participate in athletics, public service, cultural arts, and  
30 other extracurricular programs as determined by the  
31 institution; or who are identified as members of a targeted

1 gender or ethnic minority population. The financial aid fee  
2 revenues allocated for athletic scholarships and fee  
3 exemptions provided pursuant to s. 1009.25(3) for athletes  
4 shall be distributed equitably as required by s.  
5 1000.05(3)(d). A minimum of 75 percent of the balance of these  
6 funds for new awards shall be used to provide financial aid  
7 based on absolute need, and the remainder of the funds shall  
8 be used for academic merit purposes and other purposes  
9 approved by the boards of trustees. Such other purposes shall  
10 include the payment of child care fees for students with  
11 financial need. The State Board of Education shall develop  
12 criteria for making financial aid awards. Each college shall  
13 report annually to the Department of Education on the revenue  
14 collected pursuant to this paragraph, the amount carried  
15 forward, the criteria used to make awards, the amount and  
16 number of awards for each criterion, and a delineation of the  
17 distribution of such awards. The report shall include an  
18 assessment by category of the financial need of every student  
19 who receives an award, regardless of the purpose for which the  
20 award is received. Awards which are based on financial need  
21 shall be distributed in accordance with a nationally  
22 recognized system of need analysis approved by the State Board  
23 of Education. An award for academic merit shall require a  
24 minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or  
25 the equivalent for both initial receipt of the award and  
26 renewal of the award.

27 (d) These funds may not be used for direct or indirect  
28 administrative purposes or salaries.

29 (9) Any community college that reports students who  
30 have not paid fees in an approved manner in calculations of  
31 full-time equivalent enrollments for state funding purposes

1 shall be penalized at a rate equal to two times the value of  
2 such enrollments. Such penalty shall be charged against the  
3 following year's allocation from the Community College Program  
4 Fund and shall revert to the General Revenue Fund.

5 (10) Each community college board of trustees is  
6 authorized to establish a separate fee for technology, which  
7 may not exceed \$1.80 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent  
8 for resident students and not more than \$5.40 per credit hour  
9 or credit-hour equivalent for nonresident students, to be  
10 expended according to technology improvement plans. The  
11 technology fee may apply to both college credit and  
12 college-preparatory instruction. Fifty percent of technology  
13 fee revenues may be pledged by a community college board of  
14 trustees as a dedicated revenue source for the repayment of  
15 debt, including lease-purchase agreements, not to exceed the  
16 useful life of the asset being financed. Revenues generated  
17 from the technology fee may not be bonded.

18 (11) Each community college board of trustees may  
19 establish a separate fee for capital improvements, technology  
20 enhancements, or equipping student buildings which may not  
21 exceed \$1 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for  
22 residents and which equals or exceeds \$3 per credit hour for  
23 nonresidents. Funds collected by community colleges through  
24 these fees may be bonded only for the purpose of financing or  
25 refinancing new construction and equipment, renovation, or  
26 remodeling of educational facilities. The fee shall be  
27 collected as a component part of the tuition and fees, paid  
28 into a separate account, and expended only to construct and  
29 equip, maintain, improve, or enhance the educational  
30 facilities of the community college. Projects funded through  
31 the use of the capital improvement fee shall meet the survey

1 and construction requirements of chapter 1013. Pursuant to s.  
2 216.0158, each community college shall identify each project,  
3 including maintenance projects, proposed to be funded in whole  
4 or in part by such fee. Capital improvement fee revenues may  
5 be pledged by a board of trustees as a dedicated revenue  
6 source to the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase  
7 agreements and revenue bonds, with a term not to exceed 20  
8 years, and not to exceed the useful life of the asset being  
9 financed, only for the new construction and equipment,  
10 renovation, or remodeling of educational facilities. Community  
11 colleges may use the services of the Division of Bond Finance  
12 of the State Board of Administration to issue any bonds  
13 authorized through the provisions of this subsection. Any such  
14 bonds issued by the Division of Bond Finance shall be in  
15 compliance with the provisions of the State Bond Act. Bonds  
16 issued pursuant to the State Bond Act shall be validated in  
17 the manner provided by chapter 75. The complaint for such  
18 validation shall be filed in the circuit court of the county  
19 where the seat of state government is situated, the notice  
20 required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published only  
21 in the county where the complaint is filed, and the complaint  
22 and order of the circuit court shall be served only on the  
23 state attorney of the circuit in which the action is pending.  
24 A maximum of 15 cents per credit hour may be allocated from  
25 the capital improvement fee for child care centers conducted  
26 by the community college.

27 (12) In addition to tuition, out-of-state, financial  
28 aid, capital improvement, student activity and service, and  
29 technology fees authorized in this section, each community  
30 college board of trustees is authorized to establish fee  
31 schedules for the following user fees and fines: laboratory

1 fees; parking fees and fines; library fees and fines; fees and  
2 fees relating to facilities and equipment use or damage;  
3 access or identification card fees; duplicating, photocopying,  
4 binding, or microfilming fees; standardized testing fees;  
5 diploma replacement fees; transcript fees; application fees;  
6 graduation fees; and late fees related to registration and  
7 payment. Such user fees and fines shall not exceed the cost of  
8 the services provided and shall only be charged to persons  
9 receiving the service. A community college may not charge any  
10 fee except as authorized by law or rules of the State Board of  
11 Education. Parking fee revenues may be pledged by a community  
12 college board of trustees as a dedicated revenue source for  
13 the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase agreements and  
14 revenue bonds with terms not exceeding 20 years and not  
15 exceeding the useful life of the asset being financed.  
16 Community colleges shall use the services of the Division of  
17 Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration to issue any  
18 revenue bonds authorized by the provisions of this subsection.  
19 Any such bonds issued by the Division of Bond Finance shall be  
20 in compliance with the provisions of the State Bond Act. Bonds  
21 issued pursuant to the State Bond Act shall be validated in  
22 the manner established in chapter 75. The complaint for such  
23 validation shall be filed in the circuit court of the county  
24 where the seat of state government is situated, the notice  
25 required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published only  
26 in the county where the complaint is filed, and the complaint  
27 and order of the circuit court shall be served only on the  
28 state attorney of the circuit in which the action is pending.  
29 (13) The State Board of Education shall specify, as  
30 necessary, by rule, approved methods of student fee payment.  
31 Such methods shall include, but not be limited to, student fee

1 payment; payment through federal, state, or institutional  
2 financial aid; and employer fee payments.

3 (14) Each community college board of trustees shall  
4 report only those students who have actually enrolled in  
5 instruction provided or supervised by instructional personnel  
6 under contract with the community college in calculations of  
7 actual full-time equivalent enrollments for state funding  
8 purposes. No student who has been exempted from taking a  
9 course or who has been granted academic or technical credit  
10 through means other than actual coursework completed at the  
11 granting institution shall be calculated for enrollment in the  
12 course from which he or she has been exempted or granted  
13 credit. Community colleges that report enrollments in  
14 violation of this subsection shall be penalized at a rate  
15 equal to two times the value of such enrollments. Such penalty  
16 shall be charged against the following year's allocation from  
17 the Community College Program Fund and shall revert to the  
18 General Revenue Fund.

19 (15) Each community college may assess a service  
20 charge for the payment of tuition and fees in installments.  
21 Such service charge must be approved by the community college  
22 board of trustees.

23 (16) The State Board of Education shall adopt a rule  
24 specifying the definitions and procedures to be used in the  
25 calculation of the percentage of cost paid by students. The  
26 rule must provide for the calculation of the full cost of  
27 educational programs based on the allocation of all funds  
28 provided through the general current fund to programs of  
29 instruction, and other activities as provided in the annual  
30 expenditure analysis. The rule shall be developed in  
31 consultation with the Legislature.

1           Section 403. Section 1009.24, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1009.24 State university student fees.--

4           (1) This section applies to students enrolled in  
5 college credit programs at state universities.

6           (2) All students shall be charged fees except students  
7 who are exempt from fees or students whose fees are waived.

8           (3) Within proviso in the General Appropriations Act  
9 and law, each board of trustees shall set university tuition  
10 and fees. The sum of the activity and service, health, and  
11 athletic fees a student is required to pay to register for a  
12 course shall not exceed 40 percent of the tuition established  
13 in law or in the General Appropriations Act. No university  
14 shall be required to lower any fee in effect on the effective  
15 date of this act in order to comply with this subsection.  
16 Within the 40 percent cap, universities may not increase the  
17 aggregate sum of activity and service, health, and athletic  
18 fees more than 5 percent per year unless specifically  
19 authorized in law or in the General Appropriations Act. This  
20 subsection does not prohibit a university from increasing or  
21 assessing optional fees related to specific activities if  
22 payment of such fees is not required as a part of registration  
23 for courses.

24           (4) A university that has a service area that borders  
25 another state may implement a plan for a differential  
26 out-of-state fee.

27           (5) Students who are enrolled in Programs in Medical  
28 Sciences are considered graduate students for the purpose of  
29 enrollment and student fees.

30           (6) A university board of trustees is authorized to  
31 collect for financial aid purposes an amount not to exceed 5

1 percent of the tuition and out-of-state fee. The revenues from  
2 fees are to remain at each campus and replace existing  
3 financial aid fees. Such funds shall be disbursed to students  
4 as quickly as possible. A minimum of 75 percent of funds from  
5 the student financial aid fee for new financial aid awards  
6 shall be used to provide financial aid based on absolute need.  
7 A student who has received an award prior to July 1, 1984,  
8 shall have his or her eliqibility assessed on the same  
9 criteria that were used at the time of his or her original  
10 award. The State Board of Education shall develop criteria for  
11 making financial aid awards. Each university shall report  
12 annually to the Department of Education on the revenue  
13 collected pursuant to this subsection, the amount carried  
14 forward, the criteria used to make awards, the amount and  
15 number of awards for each criterion, and a delineation of the  
16 distribution of such awards. The report shall include an  
17 assessment by category of the financial need of every student  
18 who receives an award, regardless of the purpose for which the  
19 award is received. Awards which are based on financial need  
20 shall be distributed in accordance with a nationally  
21 recognized system of need analysis approved by the State Board  
22 of Education. An award for academic merit shall require a  
23 minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or  
24 the equivalent for both initial receipt of the award and  
25 renewal of the award.

26 (7) The Capital Improvement Trust Fund fee is  
27 established as \$2.44 per credit hour per semester. The  
28 building fee is established as \$2.32 per credit hour per  
29 semester.

30 (8) Each university board of trustees is authorized to  
31 establish separate activity and service, health, and athletic

1 fees. When duly established, the fees shall be collected as  
2 component parts of tuition and fees and shall be retained by  
3 the university and paid into the separate activity and  
4 service, health, and athletic funds.

5 (9)(a) Each university board of trustees shall  
6 establish a student activity and service fee on the main  
7 campus of the university. The university board may also  
8 establish a student activity and service fee on any branch  
9 campus or center. Any subsequent increase in the activity and  
10 service fee must be recommended by an activity and service fee  
11 committee, at least one-half of whom are students appointed by  
12 the student body president. The remainder of the committee  
13 shall be appointed by the university president. A chairperson,  
14 appointed jointly by the university president and the student  
15 body president, shall vote only in the case of a tie. The  
16 recommendations of the committee shall take effect only after  
17 approval by the university president, after consultation with  
18 the student body president, with final approval by the  
19 university board of trustees. An increase in the activity and  
20 service fee may occur only once each fiscal year and must be  
21 implemented beginning with the fall term. The State Board of  
22 Education is responsible for promulgating the rules and  
23 timetables necessary to implement this fee.

24 (b) The student activity and service fees shall be  
25 expended for lawful purposes to benefit the student body in  
26 general. This shall include, but shall not be limited to,  
27 student publications and grants to duly recognized student  
28 organizations, the membership of which is open to all students  
29 at the university without regard to race, sex, or religion.  
30 The fund may not benefit activities for which an admission fee  
31 is charged to students, except for

1 student-government-association-sponsored concerts. The  
2 allocation and expenditure of the fund shall be determined by  
3 the student government association of the university, except  
4 that the president of the university may veto any line item or  
5 portion thereof within the budget when submitted by the  
6 student government association legislative body. The  
7 university president shall have 15 school days from the date  
8 of presentation of the budget to act on the allocation and  
9 expenditure recommendations, which shall be deemed approved if  
10 no action is taken within the 15 school days. If any line item  
11 or portion thereof within the budget is vetoed, the student  
12 government association legislative body shall within 15 school  
13 days make new budget recommendations for expenditure of the  
14 vetoed portion of the fund. If the university president vetoes  
15 any line item or portion thereof within the new budget  
16 revisions, the university president may reallocate by line  
17 item that vetoed portion to bond obligations guaranteed by  
18 activity and service fees. Unexpended funds and undisbursed  
19 funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall be carried  
20 over and remain in the student activity and service fund and  
21 be available for allocation and expenditure during the next  
22 fiscal year.

23 (10) Each university board of trustees shall establish  
24 a student health fee on the main campus of the university. The  
25 university board of trustees may also establish a student  
26 health fee on any branch campus or center. Any subsequent  
27 increase in the health fee must be recommended by a health  
28 committee, at least one-half of whom are students appointed by  
29 the student body president. The remainder of the committee  
30 shall be appointed by the university president. A chairperson,  
31 appointed jointly by the university president and the student

1 body president, shall vote only in the case of a tie. The  
2 recommendations of the committee shall take effect only after  
3 approval by the university president, after consultation with  
4 the student body president, with final approval by the  
5 university board of trustees. An increase in the health fee  
6 may occur only once each fiscal year and must be implemented  
7 beginning with the fall term. The State Board of Education is  
8 responsible for promulgating the rules and timetables  
9 necessary to implement this fee.

10 (11) Each university board of trustees shall establish  
11 a separate athletic fee on the main campus of the university.  
12 The university board may also establish a separate athletic  
13 fee on any branch campus or center. Any subsequent increase in  
14 the athletic fee must be recommended by an athletic fee  
15 committee, at least one-half of whom are students appointed by  
16 the student body president. The remainder of the committee  
17 shall be appointed by the university president. A chairperson,  
18 appointed jointly by the university president and the student  
19 body president, shall vote only in the case of a tie. The  
20 recommendations of the committee shall take effect only after  
21 approval by the university president, after consultation with  
22 the student body president, with final approval by the  
23 university board of trustees. An increase in the athletic fee  
24 may occur only once each fiscal year and must be implemented  
25 beginning with the fall term. The State Board of Education is  
26 responsible for promulgating the rules and timetables  
27 necessary to implement this fee.

28 (12) Each university board of trustees is authorized  
29 to establish the following fees:

30 (a) A nonrefundable application fee in an amount not  
31 to exceed \$30.

1        (b) An orientation fee in an amount not to exceed \$35.

2        (c) A fee for security, access, or identification  
3 cards. The annual fee for such a card may not exceed \$10 per  
4 card. The maximum amount charged for a replacement card may  
5 not exceed \$15.

6        (d) Registration fees for audit and zero-hours  
7 registration; a service charge, which may not exceed \$15, for  
8 the payment of tuition in installments; and a  
9 late-registration fee in an amount not less than \$50 nor more  
10 than \$100 to be imposed on students who fail to initiate  
11 registration during the regular registration period.

12        (e) A late-payment fee in an amount not less than \$50  
13 nor more than \$100 to be imposed on students who fail to pay  
14 or fail to make appropriate arrangements to pay (by means of  
15 installment payment, deferment, or third-party billing)  
16 tuition by the deadline set by each university. Each  
17 university may adopt specific procedures or policies for  
18 waiving the late-payment fee for minor underpayments.

19        (f) A fee for miscellaneous health-related charges for  
20 services provided at cost by the university health center  
21 which are not covered by the health fee set under subsection  
22 (10).

23        (g) Materials and supplies fees to offset the cost of  
24 materials or supplies that are consumed in the course of the  
25 student's instructional activities, excluding the cost of  
26 equipment replacement, repairs, and maintenance.

27        (h) Housing rental rates and miscellaneous housing  
28 charges for services provided by the university at the request  
29 of the student.

30        (i) A charge representing the reasonable cost of  
31 efforts to collect payment of overdue accounts.

1        (j) A service charge on university loans in lieu of  
2 interest and administrative handling charges.

3        (k) A fee for off-campus course offerings when the  
4 location results in specific, identifiable increased costs to  
5 the university.

6        (l) Library fees and fines, including charges for  
7 damaged and lost library materials, overdue reserve library  
8 books, interlibrary loans, and literature searches.

9        (m) Fees relating to duplicating, photocopying,  
10 binding, and microfilming; copyright services; and  
11 standardized testing. These fees may be charged only to those  
12 who receive the services.

13        (n) Fees and fines relating to the use, late return,  
14 and loss and damage of facilities and equipment.

15        (o) A returned-check fee as authorized by s. 832.07(1)  
16 for unpaid checks returned to the university.

17        (p) Traffic and parking fines, charges for parking  
18 decals, and transportation access fees.

19        (q) An Educational Research Center for Child  
20 Development fee for child care and services offered by the  
21 center.

22        (r) Fees for transcripts and diploma replacement, not  
23 to exceed \$10 per item.

24        (13) The board of trustees of the University of  
25 Florida is authorized to establish an admissions deposit fee  
26 for the University of Florida College of Dentistry in an  
27 amount not to exceed \$200.

28        (14) Each university may assess a service charge for  
29 the payment of tuition and fees in installments. Such service  
30 charge must be approved by the university board of trustees.  
31

1 Section 404. Section 1009.25, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1009.25 Fee exemptions.--

4 (1) The following students are exempt from any  
5 requirement for the payment of tuition and fees, including lab  
6 fees, for adult basic, adult secondary, or  
7 vocational-preparatory instruction:

8 (a) A student who does not have a high school diploma  
9 or its equivalent.

10 (b) A student who has a high school diploma or its  
11 equivalent and who has academic skills at or below the eighth  
12 grade level pursuant to state board rule. A student is  
13 eligible for this exemption from fees if the student's skills  
14 are at or below the eighth grade level as measured by a test  
15 administered in the English language and approved by the  
16 Department of Education, even if the student has skills above  
17 that level when tested in the student's native language.

18 (2) The following students are exempt from the payment  
19 of tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district  
20 that provides postsecondary career and technical programs,  
21 community college, or state university:

22 (a) A student enrolled in a dual enrollment or early  
23 admission program pursuant to s. 1007.27 or s. 1007.271.

24 (b) A student enrolled in an approved apprenticeship  
25 program, as defined in s. 446.021.

26 (c) A student for whom the state is paying a foster  
27 care board payment pursuant to s. 409.145(3) or pursuant to  
28 parts II and III of chapter 39, for whom the permanency  
29 planning goal pursuant to part III of chapter 39 is long-term  
30 foster care or independent living, or who is adopted from the  
31 Department of Children and Family Services after May 5, 1997.

1 Such exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in  
2 vocational-preparatory instruction and completion of the  
3 college-level communication and computation skills testing  
4 program. Such exemption shall be available to any student  
5 adopted from the Department of Children and Family Services  
6 after May 5, 1997; however, the exemption shall be valid for  
7 no more than 4 years after the date of graduation from high  
8 school.

9 (d) A student enrolled in an employment and training  
10 program under the welfare transition program. The regional  
11 workforce board shall pay the state university, community  
12 college, or school district for costs incurred for welfare  
13 transition program participants.

14 (e) A student who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate  
15 nighttime residence or whose primary nighttime residence is a  
16 public or private shelter designed to provide temporary  
17 residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or  
18 a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used  
19 as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

20 (f) A student who is a proprietor, owner, or worker of  
21 a company whose business has been at least 50 percent  
22 negatively financially impacted by the buy-out of property  
23 around Lake Apopka by the State of Florida. Such a student may  
24 receive a fee exemption only if the student has not received  
25 compensation because of the buy-out, the student is designated  
26 a Florida resident for tuition purposes, pursuant to s.  
27 1009.21, and the student has applied for and been denied  
28 financial aid, pursuant to s. 1009.40, which would have  
29 provided, at a minimum, payment of all student fees. The  
30 student is responsible for providing evidence to the  
31 postsecondary education institution verifying that the

1 conditions of this paragraph have been met, including support  
2 documentation provided by the Department of Revenue. The  
3 student must be currently enrolled in, or begin coursework  
4 within, a program area by fall semester 2000. The exemption  
5 is valid for a period of 4 years from the date that the  
6 postsecondary education institution confirms that the  
7 conditions of this paragraph have been met.

8 (3) Each community college is authorized to grant  
9 student fee exemptions from all fees adopted by the State  
10 Board of Education and the community college board of trustees  
11 for up to 40 full-time equivalent students at each  
12 institution.

13 Section 405. Section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15 1009.26 Fee waivers.--

16 (1) School districts and community colleges may waive  
17 fees for any fee-nonexempt student. The total value of fee  
18 waivers granted by the school district or community college  
19 may not exceed the amount established annually in the General  
20 Appropriations Act. Any student whose fees are waived in  
21 excess of the authorized amount may not be reported for state  
22 funding purposes. Any school district or community college  
23 that waives fees and requests state funding for a student in  
24 violation of the provisions of this section shall be penalized  
25 at a rate equal to 2 times the value of the full-time student  
26 enrollment reported.

27 (2) A state university may waive any or all  
28 application, tuition, and related fees for persons who  
29 supervise student interns for a state university.

30 (3) A university board of trustees is authorized to  
31 permit full-time university employees who meet academic

1 requirements to enroll for up to 6 credit hours of  
2 tuition-free courses per term on a space-available basis.

3 (4) A state university may waive any or all  
4 application, tuition, and related fees for persons 60 years of  
5 age or older who are residents of this state and who attend  
6 classes for credit. No academic credit shall be awarded for  
7 attendance in classes for which fees are waived under this  
8 subsection. This privilege may be granted only on a  
9 space-available basis, if such classes are not filled as of  
10 the close of registration. A university may limit or deny the  
11 privilege for courses which are in programs for which the  
12 State Board of Education has established selective admissions  
13 criteria. Persons paying full fees and state employees taking  
14 courses on a space-available basis shall have priority over  
15 those persons whose fees are waived in all cases where  
16 classroom spaces are limited.

17 (5) Any graduate student enrolled in a state-approved  
18 school psychology training program shall be entitled to a  
19 waiver of registration fees for internship credit hours  
20 applicable to an internship in the public school system under  
21 the supervision of a Department of Education certified school  
22 psychologist employed by the school system.

23 (6) The State Board of Education may establish rules  
24 to allow for the waiver of out-of-state fees for  
25 nondegree-seeking students enrolled at a state university if  
26 the earned student credit hours generated by such students are  
27 nonfundable and the direct cost for the program of study is  
28 recovered from the fees charged to all students.

29 (7) The spouse of a deceased state employee is  
30 entitled, when eligible for the payment of student fees by the  
31 state as employer pursuant to s. 440.16, in lieu of such

1 payment, to a full waiver of student fees for up to 80  
2 semester hours in any community college.

3 (8) Fees shall be waived for certain members of the  
4 active Florida National Guard pursuant to s. 250.10(8).

5 Section 406. Section 1009.265, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1009.265 State employee fee waivers.--

8 (1) As a benefit to the employer and employees of the  
9 state, subject to approval by an employee's agency head or the  
10 equivalent, each state university and community college shall  
11 waive tuition and fees for state employees to enroll for up to  
12 6 credit hours of courses per term on a space-available basis.

13 (2) The Comptroller, in cooperation with the community  
14 colleges and state universities, shall identify and implement  
15 ways to ease the administrative burden to community colleges  
16 and state universities, including, but not limited to,  
17 providing easier access to verify state employment.

18 (3) From funds appropriated by the Legislature for  
19 administrative costs to implement this section, community  
20 colleges and state universities shall be reimbursed on a pro  
21 rata basis according to the cost assessment data developed by  
22 the Department of Education.

23 (4) The Auditor General shall include a review of the  
24 cost assessment data in conjunction with his or her audit  
25 responsibilities for community colleges, state universities,  
26 and the Department of Education.

27 (5) For purposes of this section, employees of the  
28 state include employees of the executive, legislative, and  
29 judicial branches of state government, except for persons  
30 employed by a state university.  
31

1           Section 407. Section 1009.27, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1009.27 Deferral of fees.--

4           (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
5 allow the deferral of tuition and registration fees for  
6 students receiving financial aid from a federal or state  
7 assistance program when the aid is delayed in being  
8 transmitted to the student through circumstances beyond the  
9 control of the student. The failure to make timely application  
10 for the aid is an insufficient reason to receive a deferral of  
11 fees. The rules must provide for the enforcement and  
12 collection or other settlement of delinquent accounts.

13           (2) Any veteran or other eligible student who receives  
14 benefits under chapter 30, chapter 31, chapter 32, chapter 34,  
15 or chapter 35 of Title 38, U.S.C., or chapter 106 of Title 10,  
16 U.S.C., is entitled to one deferment each academic year and an  
17 additional deferment each time there is a delay in the receipt  
18 of benefits.

19           (3) Each school district, community college, and state  
20 university is responsible for collecting all deferred fees. If  
21 a school district, community college, or state university has  
22 not collected a deferred fee, the student may not earn state  
23 funding for any course for which the student subsequently  
24 registers until the fee has been paid.

25           Section 408. Section 1009.28, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27           1009.28 Fees for repeated enrollment in

28 college-preparatory classes.--A student enrolled in the same  
29 college-preparatory class more than twice shall pay 100  
30 percent of the full cost of instruction to support continuous  
31 enrollment of that student in the same class, and the student

1 shall not be included in calculations of full-time equivalent  
2 enrollments for state funding purposes; however, students who  
3 withdraw or fail a class due to extenuating circumstances may  
4 be granted an exception only once for each class, provided  
5 approval is granted according to policy established by the  
6 board of trustees. Each community college may review and  
7 reduce fees paid by students due to continued enrollment in a  
8 college-preparatory class on an individual basis contingent  
9 upon the student's financial hardship, pursuant to definitions  
10 and fee levels established by the State Board of Education.

11 Section 409. Section 1009.285, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13 1009.285 Fees for repeated enrollment in  
14 college-credit courses.--A student enrolled in the same  
15 undergraduate college-credit course more than twice shall pay  
16 tuition at 100 percent of the full cost of instruction and  
17 shall not be included in calculations of full-time equivalent  
18 enrollments for state funding purposes. However, students who  
19 withdraw or fail a class due to extenuating circumstances may  
20 be granted an exception only once for each class, provided  
21 that approval is granted according to policy established by  
22 the community college board of trustees or the university  
23 board of trustees. Each community college and state university  
24 may review and reduce fees paid by students due to continued  
25 enrollment in a college-credit class on an individual basis  
26 contingent upon the student's financial hardship, pursuant to  
27 definitions and fee levels established by the State Board of  
28 Education. For purposes of this section, first-time enrollment  
29 in a class shall mean enrollment in a class beginning fall  
30 semester 1997, and calculations of the full cost of  
31 instruction shall be based on the systemwide average of the

1 prior year's cost of undergraduate programs for the community  
2 colleges and the state universities. Boards of trustees may  
3 make exceptions to this section for individualized study,  
4 elective coursework, courses that are repeated as a  
5 requirement of a major, and courses that are intended as  
6 continuing over multiple semesters, excluding the repeat of  
7 coursework more than two times to increase grade point average  
8 or meet minimum course grade requirements.

9 Section 410. Section 1009.29, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11 1009.29 Increased fees for funding financial aid  
12 program.--

13 (1) Student tuition and registration fees at each  
14 state university and community college shall include up to  
15 \$4.68 per quarter, or \$7.02 per semester, per full-time  
16 student, or the per-student credit hour equivalents of such  
17 amounts. The fees provided for by this section shall be  
18 adjusted from time to time, as necessary, to comply with the  
19 debt service coverage requirements of the student loan revenue  
20 bonds issued pursuant to s. 1009.79. If the Division of Bond  
21 Finance of the State Board of Education and the Commissioner  
22 of Education determine that such fees are no longer required  
23 as security for revenue bonds issued pursuant to ss.  
24 1009.78-1009.88, moneys previously collected pursuant to this  
25 section which are held in escrow, after administrative  
26 expenses have been met and up to \$150,000 has been used to  
27 establish a financial aid data processing system for the state  
28 universities incorporating the necessary features to meet the  
29 needs of all nine universities for application through  
30 disbursement processing, shall be reallocated to the  
31 generating institutions to be used for student financial aid

1 programs, including, but not limited to, scholarships and  
2 grants for educational purposes. Upon such determination, such  
3 fees shall no longer be assessed and collected.

4 (2) The Department of Education may, in accordance  
5 with rules established by the State Board of Administration,  
6 receive and administer grants and donations from any source  
7 and, in its discretion, establish criteria, select recipients,  
8 and award scholarships and loans from the fees provided for by  
9 this section, and fix the interest rates and terms of  
10 repayment.

11 Section 411. Part III of chapter 1009, Florida  
12 Statutes, shall be entitled "Financial Assistance" and shall  
13 consist of ss. 1009.40-1009.96.

14 Section 412. Part III.a. of chapter 1009, Florida  
15 Statutes, shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall  
16 consist of ss. 1009.40-1009.44.

17 Section 413. Section 1009.40, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1009.40 General requirements for student eligibility  
20 for state financial aid.--

21 (1)(a) The general requirements for eligibility of  
22 students for state financial aid awards consist of the  
23 following:

24 1. Achievement of the academic requirements of and  
25 acceptance at a state university or community college; a  
26 nursing diploma school approved by the Florida Board of  
27 Nursing; a Florida college, university, or community college  
28 which is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the  
29 State Board of Education; any Florida institution the credits  
30 of which are acceptable for transfer to state universities;  
31 any technical center; or any private technical institution

1 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State  
2 Board of Education.

3 2. Residency in this state for no less than 1 year  
4 preceding the award of aid for a program established pursuant  
5 to s. 1009.50, s. 1009.51, s. 1009.52, s. 1009.56, s. 1009.53,  
6 s. 1009.54, s. 1009.57, s. 1009.60, s. 1009.60, s. 1009.62, s.  
7 1009.63, s. 1009.76, s. 1009.72, s. 1009.73, s. 1009.77, or s.  
8 1009.89. Residency in this state must be for purposes other  
9 than to obtain an education. Resident status for purposes of  
10 receiving state financial aid awards shall be determined in  
11 the same manner as resident status for tuition purposes  
12 pursuant to s. 1009.21 and rules of the State Board of  
13 Education.

14 3. Submission of certification attesting to the  
15 accuracy, completeness, and correctness of information  
16 provided to demonstrate a student's eligibility to receive  
17 state financial aid awards. Falsification of such information  
18 shall result in the denial of any pending application and  
19 revocation of any award currently held to the extent that no  
20 further payments shall be made. Additionally, students who  
21 knowingly make false statements in order to receive state  
22 financial aid awards shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the  
23 second degree subject to the provisions of s. 837.06 and shall  
24 be required to return all state financial aid awards  
25 wrongfully obtained.

26 (b)1. Eligibility for the renewal of undergraduate  
27 financial aid awards shall be evaluated at the end of the  
28 second semester or third quarter of each academic year. As a  
29 condition for renewal, a student shall:

30 a. Have earned a minimum cumulative grade point  
31 average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale; and

1           b. Have earned, for full-time study, 12 credits per  
2 term or the equivalent for the number of terms for which aid  
3 was received.

4           2. A student who earns the minimum number of credits  
5 required for renewal, but who fails to meet the minimum 2.0  
6 cumulative grade point average, may be granted a probationary  
7 award for up to the equivalent of 1 academic year and shall be  
8 required to earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a  
9 4.0 scale by the end of the probationary period to be eligible  
10 for subsequent renewal. A student who receives a probationary  
11 award and who fails to meet the conditions for renewal by the  
12 end of his or her probationary period shall be ineligible to  
13 receive additional awards for the equivalent of 1 academic  
14 year following his or her probationary period. Each such  
15 student may, however, reapply for assistance during a  
16 subsequent application period and may be eligible for an award  
17 if he or she has earned a cumulative grade point average of  
18 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

19           3. A student who fails to earn the minimum number of  
20 credits required for renewal shall lose his or her eligibility  
21 for renewal for a period equivalent to 1 academic year.  
22 However, the student may reapply during a subsequent  
23 application period and may be eligible for an award if he or  
24 she has earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0  
25 on a 4.0 scale.

26           4. Students who receive state student aid and  
27 subsequently fail to meet state academic progress requirements  
28 due to verifiable illness or other emergencies may be granted  
29 an exception from the academic requirements. Such students  
30 shall make a written appeal to the institution. The appeal  
31 shall include a description and verification of the

1 circumstances. Verification of illness or other emergencies  
2 may include but not be limited to a physician's statement or  
3 written statement of a parent or college official. The  
4 institution shall recommend exceptions with necessary  
5 documentation to the department. The department may accept or  
6 deny such recommendations for exception from the institution.

7 (2) These requirements do not preclude higher  
8 standards specified in other sections of this part, in rules  
9 of the state board, or in rules of a participating  
10 institution.

11 (3) Undergraduate students are be eligible to receive  
12 financial aid for a maximum of 8 semesters or 12 quarters.  
13 However, undergraduate students participating in  
14 college-preparatory instruction, students requiring additional  
15 time to complete the college-level communication and  
16 computation skills testing programs, or students enrolled in a  
17 5-year undergraduate degree program are eligible to receive  
18 financial aid for a maximum of 10 semesters or 15 quarters.

19 (4) No student is eligible to receive more than one  
20 state scholarship that is based on academic merit. Students  
21 who qualify for more than one such scholarship shall be  
22 notified of all awards for which they qualify and shall be  
23 provided the opportunity to accept one of their choosing.

24 Section 414. Section 1009.41, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26 1009.41 State financial aid; students with a  
27 disability.--Notwithstanding the provisions of s.  
28 1009.40(1)(b)1.b. regarding the number of credits earned per  
29 term, or other financial aid eligibility requirements related  
30 to the number of required credits earned per term, a student  
31 with a documented disability, as defined by the Americans with

1 Disabilities Act, shall be eligible to be considered for state  
2 financial aid while attending an eligible postsecondary  
3 institution on a part-time basis. The State Board of Education  
4 shall establish the necessary criteria for documentation of  
5 the student's disability and the postsecondary institution  
6 shall make the determination as to whether or not the  
7 disability is such that part-time status is a necessary  
8 accommodation. For the purposes of this section, financial aid  
9 funds may be prorated based on the number of credit hours  
10 taken.

11 Section 415. Section 1009.42, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13 1009.42 Financial aid appeal process.--

14 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt, by rule,  
15 a procedure for the appeal of errors in eligibility  
16 determinations, or failure to transfer awards between eligible  
17 institutions, made by the Office of Student Financial  
18 Assistance of the Department of Education, regarding  
19 applicants' eligibility for receiving state student financial  
20 aid awards. The procedure must provide for establishment of a  
21 committee to consider appeals that are not resolved by other  
22 administrative action. Each committee must be comprised of  
23 four members appointed by the Commissioner of Education,  
24 including one representative of the Office of Student  
25 Financial Assistance; two practicing financial aid  
26 administrators from public or private postsecondary  
27 institutions in this state, one of whom must be from an  
28 institution other than one to which the applicant is seeking  
29 admission; and one student enrolled in a public postsecondary  
30 institution in this state, nominated by the Florida Student  
31 Association. An applicant for state student financial aid who

1 believes an error has been made in determining eligibility for  
2 student financial assistance or who believes the department  
3 has failed to transfer an award between eligible institutions  
4 may appeal the decision in writing to the Office of Student  
5 Financial Assistance. The Office of Student Financial  
6 Assistance shall investigate the complaint and take  
7 appropriate action within 30 days after its receipt of the  
8 appeal. If the student wishes further review of the appeal,  
9 the Office of Student Financial Assistance shall forward the  
10 appeal to the committee. Within 30 days after the receipt of a  
11 request for a hearing, a final decision shall be rendered by  
12 the committee established under this section, and a copy of  
13 the decision shall be provided to the applicant. The decision  
14 rendered by the committee constitutes final agency action. A  
15 description of the financial aid appeals process shall be  
16 included in the application form for each state student  
17 financial aid program.

18 (2) The president of each state university and each  
19 community college shall establish a procedure for appeal, by  
20 students, of grievances related to the award or administration  
21 of financial aid at the institution.

22 (3) A student involved in a financial aid appeal  
23 proceeding is eligible for a deferral of registration and fee  
24 payments pursuant to s. 1009.27.

25 Section 416. Section 1009.43, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 1009.43 State student financial assistance;  
28 authorization for use in program of study in another state or  
29 foreign country.--A student who is enrolled in a public or  
30 private postsecondary educational institution in this state  
31 may apply state student financial assistance towards the cost

1 of a program of study in another state or a foreign country  
2 for a period of up to 1 year, if the program of study is  
3 offered or promoted by the Florida institution as an integral  
4 part of the academic studies of that degree-seeking student or  
5 as a program that would enhance the student's academic  
6 experience. This program must be approved by the president of  
7 the institution in this state or by his or her designee;  
8 however, private, postsecondary Florida institutions with  
9 out-of-state subsidiary institutions are not authorized to  
10 make Florida residents attending their out-of-state subsidiary  
11 institutions eligible for Florida financial assistance.

12 Section 417. Section 1009.44, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14 1009.44 Need-based financial aid; no preference to  
15 students receiving other aid.--From the funds collected by  
16 state universities and community colleges as a financial aid  
17 fee and from other funds appropriated by the Legislature for  
18 financial aid from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund,  
19 institutions shall expend those moneys designated as  
20 need-based financial aid with no preference given to students  
21 who also qualify for merit-based or other financial aid  
22 awards.

23 Section 418. Part III.b. of chapter 1009, Florida  
24 Statutes, shall be entitled "Scholarships, Grants, and Other  
25 Aid" and shall consist of ss. 1009.50-1009.89.

26 Section 419. Section 1009.50, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1009.50 Florida Public Student Assistance Grant  
29 Program; eligibility for grants.--

30 (1) There is hereby created a Florida Public Student  
31 Assistance Grant Program. The program shall be administered by

1 the participating institutions in accordance with rules of the  
2 state board.

3 (2)(a) State student assistance grants through the  
4 program may be made only to full-time degree-seeking students  
5 who meet the general requirements for student eligibility as  
6 provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this  
7 section. The grants shall be awarded annually for the amount  
8 of demonstrated unmet need for the cost of education and may  
9 not exceed an amount equal to the average prior academic year  
10 cost of tuition fees and other registration fees for 30 credit  
11 hours at state universities or such other amount as specified  
12 in the General Appropriations Act, to any recipient. A  
13 demonstrated unmet need of less than \$200 shall render the  
14 applicant ineligible for a state student assistance grant.  
15 Recipients of the grants must have been accepted at a state  
16 university or community college authorized by Florida law. No  
17 student may receive an award for more than the equivalent of 9  
18 semesters or 14 quarters of full-time enrollment, except as  
19 otherwise provided in s. 1009.40(3).

20 (b) A student applying for a Florida public student  
21 assistance grant shall be required to apply for the Pell  
22 Grant. The Pell Grant entitlement shall be considered when  
23 conducting an assessment of the financial resources available  
24 to each student.

25 (c) Priority in the distribution of grant moneys shall  
26 be given to students with the lowest total family resources,  
27 in accordance with a nationally recognized system of need  
28 analysis. Using the system of need analysis, the department  
29 shall establish a maximum expected family contribution. An  
30 institution may not make a grant from this program to a  
31 student whose expected family contribution exceeds the level

1 established by the department. An institution may not impose  
2 additional criteria to determine a student's eligibility to  
3 receive a grant award.

4 (d) Each participating institution shall report, to  
5 the department by the established date, the eligible students  
6 to whom grant moneys are disbursed each academic term. Each  
7 institution shall also report to the department necessary  
8 demographic and eligibility data for such students.

9 (3) Based on the unmet financial need of an eligible  
10 applicant, the amount of a Florida public student assistance  
11 grant must be between \$200 and the weighted average of the  
12 cost of tuition and other registration fees for 30 credit  
13 hours at state universities per academic year or the amount  
14 specified in the General Appropriations Act.

15 (4)(a) The funds appropriated for the Florida Public  
16 Student Assistance Grant shall be distributed to eligible  
17 institutions in accordance with a formula approved by the  
18 State Board of Education. The formula shall consider at least  
19 the prior year's distribution of funds, the number of  
20 full-time eligible applicants who did not receive awards, the  
21 standardization of the expected family contribution, and  
22 provisions for unused funds.

23 (b) Payment of Florida public student assistance  
24 grants shall be transmitted to the president of the state  
25 university or community college, or to his or her  
26 representative, in advance of the registration period.  
27 Institutions shall notify students of the amount of their  
28 awards.

29 (c) The eligibility status of each student to receive  
30 a disbursement shall be determined by each institution as of  
31 the end of its regular registration period, inclusive of a

1 drop-add period. Institutions shall not be required to  
2 reevaluate a student's eligibility status after this date for  
3 purposes of changing eligibility determinations previously  
4 made.

5 (d) Institutions shall certify to the department the  
6 amount of funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to  
7 the department any undisbursed advances by June 1 of each  
8 year.

9 (5) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for state  
10 student assistance grants shall be deposited in the State  
11 Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding the  
12 provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any  
13 balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year that  
14 has been allocated to the Florida Public Student Assistance  
15 Grant Program shall remain therein and shall be available for  
16 carrying out the purposes of this section.

17 (6) The State Board of Education shall establish rules  
18 necessary to implement this section.

19 Section 420. Section 1009.51, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21 1009.51 Florida Private Student Assistance Grant  
22 Program; eligibility for grants.--

23 (1) There is created a Florida Private Student  
24 Assistance Grant Program. The program shall be administered by  
25 the participating institutions in accordance with rules of the  
26 State Board of Education.

27 (2)(a) Florida private student assistance grants from  
28 the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund may be made  
29 only to full-time degree-seeking students who meet the general  
30 requirements for student eligibility as provided in s.  
31 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this section. Such

1 grants shall be awarded for the amount of demonstrated unmet  
2 need for tuition and fees and may not exceed an amount equal  
3 to the average tuition and other registration fees for 30  
4 credit hours at state universities plus \$1,000 per academic  
5 year, or as specified in the General Appropriations Act, to  
6 any applicant. A demonstrated unmet need of less than \$200  
7 shall render the applicant ineligible for a Florida private  
8 student assistance grant. Recipients of such grants must have  
9 been accepted at a baccalaureate-degree-granting independent  
10 nonprofit college or university, which is accredited by the  
11 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges  
12 and Schools and which is located in and chartered as a  
13 domestic corporation by the state. No student may receive an  
14 award for more than the equivalent of 9 semesters or 14  
15 quarters of full-time enrollment, except as otherwise provided  
16 in s. 1009.40(3).

17 (b) A student applying for a Florida private student  
18 assistance grant shall be required to apply for the Pell  
19 Grant. The Pell Grant entitlement shall be considered when  
20 conducting an assessment of the financial resources available  
21 to each student.

22 (c) Priority in the distribution of grant moneys shall  
23 be given to students with the lowest total family resources,  
24 in accordance with a nationally recognized system of need  
25 analysis. Using the system of need analysis, the department  
26 shall establish a maximum expected family contribution. An  
27 institution may not make a grant from this program to a  
28 student whose expected family contribution exceeds the level  
29 established by the department. An institution may not impose  
30 additional criteria to determine a student's eligibility to  
31 receive a grant award.

1        (d) Each participating institution shall report, to  
2 the department by the established date, the eligible students  
3 to whom grant moneys are disbursed each academic term. Each  
4 institution shall also report to the department necessary  
5 demographic and eligibility data for such students.

6        (3) Based on the unmet financial need of an eligible  
7 applicant, the amount of a Florida private student assistance  
8 grant must be between \$200 and the average cost of tuition and  
9 other registration fees for 30 credit hours at state  
10 universities plus \$1,000 per academic year or the amount  
11 specified in the General Appropriations Act.

12        (4)(a) The funds appropriated for the Florida Private  
13 Student Assistance Grant shall be distributed to eligible  
14 institutions in accordance with a formula approved by the  
15 State Board of Education. The formula shall consider at least  
16 the prior year's distribution of funds, the number of  
17 full-time eligible applicants who did not receive awards, the  
18 standardization of the expected family contribution, and  
19 provisions for unused funds.

20        (b) Payment of Florida private student assistance  
21 grants shall be transmitted to the president of the college or  
22 university, or to his or her representative, in advance of the  
23 registration period. Institutions shall notify students of the  
24 amount of their awards.

25        (c) The eligibility status of each student to receive  
26 a disbursement shall be determined by each institution as of  
27 the end of its regular registration period, inclusive of a  
28 drop-add period. Institutions shall not be required to  
29 reevaluate a student's eligibility status after this date for  
30 purposes of changing eligibility determinations previously  
31 made.

1           (d) Institutions shall certify to the department the  
2 amount of funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to  
3 the department any undisbursed advances by June 1 of each  
4 year.

5           (e) Each institution that receives moneys through the  
6 Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program shall prepare  
7 a biennial report that includes a financial audit, conducted  
8 by an independent certified public accountant, of the  
9 institution's administration of the program and a complete  
10 accounting of moneys in the State Student Financial Assistance  
11 Trust Fund allocated to the institution for the program. Such  
12 report shall be submitted to the department by March 1 every  
13 other year. The department may conduct its own annual or  
14 biennial audit of an institution's administration of the  
15 program and its allocated funds in lieu of the required  
16 biennial report and financial audit report. The department may  
17 suspend or revoke an institution's eligibility to receive  
18 future moneys from the trust fund for the program or request a  
19 refund of any moneys overpaid to the institution through the  
20 trust fund for the program if the department finds that an  
21 institution has not complied with the provisions of this  
22 section. Any refund requested pursuant to this paragraph shall  
23 be remitted within 60 days.

24           (5) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for Florida  
25 private student assistance grants shall be deposited in the  
26 State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding  
27 the provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any  
28 balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year that  
29 has been allocated to the Florida Private Student Assistance  
30 Grant Program shall remain therein and shall be available for  
31

1 carrying out the purposes of this section and as otherwise  
2 provided by law.

3 (6) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
4 necessary to implement this section.

5 Section 421. Section 1009.52, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1009.52 Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant  
8 Program; eliqibility for grants.--

9 (1) There is created a Florida Postsecondary Student  
10 Assistance Grant Program. The program shall be administered by  
11 the participating institutions in accordance with rules of the  
12 State Board of Education.

13 (2)(a) Florida postsecondary student assistance grants  
14 through the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund may  
15 be made only to full-time degree-seeking students who meet the  
16 general requirements for student eliqibility as provided in s.  
17 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this section. Such  
18 grants shall be awarded for the amount of demonstrated unmet  
19 need for tuition and fees and may not exceed an amount equal  
20 to the average prior academic year cost of tuition and other  
21 registration fees for 30 credit hours at state universities  
22 plus \$1,000 per academic year, or as specified in the General  
23 Appropriations Act, to any applicant. A demonstrated unmet  
24 need of less than \$200 shall render the applicant ineligible  
25 for a Florida postsecondary student assistance grant.  
26 Recipients of such grants must have been accepted at a  
27 postsecondary institution that is located in the state and  
28 that is:

29 1. A private nursing diploma school approved by the  
30 Florida Board of Nursing; or  
31

1           2. A college or university licensed by the Commission  
2 for Independent Education, excluding those institutions the  
3 students of which are eligible to receive a Florida private  
4 student assistance grant pursuant to s. 1009.51.

5  
6 No student may receive an award for more than the equivalent  
7 of 9 semesters or 14 quarters of full-time enrollment, except  
8 as otherwise provided in s. 1009.40(3).

9           (b) A student applying for a Florida postsecondary  
10 student assistance grant shall be required to apply for the  
11 Pell Grant. The Pell Grant entitlement shall be considered  
12 when conducting an assessment of the financial resources  
13 available to each student.

14           (c) Priority in the distribution of grant moneys shall  
15 be given to students with the lowest total family resources,  
16 in accordance with a nationally recognized system of need  
17 analysis. Using the system of need analysis, the department  
18 shall establish a maximum expected family contribution. An  
19 institution may not make a grant from this program to a  
20 student whose expected family contribution exceeds the level  
21 established by the department. An institution may not impose  
22 additional criteria to determine a student's eligibility to  
23 receive a grant award.

24           (d) Each participating institution shall report, to  
25 the department by the established date, the eligible students  
26 to whom grant moneys are disbursed each academic term. Each  
27 institution shall also report to the department necessary  
28 demographic and eligibility data for such students.

29           (3) Based on the unmet financial need of an eligible  
30 applicant, the amount of a Florida postsecondary student  
31 assistance grant must be between \$200 and the average cost of

1 tuition and other registration fees for 30 credit hours at  
2 state universities plus \$1,000 per academic year or the amount  
3 specified in the General Appropriations Act.

4 (4)(a) The funds appropriated for the Florida  
5 Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant shall be distributed to  
6 eligible institutions in accordance with a formula approved by  
7 the State Board of Education. The formula shall consider at  
8 least the prior year's distribution of funds, the number of  
9 full-time eligible applicants who did not receive awards, the  
10 standardization of the expected family contribution, and  
11 provisions for unused funds.

12 (b) Payment of Florida postsecondary student  
13 assistance grants shall be transmitted to the president of the  
14 eligible institution, or to his or her representative, in  
15 advance of the registration period. Institutions shall notify  
16 students of the amount of their awards.

17 (c) The eligibility status of each student to receive  
18 a disbursement shall be determined by each institution as of  
19 the end of its regular registration period, inclusive of a  
20 drop-add period. Institutions shall not be required to  
21 reevaluate a student's eligibility status after this date for  
22 purposes of changing eligibility determinations previously  
23 made.

24 (d) Institutions shall certify to the department the  
25 amount of funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to  
26 the department any undisbursed advances by June 1 of each  
27 year.

28 (e) Each institution that receives moneys through the  
29 Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant Program shall  
30 prepare a biennial report that includes a financial audit,  
31 conducted by an independent certified public accountant, of

1 the institution's administration of the program and a complete  
2 accounting of moneys in the State Student Financial Assistance  
3 Trust Fund allocated to the institution for the program. Such  
4 report shall be submitted to the department by March 1 every  
5 other year. The department may conduct its own annual or  
6 biennial audit of an institution's administration of the  
7 program and its allocated funds in lieu of the required  
8 biennial report and financial audit report. The department may  
9 suspend or revoke an institution's eligibility to receive  
10 future moneys from the trust fund for the program or request a  
11 refund of any moneys overpaid to the institution through the  
12 trust fund for the program if the department finds that an  
13 institution has not complied with the provisions of this  
14 section. Any refund requested pursuant to this paragraph  
15 shall be remitted within 60 days.

16 (5) Any institution that was eligible to receive state  
17 student assistance grants on January 1, 1989, and that is not  
18 eligible to receive grants pursuant to s. 1009.51 is eligible  
19 to receive grants pursuant to this section.

20 (6) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for Florida  
21 postsecondary student assistance grants shall be deposited in  
22 the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund.  
23 Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to  
24 s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end of any  
25 fiscal year that has been allocated to the Florida  
26 Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant Program shall remain  
27 therein and shall be available for carrying out the purposes  
28 of this section and as otherwise provided by law.

29 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
30 necessary to implement this section.  
31

1           Section 422. Section 1009.53, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.--

4           (1) The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is  
5 created to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to  
6 reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition  
7 of high academic achievement and who enrolls in a degree  
8 program, certificate program, or applied technology program at  
9 an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education  
10 institution within 3 years of graduation from high school.

11           (2) The Bright Futures Scholarship Program consists of  
12 three types of awards: the Florida Academic Scholarship, the  
13 Florida Medallion Scholarship, and the Florida Gold Seal  
14 Vocational Scholarship.

15           (3) The Department of Education shall administer the  
16 Bright Futures Scholarship Program according to rules and  
17 procedures established by the State Board of Education. A  
18 single application must be sufficient for a student to apply  
19 for any of the three types of awards. The department must  
20 advertise the availability of the scholarship program and must  
21 notify students, teachers, parents, guidance counselors, and  
22 principals or other relevant school administrators of the  
23 criteria and application procedures. The department must begin  
24 this process of notification no later than January 1 of each  
25 year.

26           (4) Funding for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
27 must be allocated from the Education Enhancement Trust Fund  
28 and must be provided before allocations from that fund are  
29 calculated for disbursement to other educational entities.

30           (a) If funds appropriated are not adequate to provide  
31 the maximum allowable award to each eligible applicant, awards

1 in all three components of the program must be prorated using  
2 the same percentage reduction.

3 (b) Notwithstanding s. 216.301, if all funds allocated  
4 to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program are not used in any  
5 fiscal year, up to 10 percent of the total allocation may be  
6 carried forward and used for awards in the following year.

7 (5) The department shall issue awards from the  
8 scholarship program annually. Annual awards may be for up to  
9 45 semester credit hours or the equivalent. Before the  
10 registration period each semester, the department shall  
11 transmit payment for each award to the president or director  
12 of the postsecondary education institution, or his or her  
13 representative, except that the department may withhold  
14 payment if the receiving institution fails to report or to  
15 make refunds to the department as required in this section.

16 (a) Within 30 days after the end of regular  
17 registration each semester, the educational institution shall  
18 certify to the department the eligibility status of each  
19 student who receives an award. After the end of the drop and  
20 add period, an institution is not required to reevaluate or  
21 revise a student's eligibility status, but must make a refund  
22 to the department if a student who receives an award  
23 disbursement terminates enrollment for any reason during an  
24 academic term and a refund is permitted by the institution's  
25 refund policy.

26 (b) An institution that receives funds from the  
27 program shall certify to the department the amount of funds  
28 disbursed to each student and shall remit to the department  
29 any undisbursed advances within 60 days after the end of  
30 regular registration.

31

1           (c) Each institution that receives moneys through this  
2 program shall prepare an annual report that includes an annual  
3 financial audit, conducted by an independent certified public  
4 accountant or the Auditor General. The report shall include an  
5 audit of the institution's administration of the program and a  
6 complete accounting of the moneys for the program. This report  
7 must be submitted to the department annually by March 1. The  
8 department may conduct its own annual audit of an  
9 institution's administration of the program. The department  
10 may request a refund of any moneys overpaid to the institution  
11 for the program. The department may suspend or revoke an  
12 institution's eligibility to receive future moneys for the  
13 program if the department finds that an institution has not  
14 complied with this section. The institution must remit within  
15 60 days any refund requested in accordance with this  
16 subsection.

17           (6) A student enrolled in 6 to 8 semester credit hours  
18 may receive up to one-half of the maximum award; a student  
19 enrolled in 9 to 11 credit hours may receive up to  
20 three-fourths of the maximum award; and a student enrolled in  
21 12 or more credit hours may receive up to the full award.

22           (7) A student may receive only one type of award from  
23 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program at a time, but  
24 may transfer from one type of award to another through the  
25 renewal application process, if the student's eligibility  
26 status changes. However, a student is not eligible to transfer  
27 from a Florida Medallion Scholarship or a Florida Gold Seal  
28 Vocational Scholarship to a Florida Academic Scholarship. A  
29 student who receives an award from the program may also  
30 receive a federal family education loan or a federal direct  
31 loan, and the value of the award must be considered in the

1 certification or calculation of the student's loan  
 2 eligibility.

3 (8) If a recipient transfers from one eligible  
 4 institution to another and continues to meet eligibility  
 5 requirements, the award must be transferred with the student.

6 (9) A student may use an award for summer term  
 7 enrollment if funds are available.

8 (10) Funds from any scholarship within the Florida  
 9 Bright Futures Scholarship Program may not be used to pay for  
 10 remedial or college-preparatory coursework.

11 Section 423. Section 1009.531, Florida Statutes, is  
 12 created to read:

13 1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
 14 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.--

15 (1) To be eligible for an initial award from any of  
 16 the three types of scholarships under the Florida Bright  
 17 Futures Scholarship Program, a student must:

18 (a) Be a Florida resident as defined in s. 1009.40 and  
 19 rules of the State Board of Education.

20 (b) Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its  
 21 equivalent as described in s. 1003.43 or s. 1003.45 unless:

22 1. The student is enrolled full time in the early  
 23 admission program of an eligible postsecondary education  
 24 institution or completes a home education program according to  
 25 s. 1002.41; or

26 2. The student earns a high school diploma from a  
 27 non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who  
 28 is on military or public service assignment away from Florida.

29 (c) Be accepted by and enroll in an eligible Florida  
 30 public or independent postsecondary education institution.  
 31

1 (d) Be enrolled for at least 6 semester credit hours  
2 or the equivalent in quarter hours or clock hours.

3 (e) Not have been found guilty of, or plead nolo  
4 contendere to, a felony charge, unless the student has been  
5 granted clemency by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the  
6 Executive Office of Clemency.

7 (f) Apply for a scholarship from the program by high  
8 school graduation.

9 (2) A student is eligible to accept an initial award  
10 for 3 years following high school graduation and to accept a  
11 renewal award for 7 years following high school graduation. A  
12 student who applies for an award by high school graduation and  
13 who meets all other eligibility requirements, but who does not  
14 accept his or her award, may reapply during subsequent  
15 application periods up to 3 years after high school  
16 graduation.

17 (3) For purposes of calculating the grade point  
18 average to be used in determining initial eligibility for a  
19 Florida Bright Futures scholarship, the department shall  
20 assign additional weights to grades earned in the following  
21 courses:

22 (a) Courses identified in the course code directory as  
23 Advanced Placement, pre-International Baccalaureate, or  
24 International Baccalaureate.

25 (b) Courses designated as academic dual enrollment  
26 courses in the statewide course numbering system.

27  
28 The department may assign additional weights to courses, other  
29 than those described in paragraphs (a) and (b), that are  
30 identified by the Department of Education as containing  
31 rigorous academic curriculum and performance standards. The

1 additional weight assigned to a course pursuant to this  
2 subsection shall not exceed 0.5 per course. The weighted  
3 system shall be developed and distributed to all high schools  
4 in the state prior to January 1, 1998. The department may  
5 determine a student's eligibility status during the senior  
6 year before graduation and may inform the student of the award  
7 at that time.

8       (4) Each school district shall annually provide to  
9 each high school student a complete and accurate Florida  
10 Bright Futures Scholarship Evaluation Report and Key. The  
11 report shall be disseminated at the beginning of each school  
12 year. The report must include all high school coursework  
13 attempted, the number of credits earned toward each type of  
14 award, and the calculation of the grade point average for each  
15 award. The report must also identify all requirements not met  
16 per award, including the grade point average requirement, as  
17 well as identify the awards for which the student has met the  
18 academic requirements. The student report cards must contain a  
19 disclosure that the grade point average calculated for  
20 purposes of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program may  
21 differ from the grade point average on the report card.

22       (5) A student who wishes to qualify for a particular  
23 award within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program,  
24 but who does not meet all of the requirements for that level  
25 of award, may, nevertheless, receive the award if the  
26 principal of the student's school or the district  
27 superintendent verifies that the deficiency is caused by the  
28 fact that school district personnel provided inaccurate or  
29 incomplete information to the student. The school district  
30 must provide a means for the student to correct the  
31 deficiencies and the student must correct them, either by

1 completing comparable work at the postsecondary institution or  
2 by completing a directed individualized study program  
3 developed and administered by the school district. If the  
4 student does not complete the requirements by December 31  
5 immediately following high school graduation, the student is  
6 ineligible to participate in the program.

7 Section 424. Section 1009.532, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9 1009.532 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
10 student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.--

11 (1) To be eligible to renew a scholarship from any of  
12 the three types of scholarships under the Florida Bright  
13 Futures Scholarship Program, a student must:

14 (a) Complete at least 12 semester credit hours or the  
15 equivalent in the last academic year in which the student  
16 earned a scholarship.

17 (b) Maintain the cumulative grade point average  
18 required by the scholarship program, except that:

19 1. If a recipient's grades fall beneath the average  
20 required to renew a Florida Academic Scholarship, but are  
21 sufficient to renew a Florida Medallion Scholarship or a  
22 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship, the Department of  
23 Education may grant a renewal from one of those other  
24 scholarship programs, if the student meets the renewal  
25 eligibility requirements; or

26 2. If, at any time during the eligibility period, a  
27 student's grades are insufficient to renew the scholarship,  
28 the student may restore eligibility by improving the grade  
29 point average to the required level. A student is eligible for  
30 such a reinstatement only once. The Legislature encourages  
31 education institutions to assist students to calculate whether

1 or not it is possible to raise the grade point average during  
2 the summer term. If the institution determines that it is  
3 possible, the education institution may so inform the  
4 department, which may reserve the student's award if funds are  
5 available. The renewal, however, must not be granted until the  
6 student achieves the required cumulative grade point average.  
7 If the summer term is not sufficient to raise the grade point  
8 average to the required renewal level, the student's next  
9 opportunity for renewal is the fall semester of the following  
10 academic year.

11 (2) A student who is enrolled in a program that  
12 terminates in an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree  
13 may receive an award for a maximum of 110 percent of the  
14 number of credit hours required to complete the program. A  
15 student who is enrolled in a program that terminates in a  
16 technical certificate may receive an award for a maximum of  
17 110 percent of the credit hours or clock hours required to  
18 complete the program up to 90 credit hours. A student who  
19 transfers from one of these program levels to another becomes  
20 eligible for the higher of the two credit hour limits.

21 Section 425. Section 1009.533, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23 1009.533 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
24 eligible postsecondary education institutions.--A student is  
25 eligible for an award or the renewal of an award from the  
26 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program if the student  
27 meets the requirements for the program as described in this  
28 act and is enrolled in a postsecondary education institution  
29 that meets the description in any one of the following  
30 subsections:  
31

- 1           (1) A Florida public university, community college, or  
2 technical center.
- 3           (2) An independent Florida college or university that  
4 is accredited by an accrediting association whose standards  
5 are comparable to the minimum standards required to operate an  
6 institution at that level in Florida, as determined by rules  
7 of the Commission for Independent Education, and which has  
8 operated in the state for at least 3 years.
- 9           (3) An independent Florida postsecondary education  
10 institution that is licensed by the Commission for Independent  
11 Education and that:
- 12           (a) Is authorized to grant degrees;  
13           (b) Shows evidence of sound financial condition; and  
14           (c) Has operated in the state for at least 3 years  
15 without having its approval, accreditation, or license placed  
16 on probation.
- 17           (4) A Florida independent postsecondary education  
18 institution that offers a nursing diploma approved by the  
19 Board of Nursing.
- 20           (5) A Florida independent postsecondary education  
21 institution that is licensed by the Commission for Independent  
22 Education and which:
- 23           (a) Is authorized to award certificates, diplomas, or  
24 credentials other than degrees;
- 25           (b) Has a program completion and placement rate of at  
26 least the rate required by the current Florida Statutes, the  
27 Florida Administrative Code, or the Department of Education  
28 for an institution at its level; and
- 29           (c) Shows evidence of sound financial condition; and  
30 either:  
31

1           1. Is accredited at the institutional level by an  
2 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department  
3 of Education and has operated in the state for at least 3  
4 years during which there has been no complaint for which  
5 probable cause has been found; or

6           2. Has operated in Florida for 5 years during which  
7 there has been no complaint for which probable cause has been  
8 found.

9           Section 426. Section 1009.534, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11           1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.--

12           (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic  
13 Scholars award if the student meets the general eligibility  
14 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
15 Program and the student:

16           (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as  
17 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or its equivalent, in high  
18 school courses that are designated by the State Board of  
19 Education as college-preparatory academic courses; and has  
20 attained at least the score identified by rules of the State  
21 Board of Education on the combined verbal and quantitative  
22 parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic  
23 Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test  
24 of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on  
25 the ACT Assessment Program; or

26           (b) Has attended a home education program according to  
27 s. 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 or has completed the  
28 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the  
29 International Baccalaureate Diploma, and has attained at least  
30 the score identified by rules of the Department of Education  
31 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the

1 Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or  
2 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
3 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT  
4 Assessment Program; or  
5 (c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate  
6 Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office; or  
7 (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement  
8 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a  
9 scholar or finalist; or  
10 (e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic  
11 Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.  
12  
13 A student must complete a program of community service work,  
14 as approved by the district school board or the administrators  
15 of a nonpublic school, which shall include a minimum of 75  
16 hours of service work and require the student to identify a  
17 social problem that interests him or her, develop a plan for  
18 his or her personal involvement in addressing the problem,  
19 and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and  
20 reflect upon his or her experience.  
21 (2) A Florida Academic Scholar who is enrolled in a  
22 public postsecondary education institution is eligible for an  
23 award equal to the amount required to pay tuition, fees, and  
24 \$600 for college-related expenses annually. A student who is  
25 enrolled in a nonpublic postsecondary education institution is  
26 eligible for an award equal to the amount that would be  
27 required to pay for the average tuition and fees of a public  
28 postsecondary education institution at the comparable level,  
29 plus the annual \$600.  
30 (3) To be eligible for a renewal award as a Florida  
31 Academic Scholar, a student must maintain the equivalent of a

1 cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale with an  
2 opportunity for one reinstatement as provided in this chapter.

3 (4) In each school district, the Florida Academic  
4 Scholar with the highest academic ranking shall receive an  
5 additional award of \$1,500 for college-related expenses. This  
6 award must be funded from the Florida Bright Futures  
7 Scholarship Program.

8 Section 427. Section 1009.535, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.--

11 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion  
12 Scholars award if the student meets the general eligibility  
13 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
14 Program and the student:

15 (a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0  
16 as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or the equivalent, in  
17 high school courses that are designated by the State Board of  
18 Education as college-preparatory academic courses; and has  
19 attained at least the score identified by rules of the State  
20 Board of Education on the combined verbal and quantitative  
21 parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic  
22 Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test  
23 of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on  
24 the ACT Assessment Program; or

25 (b) Has attended a home education program according to  
26 s. 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 or has completed the  
27 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the  
28 International Baccalaureate Diploma, and has attained at least  
29 the score identified by rules of the Department of Education  
30 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the  
31 Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or

1 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
 2 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT  
 3 Assessment Program; or  
 4 (c) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement  
 5 program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a  
 6 scholar or finalist but has not completed a program of  
 7 community service as provided in s. 1009.534; or  
 8 (d) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic  
 9 Recognition Program as a scholar, but has not completed a  
 10 program of community service as provided in s. 1009.534.  
 11 (2) A Florida Medallion Scholar is eligible for an  
 12 award equal to the amount required to pay 75 percent of  
 13 tuition and fees, if the student is enrolled in a public  
 14 postsecondary education institution. A student who is enrolled  
 15 in a nonpublic postsecondary education institution is eligible  
 16 for an award equal to the amount that would be required to pay  
 17 75 percent of the tuition and fees of a public postsecondary  
 18 education institution at the comparable level.  
 19 (3) To be eligible for a renewal award as a Florida  
 20 Medallion Scholar, a student must maintain the equivalent of a  
 21 cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale with an  
 22 opportunity for reinstatement one time as provided in this  
 23 chapter.  
 24 Section 428. Section 1009.536, Florida Statutes, is  
 25 created to read:  
 26 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars  
 27 award.--The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is  
 28 created within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
 29 to recognize and reward academic achievement and career and  
 30 technical preparation by high school students who wish to  
 31 continue their education.

- 1       (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal  
2 Vocational Scholars award if the student meets the general  
3 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures  
4 Scholarship Program and the student:
- 5       (a) Completes the secondary school portion of a  
6 sequential program of studies that requires at least three  
7 secondary school career and technical credits taken over at  
8 least 2 academic years, and is continued in a planned, related  
9 postsecondary education program. If the student's school does  
10 not offer such a two-plus-two or tech-prep program, the  
11 student must complete a job-preparatory career education  
12 program selected by the Workforce Estimating Conference or  
13 Workforce Florida, Inc., for its ability to provide high-wage  
14 employment in an occupation with high potential for employment  
15 opportunities. On-the-job training may not be substituted for  
16 any of the three required career and technical credits.
- 17       (b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education  
18 by earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level  
19 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the  
20 Department of Education.
- 21       (c) Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point  
22 average of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all  
23 subjects required for a standard high school diploma,  
24 excluding elective courses.
- 25       (d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of  
26 3.5 on a 4.0 scale for secondary career and technical courses  
27 comprising the career and technical program.
- 28       (2) A Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar is eligible  
29 for an award equal to the amount required to pay 75 percent of  
30 tuition and fees, if the student is enrolled in a public  
31 postsecondary education institution. A student who is enrolled

1 in a nonpublic postsecondary education institution is eligible  
2 for an award equal to the amount that would be required to pay  
3 75 percent of the tuition and mandatory fees of a public  
4 postsecondary education institution at the comparable level.

5 (3) To be eligible for a renewal award as a Florida  
6 Gold Seal Vocational Scholar, a student must maintain the  
7 equivalent of a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a  
8 4.0 scale with an opportunity for reinstatement one time as  
9 provided in this chapter.

10 (4) A student may earn a Florida Gold Seal Vocational  
11 Scholarship for 110 percent of the number of credit hours  
12 required to complete the program, up to 90 credit hours or the  
13 equivalent. A Florida Gold Seal Scholar who has a cumulative  
14 grade point average of 2.75 in all postsecondary education  
15 work attempted may apply for a Florida Medallion Scholars  
16 award at any renewal period. All other provisions of that  
17 program apply, and the credit-hour limitation must be  
18 calculated by subtracting from the student's total eligibility  
19 the number of credit hours the student attempted while earning  
20 the Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship.

21 Section 429. Section 1009.537, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23 1009.537 Eligibility for the Florida Bright Futures  
24 Scholarship Program; transition.--

25 (1) A student who graduates from high school in 1997  
26 or earlier and who is eligible for the Florida Undergraduate  
27 Scholar's Program pursuant to former s. 240.402 is eligible  
28 for the Florida Academic Scholars award as provided in this  
29 act. A student who graduates from high school in 1998 or 1999  
30 is eligible for the Florida Academic Scholars award if the  
31 student meets the criteria in s. 1009.534. However, in lieu of

1 satisfying the requirements set forth in s. 1009.534(1)(a), a  
2 student may meet the following criteria:

3 (a) Complete a program of at least 24 credits in  
4 advanced-level studies as prescribed by the State Board of  
5 Education, including as a minimum:

6 1. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in  
7 language arts, including courses in English composition and  
8 literature.

9 2. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in  
10 science, including laboratory courses in biology, chemistry,  
11 and physics where laboratory facilities are available.

12 3. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in  
13 mathematics, including courses in algebra, geometry, and  
14 calculus or trigonometry.

15 4. Two years of sequential foreign language.

16 5. One year of instruction in art and music or in  
17 either art or music.

18 6. Three years of instruction in social studies,  
19 including courses in American history and government, world  
20 history, and comparative political and economic systems.

21 7. One year of instruction in health and physical  
22 education to include assessment, improvement, and maintenance  
23 of personal fitness.

24 (b) Obtain at least the equivalent of an unweighted  
25 grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all courses  
26 taken for which high school credit may be granted.

27 (c) Achieve a score of 1180 on the combined verbal and  
28 quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the  
29 Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic  
30 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an  
31

1 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program or an  
2 equivalent program.

3 (d) Complete a program of community service work, as  
4 approved by the district school board or the administrators of  
5 a nonpublic school, which shall include a minimum of 75 hours  
6 of service work and require the student to identify a social  
7 problem that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or  
8 her personal involvement in addressing the problem, and,  
9 through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect  
10 upon his or her experience.

11

12 Students who graduate from high school after 1999 must meet  
13 the eligibility criteria pursuant to s. 1009.534.

14 (2) A student who graduates from high school in 1997  
15 or earlier and who is eligible for the Florida Vocational Gold  
16 Seal Endorsement Scholarship award pursuant to former s.  
17 240.4021 is eligible for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational  
18 Scholars award as provided in this act. A student who  
19 graduates from high school in 1998 or 1999 is eligible for the  
20 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award if the student  
21 meets the criteria in s. 1009.536. However, in lieu of  
22 satisfying the grade point average requirement set forth in s.  
23 1009.536(1)(c), a student may earn a minimum cumulative  
24 unweighted grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale on all  
25 subjects required for a standard high school diploma. Students  
26 who graduate from high school after 1999 must meet the  
27 eligibility criteria pursuant to s. 1009.536.

28 (3) Effective for the 1997-1998 academic year, a  
29 student is eligible for an initial award of a Florida Merit  
30 Scholarship if the student:

31

1           (a)1. Is scheduled to graduate from high school in  
2 1997;  
3           2. Completes, or is enrolled in all courses required  
4 to complete, the high school college-preparatory coursework  
5 required in this act;  
6           3. Achieves an unweighted grade point average of 3.0  
7 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent, in high school courses that  
8 are adopted by the Board of Regents and recommended by the  
9 State Board of Community Colleges as college-preparatory  
10 academic courses; and  
11           4. Earns a score of 970 or above on the combined  
12 verbal and quantitative parts of the recentered Scholastic  
13 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an  
14 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program; or  
15           (b) Has completed a college-preparatory curriculum in  
16 1997 through an approved home school program and has attained  
17 a score of 970 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts  
18 of the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
19 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT  
20 Assessment Program. Eligibility shall be determined in the  
21 same manner as for public school students. For students whose  
22 parents are unable to document a college-preparatory  
23 curriculum, a score of 1070 on the SAT, or equivalent score on  
24 the ACT, shall be required for award eligibility.  
25           Section 430. Section 1009.538, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:  
27           1009.538 Bright Futures Scholarship recipients  
28 attending nonpublic institutions; calculation of  
29 awards.--Notwithstanding ss. 1009.53, 1009.534, 1009.535, and  
30 1009.536, a student who receives any award under the Florida  
31 Bright Futures Scholarship Program, who is enrolled in a

1 nonpublic postsecondary education institution, and who is  
 2 assessed tuition and fees that are the same as those of a  
 3 full-time student at that institution, shall receive a fixed  
 4 award calculated by using the average tuition and fee  
 5 calculation as prescribed by the Department of Education for  
 6 full-time attendance at a public postsecondary education  
 7 institution at the comparable level. If the student is  
 8 enrolled part-time and is assessed tuition and fees at a  
 9 reduced level, the award shall be either one-half of the  
 10 maximum award or three-fourths of the maximum award, depending  
 11 on the level of fees assessed.

12 Section 1009.5385, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 13 read:

14 1009.5385 Use of certain scholarship funds by children  
 15 of deceased or disabled veterans.--The criteria for the use of  
 16 scholarship funds which apply to students under the Florida  
 17 Bright Futures Scholarship Program shall also apply to the  
 18 children of deceased or disabled veterans who receive  
 19 scholarships under chapter 295.

20 Section 431. Section 1009.539, Florida Statutes, is  
 21 created to read:

22 1009.539 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Testing  
 23 Program.--

24 (1) The State Board of Education shall identify the  
 25 minimum scores, maximum credit, and course or courses for  
 26 which credit is to be awarded for each College Level  
 27 Examination Program (CLEP) general examination, CLEP subject  
 28 examination, College Board Advanced Placement Program  
 29 examination, and International Baccalaureate examination. In  
 30 addition, the State Board of Education shall identify such  
 31

1 courses in the general education core curriculum of each state  
2 university and community college.

3 (2) Each community college and state university must  
4 award credit for specific courses for which competency has  
5 been demonstrated by successful passage of one of these  
6 examinations unless the award of credit duplicates credit  
7 already awarded. Community colleges and universities may not  
8 exempt students from courses without the award of credit if  
9 competencies have been so demonstrated. If a student achieves  
10 a passing score as identified by the State Board of Education  
11 on an examination required by this section, the student shall  
12 receive credit equivalent to successfully completing the  
13 equivalent course as identified by the State Board of  
14 Education in a state university or community college, provided  
15 that such credit is not duplicative of credit already earned  
16 by the student.

17 (3) Students eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars  
18 award or a Florida Medallion Scholars award who are admitted  
19 to and enroll in a community college or state university  
20 shall, prior to registering for courses that may be earned  
21 through a CLEP examination and no later than registration for  
22 their second term, complete at least five examinations from  
23 those specified in subsection (1) in the following areas:  
24 English; humanities; mathematics; natural sciences; and social  
25 sciences. Successful completion of dual enrollment courses,  
26 Advanced Placement examinations, and International  
27 Baccalaureate examinations taken prior to high school  
28 graduation satisfy this requirement. The State Board of  
29 Education shall identify the examinations that satisfy each  
30 component of this requirement.

31

1           (4) Each community college and state university shall  
2 pay for the CLEP examinations required pursuant to this  
3 section from the funds appropriated from the Educational  
4 Enhancement Trust Fund. Institutions shall pay no more than  
5 \$46 per examination for the program, which shall include  
6 access to a student guide to prepare for the test. The  
7 Department of Education shall negotiate with the College Board  
8 for a reduced rate for the examinations. The institution shall  
9 not charge the student for preparation and administration of  
10 the test, access to a student guide to prepare for the test,  
11 or recordkeeping and reporting of each student's test results  
12 to the department.

13           (5) The credit awarded pursuant to this section shall  
14 apply toward the 120 hours of college credit required pursuant  
15 to s. 1007.25(7).

16           (6) The Department of Education shall track and  
17 annually report on the effectiveness of the program, and  
18 include information on the number of students participating in  
19 the program; the CLEP examinations taken and the passage rate  
20 of Florida Academic Scholars and Florida Medallion Scholars  
21 award recipients; the use of Advanced Placement and  
22 International Baccalaureate examinations and dual enrollment  
23 courses to satisfy the requirements of the program; and the  
24 course credit provided.

25           Section 432. Section 1009.54, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27           1009.54 Critical Teacher Shortage Program.--There is  
28 created the Critical Teacher Shortage Program. Funds  
29 appropriated by the Legislature for the program shall be  
30 deposited in the State Student Financial Assistance Trust  
31 Fund. The Comptroller shall authorize expenditures from the

1 trust fund upon receipt of vouchers approved by the Department  
2 of Education for the critical teacher shortage programs  
3 established in s. 1009.57, s. 1009.58, or s. 1009.59. The  
4 Comptroller shall also authorize expenditures from the trust  
5 fund for the "Chappie" James Most Promising Teacher  
6 Scholarship Loan Program and the Critical Teacher Shortage  
7 Scholarship Loan Program recipients who participated in these  
8 programs prior to July 1, 1993, provided that such students  
9 continue to meet the renewal eligibility requirements that  
10 were in effect at the time that their original awards were  
11 made. Students who participated in the "Chappie" James Most  
12 Promising Teacher Scholarship Loan Program prior to July 1,  
13 1993, shall not have their awards reduced as a result of the  
14 addition of new students to the program. All scholarship loan  
15 repayments pursuant to s. 1009.57 shall be deposited into the  
16 State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Any remaining  
17 balance at the end of any fiscal year that has been allocated  
18 to the program shall remain in the trust fund and be available  
19 for the individual programs in future years.

20 Section 433. Section 1009.55, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22 1009.55 Rosewood Family Scholarship Program.--

23 (1) There is created a Rosewood Family Scholarship  
24 Program for minority persons with preference given to the  
25 direct descendants of the Rosewood families, not to exceed 25  
26 scholarships per year. Funds appropriated by the Legislature  
27 for the program shall be deposited in the State Student  
28 Financial Assistance Trust Fund.

29 (2) The Rosewood Family Scholarship Program shall be  
30 administered by the Department of Education. The State Board  
31

1 of Education shall adopt rules for administering this program  
2 which shall at a minimum provide for the following:

3 (a) The annual award to a student shall be up to  
4 \$4,000 but should not exceed an amount in excess of tuition  
5 and registration fees.

6 (b) If funds are insufficient to provide a full  
7 scholarship to each eligible applicant, the department may  
8 prorate available funds and make a partial award to each  
9 eligible applicant.

10 (c) The department shall rank eligible initial  
11 applicants for the purposes of awarding scholarships with  
12 preference being given to the direct descendants of the  
13 Rosewood families. The remaining applicants shall be ranked  
14 based on need as determined by the Department of Education.

15 (d) Payment of an award shall be transmitted in  
16 advance of the registration period each semester on behalf of  
17 the student to the president of the university or community  
18 college, or his or her representative, or to the director of  
19 the technical school which the recipient is attending.

20 (3) Beginning with the 1994-1995 academic year, the  
21 department is authorized to make awards for undergraduate  
22 study to students who:

23 (a) Meet the general requirements for student  
24 eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise  
25 provided in this section.

26 (b) File an application for the scholarship within the  
27 established time limits.

28 (c) Enroll as certificate-seeking or degree-seeking  
29 students at a state university, community college, or  
30 technical school authorized by law.

31

1           Section 434. Section 1009.56, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1009.56 Seminole and Miccosukee Indian Scholarships.--

4           (1) There is created a Seminole and Miccosukee Indian  
5 Scholarship Program to be administered by the Department of  
6 Education in accordance with rules established by the State  
7 Board of Education. The Seminole Tribe of Florida and the  
8 Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida shall act in an  
9 advisory capacity in the development of the rules.

10          (2) The department shall award scholarships to  
11 students who:

12          (a) Have graduated from high school, have earned an  
13 equivalency diploma issued by the Department of Education  
14 pursuant to s. 1003.435, have earned an equivalency diploma  
15 issued by the United States Armed Forces Institute, or have  
16 been accepted through an early admission program;

17          (b) Are enrolled at a state university or community  
18 college authorized by Florida law; a nursing diploma school  
19 approved by the Board of Nursing; any Florida college,  
20 university, or community college which is accredited by an  
21 accrediting association whose standards are comparable to the  
22 minimum standards required to operate an institution at that  
23 level in Florida, as determined by rules of the Commission for  
24 Independent Education; or any Florida institution the credits  
25 of which are acceptable for transfer to state universities;

26          (c) Are enrolled as either full-time or part-time  
27 undergraduate or graduate students and make satisfactory  
28 academic progress as defined by the college or university;

29          (d) Have been recommended by the Seminole Tribe of  
30 Florida or the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida; and

31

1           (e) Meet the general requirements for student  
2 eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise  
3 provided in this section.

4           (3) Recommendation by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or  
5 the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida shall:

6           (a) Be based upon established standards of financial  
7 need as determined by the respective tribe and the department;

8           (b) Be based upon such other eligibility requirements  
9 for student financial assistance as are adopted by the  
10 respective tribe; and

11           (c) Include certification of membership or eligibility  
12 for membership in the Seminole Tribe of Florida or the  
13 Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

14           (4) The amount of the scholarship shall be determined  
15 by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or the Miccosukee Tribe of  
16 Indians of Florida, for its respective applicants, within the  
17 amount of funds appropriated for this purpose. The amount  
18 shall be prorated accordingly for part-time students. At the  
19 beginning of each semester or quarter, the department shall  
20 certify the name of each scholarship holder eligible to  
21 receive funds for that registration period to the Comptroller,  
22 who shall draw a warrant in favor of each scholarship  
23 recipient. Each recipient shall be eligible to have the  
24 scholarship renewed from year to year, provided all academic  
25 and other requirements of the college or university and rules  
26 established by the State Board of Education are met.

27           (5) The Commissioner of Education shall include  
28 amounts sufficient for continuation of this program in the  
29 legislative budget requests of the department.

30  
31

1           (6) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the  
2 program shall be deposited in the State Student Financial  
3 Assistance Trust Fund.

4           Section 435. Section 1009.57, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1009.57 Florida Teacher Scholarship and Forgivable  
7 Loan Program.--

8           (1) There is created the Florida Teacher Scholarship  
9 and Forgivable Loan Program to be administered by the  
10 Department of Education. The program shall provide scholarship  
11 assistance to eligible students for lower-division  
12 undergraduate study and loan assistance to eligible students  
13 for upper-division undergraduate and graduate study. The  
14 primary purpose of the program is to attract capable and  
15 promising students to the teaching profession, attract  
16 teachers to areas of projected or current critical teacher  
17 shortage, attract liberal arts and science graduates to  
18 teaching, and provide opportunity for persons making midcareer  
19 decisions to enter the teaching profession. The State Board  
20 of Education shall adopt rules necessary to administer the  
21 program and shall annually identify critical teacher shortage  
22 areas.

23           (2) Within the Florida Teacher Scholarship and  
24 Forgivable Loan Program shall be established the "Chappie"  
25 James Most Promising Teacher Scholarship which shall be  
26 offered to a top graduating senior from each public secondary  
27 school in the state. An additional number of "Chappie" James  
28 Most Promising Teacher Scholarship awards shall be offered  
29 annually to graduating seniors from private secondary schools  
30 in the state which are listed with the Department of Education  
31 and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and

1 Schools or any other private statewide accrediting agency  
2 which makes public its standards, procedures, and member  
3 schools. The private secondary schools shall be in compliance  
4 with regulations of the Office for Civil Rights. The number  
5 of awards to private secondary school students shall be  
6 proportional to the number of awards available to public  
7 secondary school students and shall be calculated as the ratio  
8 of the number of private to public secondary school seniors in  
9 the state multiplied by the number of public secondary schools  
10 in the state.

11 (a) The scholarship may be used for attendance at a  
12 state university, a community college, or an independent  
13 institution as defined in s. 1009.89.

14 (b) The amount of the scholarship is \$1,500 and may be  
15 renewed for 1 year if the student earns a 2.5 cumulative grade  
16 point average and 12 credit hours per term and meets the  
17 eligibility requirements for renewal of the award.

18 (c) To be eligible for the scholarship, a student  
19 shall: be ranked within the top quartile of the senior class;  
20 have been an active member of a high school future teacher  
21 organization, if such organization exists in the student's  
22 school; have earned a minimum unweighted cumulative grade  
23 point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; file an application  
24 within the application period; meet the general requirements  
25 for student eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as  
26 otherwise provided in this section; and have the intent to  
27 enter the public teaching profession in Florida.

28 (d) Three candidates from each public secondary school  
29 and one candidate from each nonpublic secondary school in the  
30 state shall be nominated by the principal and a committee of  
31 teachers, based on criteria which shall include, but need not

1 be limited to, rank in class, standardized test scores,  
2 cumulative grade point average, extracurricular activities,  
3 letters of recommendation, an essay, and a declaration of  
4 intention to teach in a public school in the state.

5 (e) From public secondary school nominees, the  
6 Commissioner of Education shall select a graduating senior  
7 from each public high school to receive a scholarship.  
8 Selection of recipients from nonpublic secondary schools shall  
9 be made by a committee appointed by the Commissioner of  
10 Education comprised of representatives from nonpublic  
11 secondary schools and the Department of Education.

12 (f) Fifteen percent of scholarships awarded shall be  
13 to minority students. However, in the event that fewer than  
14 15 percent of the total eligible nominees are minority  
15 students, the commissioner may allocate all award funds as  
16 long as a scholarship is reserved for each eligible minority  
17 nominee.

18 (3)(a) Within the Florida Teacher Scholarship and  
19 Forgivable Loan Program shall be established the Florida  
20 Critical Teacher Shortage Forgivable Loan Program which shall  
21 make undergraduate and graduate forgivable loans available to  
22 eligible students entering programs of study that lead to a  
23 degree in a teaching program in a critical teacher shortage  
24 area. To be eligible for a program loan, a candidate shall:

25 1. Be a full-time student at the upper-division  
26 undergraduate or graduate level in a teacher training program  
27 approved by the department pursuant to s. 1004.04 leading to  
28 certification in a critical teacher shortage subject area.

29 2. Have declared an intent to teach, for at least the  
30 number of years for which a forgivable loan is received, in  
31 publicly funded elementary or secondary schools of Florida in

1 a critical teacher shortage area identified by the State Board  
2 of Education. For purposes of this subsection, a school is  
3 publicly funded if it receives at least 75 percent of its  
4 operating costs from governmental agencies and operates its  
5 educational program under contract with a public school  
6 district or the Department of Education.

7 3. Meet the general requirements for student  
8 eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise  
9 provided in this section.

10 4. If applying for an undergraduate forgivable loan,  
11 have maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of  
12 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate work. Renewal  
13 applicants for undergraduate loans shall maintain a minimum  
14 cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.5 on a 4.0  
15 scale for all undergraduate work and have earned at least 12  
16 semester credits per term, or the equivalent.

17 5. If applying for a graduate forgivable loan, have  
18 maintained an undergraduate cumulative grade point average of  
19 at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or have attained a Graduate  
20 Record Examination score of at least 1,000. Renewal applicants  
21 for graduate loans shall maintain a minimum cumulative grade  
22 point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all  
23 graduate work and have earned at least 9 semester credits per  
24 term, or the equivalent.

25 (b) An undergraduate forgivable loan may be awarded  
26 for 2 undergraduate years, not to exceed \$4,000 per year, or  
27 for a maximum of 3 years for programs requiring a fifth year  
28 of instruction to obtain initial teaching certification.

29 (c) A graduate forgivable loan may be awarded for 2  
30 graduate years, not to exceed \$8,000 per year. In addition to  
31

1 meeting criteria specified in paragraph (a), a loan recipient  
2 at the graduate level shall:

3 1. Hold a bachelor's degree from any college or  
4 university accredited by a regional accrediting association as  
5 defined by State Board of Education rule.

6 2. Not already hold a teaching certificate resulting  
7 from an undergraduate degree in education in an area of  
8 critical teacher shortage as designated by the State Board of  
9 Education.

10 3. Not have received an undergraduate forgivable loan  
11 as provided for in paragraph (b).

12 (d) Recipients of the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship  
13 Loan Program as authorized under title IV, part D, subpart 1  
14 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, shall not be  
15 eligible to participate in the Florida Critical Teacher  
16 Shortage Forgivable Loan Program.

17 (e) The State Board of Education shall adopt by rule  
18 repayment schedules and applicable interest rates under ss.  
19 1009.82 and 1009.95. A forgivable loan must be repaid within  
20 10 years of completion of a program of studies.

21 1. Credit for repayment of an undergraduate or  
22 graduate forgivable loan shall be in an amount not to exceed  
23 \$4,000 in loan principal plus applicable accrued interest for  
24 each full year of eligible teaching service. However, credit  
25 in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 in loan principal plus  
26 applicable accrued interest shall be given for each full year  
27 of eligible teaching service completed at a high-density,  
28 low-economic urban school or at a low-density, low-economic  
29 rural school, as identified by the State Board of Education.

30 2. Any forgivable loan recipient who fails to teach in  
31 a publicly funded elementary or secondary school in this state

1 as specified in this subsection is responsible for repaying  
2 the loan plus accrued interest at 8 percent annually.

3 3. Forgivable loan recipients may receive loan  
4 repayment credit for teaching service rendered at any time  
5 during the scheduled repayment period. However, such repayment  
6 credit shall be applicable only to the current principal and  
7 accrued interest balance that remains at the time the  
8 repayment credit is earned. No loan recipient shall be  
9 reimbursed for previous cash payments of principal and  
10 interest.

11 (f) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the  
12 program shall be deposited in the State Student Financial  
13 Assistance Trust Fund.

14 Section 436. Section 1009.58, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 1009.58 Critical teacher shortage tuition  
17 reimbursement program.--

18 (1) A critical teacher shortage tuition reimbursement  
19 program shall be established for the purpose of improving the  
20 skills and knowledge of current teachers or persons preparing  
21 to teach in critical teacher shortage areas.

22 (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
23 implement the critical teacher shortage tuition reimbursement  
24 program. Any full-time public school employee or  
25 developmental research school employee certified to teach in  
26 this state is eligible for the program. For the purposes of  
27 this program, tuition reimbursement shall be limited to  
28 courses in critical teacher shortage areas as determined by  
29 the State Board of Education. Such courses shall be:

30 (a) Graduate-level courses leading to a master's,  
31 specialist, or doctoral degree;

1           (b) Graduate-level courses leading to a new  
2 certification area; or

3           (c) State-approved undergraduate courses leading to an  
4 advanced degree or new certification area.

5           (3) Participants may receive tuition reimbursement  
6 payments for up to 9 semester hours, or the equivalent in  
7 quarter hours, per year, at a rate not to exceed \$78 per  
8 semester hour, up to a total of 36 semester hours. All tuition  
9 reimbursements shall be contingent on passing an approved  
10 course with a minimum grade of 3.0 or its equivalent.

11           (4) This section shall be implemented only to the  
12 extent specifically funded and authorized by law.

13           Section 437. Section 1009.59, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15           1009.59 Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan  
16 Forgiveness Program.--

17           (1) The Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan  
18 Forgiveness Program is established to encourage qualified  
19 personnel to seek employment in subject areas in which  
20 critical teacher shortages exist, as identified annually by  
21 the State Board of Education. The primary function of the  
22 program is to make repayments towards loans received by  
23 students from federal programs or commercial lending  
24 institutions for the support of postsecondary education study.  
25 Repayments are intended to be made to qualified applicants who  
26 begin teaching for the first time in designated subject areas,  
27 and who apply during their first year of teaching as certified  
28 teachers in these subject areas.

29           (2) From the funds available, the Department of  
30 Education may make loan principal repayments as follows:  
31

1        (a) Up to \$2,500 a year for up to 4 years on behalf of  
2 selected graduates of state-approved undergraduate  
3 postsecondary teacher preparation programs, persons certified  
4 to teach pursuant to any applicable teacher certification  
5 requirements, or selected teacher preparation graduates from  
6 any state participating in the Interstate Agreement on the  
7 Qualification of Educational Personnel.

8        (b) Up to \$5,000 a year for up to 2 years on behalf of  
9 selected graduates of state-approved graduate postsecondary  
10 teacher preparation programs, persons with graduate degrees  
11 certified to teach pursuant to any applicable teacher  
12 certification requirements, or selected teacher preparation  
13 graduates from any state participating in the Interstate  
14 Agreement on the Qualification of Educational Personnel.

15        (c) All repayments shall be contingent on continued  
16 proof of employment in the designated subject areas in this  
17 state and shall be made directly to the holder of the loan.  
18 The state shall not bear responsibility for the collection of  
19 any interest charges or other remaining balance. In the event  
20 that designated critical teacher shortage subject areas are  
21 changed by the State Board of Education, a teacher shall  
22 continue to be eligible for loan forgiveness as long as he or  
23 she continues to teach in the subject area for which the  
24 original loan repayment was made and otherwise meets all  
25 conditions of eligibility.

26        (3) Students receiving a scholarship loan or a  
27 fellowship loan are not eligible to participate in the  
28 Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program.

29        (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules  
30 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, necessary for the  
31 administration of this program.

1           (5) This section shall be implemented only to the  
2 extent as specifically funded and authorized by law.

3           Section 438. Section 1009.60, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5           1009.60 Minority teacher education scholars  
6 program.--There is created the minority teacher education  
7 scholars program, which is a collaborative performance-based  
8 scholarship program for African-American, Hispanic-American,  
9 Asian-American, and Native American students. The participants  
10 in the program include Florida's community colleges and its  
11 public and private universities that have teacher education  
12 programs.

13           (1) The minority teacher education scholars program  
14 shall provide an annual scholarship of \$4,000 for each  
15 approved minority teacher education scholar who is enrolled in  
16 one of Florida's public or private universities in the junior  
17 year and is admitted into a teacher education program.

18           (2) To assist each participating education institution  
19 in the recruitment and retention of minority teacher scholars,  
20 the administrators of the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers,  
21 Inc., shall implement a systemwide training program. The  
22 training program must include an annual conference or series  
23 of conferences for students who are in the program or who are  
24 identified by a high school or a community college as likely  
25 candidates for the program. The training program must also  
26 include research about and dissemination concerning successful  
27 activities or programs that recruit minority students for  
28 teacher education and retain them through graduation,  
29 certification, and employment. Staff employed by the  
30 corporation may work with each participating education  
31 institution to assure that local faculty and administrators

1 receive the benefit of all available research and resources to  
2 increase retention of their minority teacher education  
3 scholars.

4 (3) The total amount appropriated annually for new  
5 scholarships in the program must be divided by \$4,000 and by  
6 the number of participating colleges and universities. Each  
7 participating institution has access to the same number of  
8 scholarships and may award all of them to eligible minority  
9 students. If a college or university does not award all of its  
10 scholarships by the date set by the program administration at  
11 the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc., the remaining  
12 scholarships must be transferred to another institution that  
13 has eligible students.

14 (4) A student may receive a scholarship from the  
15 program for 3 consecutive years if the student remains  
16 enrolled full-time in the program and makes satisfactory  
17 progress toward a baccalaureate degree with a major in  
18 education.

19 (5) If a minority teacher education scholar graduates  
20 and is employed as a teacher by a Florida district school  
21 board, the scholar is not required to repay the scholarship  
22 amount so long as the scholar teaches in a Florida public  
23 school. A scholar may repay the entire scholarship amount by  
24 remaining employed as a Florida public school teacher for 1  
25 year for each year he or she received the scholarship.

26 (6) If a minority teacher education scholar does not  
27 graduate within 3 years, or if the scholar graduates but does  
28 not teach in a Florida public school, the scholar must repay  
29 the total amount awarded, plus annual interest of 8 percent.

30 (a) Interest begins accruing the first day of the 13th  
31 month after the month in which the recipient completes an

1 approved teacher education program or after the month in which  
2 enrollment as a full-time student is terminated. Interest does  
3 not accrue during any period of deferment or eligible teaching  
4 service.

5 (b) The repayment period begins the first day of the  
6 13th month after the month in which the recipient completes an  
7 approved teacher education program or after the month in which  
8 enrollment as a full-time student is terminated.

9 (c) The terms and conditions of the scholarship  
10 repayment must be contained in a promissory note and a  
11 repayment schedule. The loan must be paid within 10 years  
12 after the date of graduation or termination of full-time  
13 enrollment, including any periods of deferment. A shorter  
14 repayment period may be granted. The minimum monthly repayment  
15 is \$50 or the unpaid balance, unless otherwise approved,  
16 except that the monthly payment may not be less than the  
17 accruing interest. The recipient may prepay any part of the  
18 scholarship without penalty.

19 (d) The holder of the promissory note may grant a  
20 deferment of repayment for a recipient who is a full-time  
21 student, who is unable to secure a teaching position that  
22 would qualify as repayment, who becomes disabled, or who  
23 experiences other hardships. Such a deferment may be granted  
24 for a total of 24 months.

25 (e) If a student defaults on the scholarship, the  
26 entire unpaid balance, including interest accrued, becomes due  
27 and payable at the option of the holder of the promissory  
28 note, or when the recipient is no longer able to pay or no  
29 longer intends to pay. The recipient is responsible for paying  
30 all reasonable attorney's fees and other costs and charges  
31 necessary for administration of the collection process.

1           Section 439. Section 1009.605, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1009.605 Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc.--

4           (1) There is created the Florida Fund for Minority  
5 Teachers, Inc., which is a not-for-profit statutory  
6 corporation housed in the College of Education at the  
7 University of Florida. The corporation shall administer and  
8 manage the minority teacher education scholars program.

9           (2) The corporation shall submit an annual budget  
10 projection to the Department of Education to be included in  
11 the annual legislative budget request. The projection must be  
12 based on a 7-year plan that would be capable of awarding the  
13 following schedule of scholarships:

14           (a) In the initial year, 700 scholarships of \$4,000  
15 each to scholars in the junior year of college.

16           (b) In the second year, 350 scholarships to new  
17 scholars in their junior year and 700 renewal scholarships to  
18 the rising seniors.

19           (c) In each succeeding year, 350 scholarships to new  
20 scholars in the junior year and renewal scholarships to the  
21 350 rising seniors.

22           (3) A board of directors shall administer the  
23 corporation. The Governor shall appoint to the board at least  
24 15 but not more than 25 members, who shall serve terms of 3  
25 years, except that 4 of the initial members shall serve 1-year  
26 terms and 4 shall serve 2-year terms. At least 4 members must  
27 be employed by public community colleges and at least 11  
28 members must be employed by public or private postsecondary  
29 institutions that operate colleges of education. At least one  
30 member must be a financial aid officer employed by a  
31 postsecondary education institution operating in Florida.

1 Administrative costs for support of the Board of Directors and  
 2 the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers may not exceed 5  
 3 percent of funds allocated for the program. The board shall:  
 4       (a) Hold meetings to implement this section.  
 5       (b) Select a chairperson annually.  
 6       (c) Make rules for its own government.  
 7       (d) Appoint an executive director to serve at its  
 8 pleasure. The executive director shall be the chief  
 9 administrative officer and agent of the board.  
 10       (e) Maintain a record of its proceedings.  
 11       (f) Delegate to the chairperson the responsibility for  
 12 signing final orders.  
 13       (g) Carry out the training program as required for the  
 14 minority teacher education scholars program. No more than 5  
 15 percent of the funds appropriated for the minority teacher  
 16 education scholars program may be expended for administration,  
 17 including administration of the required training program.  
 18       Section 440. Section 1009.61, Florida Statutes, is  
 19 created to read:  
 20       1009.61 Teacher/Quest Scholarship Program.--The  
 21 Teacher/Quest Scholarship Program is created for the purpose  
 22 of providing teachers with the opportunity to enhance their  
 23 knowledge of science, mathematics, and computer applications  
 24 in business, industry, and government. A school district or  
 25 developmental research school may propose that one or more  
 26 teachers be granted a Teacher/Quest Scholarship by submitting  
 27 to the Department of Education:  
 28       (1) A project proposal specifying activities a teacher  
 29 will carry out to improve his or her:  
 30           (a) Understanding of mathematical, scientific, or  
 31 computing concepts;

1           (b) Ability to apply and demonstrate such concepts  
2 through instruction;

3           (c) Knowledge of career and technical requirements for  
4 competency in mathematics, science, and computing; and

5           (d) Ability to integrate and apply technological  
6 concepts from all three fields; and

7           (2) A contractual agreement with a private corporation  
8 or governmental agency that implements the project proposal  
9 and guarantees employment to the teacher during a summer or  
10 other period when schools are out of session. The agreement  
11 must stipulate a salary rate that does not exceed regular  
12 rates of pay and a gross salary amount consistent with  
13 applicable statutory and contractual provisions for the  
14 teacher's employment. The teacher's compensation shall be  
15 provided for on an equally matched basis by funds from the  
16 employing corporation or agency.

17           Section 441. Section 1009.62, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19           1009.62 Grants for teachers for special training in  
20 exceptional student education.--

21           (1) The Department of Education may make grants to  
22 teachers for special training in exceptional student education  
23 to meet professional requirements with respect thereto, and  
24 the department is responsible for the administration of such  
25 program.

26           (2) These grants are limited to teachers who:

27           (a) Hold a full-time contract to teach in a district  
28 school system, a state-operated or state-supported program, or  
29 an agency or organization under contract with the Department  
30 of Education;

31

1           (b) Hold a valid Florida educator's certificate that  
 2 does not reflect an exceptional-student-education coverage or  
 3 endorsement that is appropriate for the teacher's assignment;  
 4 and

5           (c) Satisfactorily complete the eligible courses.

6           (3) Grant amounts are to be determined on the basis of  
 7 rates established by the Department of Education.

8           (4) The Department of Education shall administer this  
 9 program under rules established by the State Board of  
 10 Education.

11           Section 442. Section 1009.63, Florida Statutes, is  
 12 created to read:

13           1009.63 Occupational therapist or physical therapist  
 14 critical shortage program; definitions.--For the purposes of  
 15 ss. 1009.63-1009.634:

16           (1) "Critical shortage area" applies to licensed  
 17 occupational therapists and physical therapists and  
 18 occupational therapy assistants and physical therapist  
 19 assistants employed by the public schools of this state.

20           (2) "Therapist" means occupational therapist or  
 21 physical therapist.

22           Section 443. Section 1009.631, Florida Statutes, is  
 23 created to read:

24           1009.631 Occupational therapist or physical therapist  
 25 critical shortage program; establishment.--

26           (1) The occupational therapist or physical therapist  
 27 critical shortage program is established in the Department of  
 28 Education for the purpose of attracting capable and promising  
 29 applicants in the occupational therapy or physical therapy  
 30 profession to employment in the public schools of this state.  
 31 The program shall include the Critical Occupational Therapist

1 or Physical Therapist Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness  
2 Program, the Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical  
3 Therapist Shortage Scholarship Loan Program, and the Critical  
4 Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage Tuition  
5 Reimbursement Program.

6 (2) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the  
7 program shall be deposited in the State Student Financial  
8 Assistance Trust Fund. Any balance in the trust fund at the  
9 end of any fiscal year that has been allocated to the program  
10 shall remain therein and shall be available for carrying out  
11 the purposes of this section. Funds contained in the trust  
12 fund for the program shall be used for the programs specified  
13 in subsection (1) for those licensed therapists and therapy  
14 assistants employed by the public schools of this state.

15 (3) The State Board of Education shall annually review  
16 the designation of critical shortage areas and shall adopt  
17 rules necessary for the implementation of the program.

18 Section 444. Section 1009.632, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1009.632 Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical  
21 Therapist Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program.--

22 (1) There is established the Critical Occupational  
23 Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage Student Loan  
24 Forgiveness Program. The primary function of the program is  
25 to make repayments toward loans received by students from  
26 institutions for the support of postsecondary study of  
27 occupational therapy or physical therapy. Repayments shall be  
28 made to qualified applicants who initiate employment in the  
29 public schools of this state and who apply during their first  
30 year of employment in a public school setting.

31

1           (2) From the funds available, the Department of  
2 Education is authorized to make loan principal repayments as  
3 follows:  
4           (a) Up to \$2,500 a year for up to 4 years on behalf of  
5 selected graduates of accredited undergraduate postsecondary  
6 occupational therapist or physical therapist preparation  
7 programs.  
8           (b) Up to \$2,500 a year for up to 2 years on behalf of  
9 selected graduates of accredited undergraduate postsecondary  
10 occupational therapy or physical therapist assistant  
11 preparation programs.  
12           (c) Up to \$5,000 a year for up to 2 years on behalf of  
13 selected graduates of accredited postbaccalaureate entry level  
14 occupational therapist or physical therapist preparation  
15 programs.  
16           (d) All repayments shall be contingent on continued  
17 proof of employment for 3 years as a therapist or therapy  
18 assistant by the public schools in this state and shall be  
19 made directly to the holder of the loan. The state shall not  
20 bear the responsibility for the collection of any interest  
21 charges or other remaining balance. In the event that a  
22 critical shortage is no longer verified, a therapist or  
23 therapy assistant shall continue to be eligible for loan  
24 forgiveness as long as the therapist or therapy assistant  
25 continues to be employed by the public schools of this state  
26 and otherwise meets all conditions of eligibility.  
27           (3) Recipients under this program shall not be  
28 eligible to participate in the Critical Occupational Therapist  
29 or Physical Therapist Shortage Scholarship Loan Program or the  
30 Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage  
31 Tuition Reimbursement Program.

1           (4) This section shall be implemented only to the  
2 extent as specifically funded by law.

3           Section 445. Section 1009.633, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5           1009.633 Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical  
6 Therapist Shortage Scholarship Loan Program.--

7           (1) There is established the Critical Occupational  
8 Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage Scholarship Loan  
9 Program.

10          (2) To be eligible, a candidate shall:

11          (a) Be a full-time student in a therapy assistant  
12 program or in the upper division or higher level in an  
13 occupational therapist or physical therapist educational  
14 program. Occupational therapist and occupational therapy  
15 assistant programs must be accredited by the American Medical  
16 Association in collaboration with the American Occupational  
17 Therapy Association. Physical therapist and physical therapist  
18 assistant programs must be accredited by the American Physical  
19 Therapy Association.

20          (b) Have declared an intention to be employed by the  
21 public schools of this state for 3 years following completion  
22 of the requirements. In the event critical shortage areas are  
23 changed by the State Board of Education, a student shall  
24 continue to be eligible for an award as long as the student  
25 continues in the therapist educational program for which the  
26 initial award was made and the student otherwise meets all  
27 other conditions of eligibility.

28          (c) Meet the general requirements for student  
29 eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise  
30 provided in this section.

31

1           (d) Maintain a grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0  
2 scale for undergraduate college work or a grade point average  
3 of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for graduate college work.

4           (3) A scholarship loan may be awarded for no more than  
5 2 years and may not exceed \$4,000 a year.

6           (4) The State Board of Education shall adopt by rule  
7 repayment schedules and applicable interest rates under ss.  
8 1009.82 and 1009.95. A scholarship loan must be paid back  
9 within 10 years of completion of a program of studies.

10           (a) Credit for repayment of a scholarship loan shall  
11 be in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 plus applicable accrued  
12 interest for each full year of employment by the public  
13 schools of this state.

14           (b) Any therapist or therapy assistant who fails to be  
15 employed by a public school in this state as specified in this  
16 subsection is responsible for repaying the loan plus interest.  
17 Repayment schedules and applicable interest rates shall be  
18 determined by the rules of the State Board of Education under  
19 ss. 1009.82 and 1009.95.

20           (5) Recipients under this program shall not be  
21 eligible to participate in the Critical Occupational Therapist  
22 or Physical Therapist Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness  
23 Program or the Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical  
24 Therapist Shortage Tuition Reimbursement Program.

25           (6) This section shall be implemented only to the  
26 extent specifically funded and authorized by law.

27           Section 446. Section 1009.634, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29           1009.634 Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical  
30 Therapist Shortage Tuition Reimbursement Program.--

31

1           (1) There is established the Critical Occupational  
2 Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage Tuition Reimbursement  
3 Program to improve the skills and knowledge of current  
4 therapists and therapy assistants who are employed by the  
5 public school system.

6           (2) Any full-time public school employee licensed to  
7 practice occupational therapy or physical therapy in this  
8 state is eligible for the program.

9           (3) Participants may receive tuition reimbursement  
10 payments for up to 9 semester hours, or the equivalent in  
11 quarter hours, per year, at a rate not to exceed \$78 per  
12 semester hour, up to a total of 36 semester hours. All tuition  
13 reimbursements shall be contingent on the participant passing  
14 an approved course with a minimum grade of 3.0 or its  
15 equivalent.

16           (4) The participant shall be employed by the public  
17 schools of this state for 3 years following completion of the  
18 requirements.

19           (5) Recipients under this program shall not be  
20 eligible to participate in the Critical Occupational Therapist  
21 or Physical Therapist Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness  
22 Program or the Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical  
23 Therapist Shortage Scholarship Loan Program.

24           (6) This section shall be implemented only to the  
25 extent specifically funded and authorized by the law.

26           Section 447. Section 1009.64, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28           1009.64 Certified Education Paraprofessional Welfare  
29 Transition Program.--

30           (1) There is created the Certified Education  
31 Paraprofessional Welfare Transition Program to provide

1 education and employment for recipients of public assistance  
2 who are certified to work in schools that, because of the high  
3 proportion of economically disadvantaged children enrolled,  
4 are at risk of poor performance on traditional measures of  
5 achievement. The program is designed to enable such schools  
6 to increase the number of adults working with the school  
7 children. However, the increase in personnel working at  
8 certain schools is intended to supplement and not to supplant  
9 the school staff and should not affect current school board  
10 employment and staffing policies, including those contained in  
11 collective bargaining agreements. The program is intended to  
12 be supported by local, state, and federal program funds for  
13 which the participants may be eligible. Further, the program  
14 is designed to provide its participants not only with  
15 entry-level employment but also with a marketable credential,  
16 a career option, and encouragement to advance.

17 (2) The Commissioner of Education, the secretary of  
18 the Department of Children and Family Services, and the  
19 director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation have joint  
20 responsibility for planning and conducting the program.

21 (3) The agencies responsible may make recommendations  
22 to the State Board of Education and the Legislature if they  
23 find that implementation or operation of the program would  
24 benefit from the adoption or waiver of state or federal  
25 policy, rule, or law, including recommendations regarding  
26 program budgeting.

27 (4) The agencies shall complete an implementation plan  
28 that addresses at least the following recommended components  
29 of the program:

30 (a) A method of selecting participants. The method  
31 must not duplicate services provided by those assigned to

1 screen participants of the welfare transition program, but  
2 must assure that screening personnel are trained to identify  
3 recipients of public assistance whose personal aptitudes and  
4 motivation make them most likely to succeed in the program and  
5 advance in a career related to the school community.

6 (b) A budget for use of incentive funding to provide  
7 motivation to participants to succeed and excel. The budget  
8 for incentive funding includes:

9 1. Funds allocated by the Legislature directly for the  
10 program.

11 2. Funds that may be made available from the federal  
12 Workforce Investment Act based on client eligibility or  
13 requested waivers to make the clients eligible.

14 3. Funds made available by implementation strategies  
15 that would make maximum use of work supplementation funds  
16 authorized by federal law.

17 4. Funds authorized by strategies to lengthen  
18 participants' eligibility for federal programs such as  
19 Medicaid, subsidized child care, and transportation.

20  
21 Incentives may include a stipend during periods of college  
22 classroom training, a bonus and recognition for a high  
23 grade-point average, child care and prekindergarten services  
24 for children of participants, and services to increase a  
25 participant's ability to advance to higher levels of  
26 employment. Nonfinancial incentives should include providing a  
27 mentor or tutor, and service incentives should continue and  
28 increase for any participant who plans to complete the  
29 baccalaureate degree and become a certified teacher. Services  
30 may be provided in accordance with family choice by community  
31 colleges and school district technical centers, through family

1 service centers and full-service schools, or under contract  
2 with providers through central agencies.

3 (5) The agencies shall select Department of Children  
4 and Family Services districts to participate in the program. A  
5 district that wishes to participate must demonstrate that a  
6 district school board, a community college board of trustees,  
7 an economic services program administrator, and a regional  
8 workforce board are willing to coordinate to provide the  
9 educational program, support services, employment  
10 opportunities, and incentives required to fulfill the intent  
11 of this section.

12 (6)(a) A community college or school district  
13 technical center is eligible to participate if it provides a  
14 technical certificate program in Child Development Early  
15 Intervention as approved by Workforce Florida, Inc. Priority  
16 programs provide an option and incentives to articulate with  
17 an associate in science degree program or a baccalaureate  
18 degree program.

19 (b) A participating educational agency may earn funds  
20 appropriated for performance-based incentive funding for  
21 successful outcomes of enrollment and placement of recipients  
22 of public assistance who are in the program. In addition, an  
23 educational agency is eligible for an incentive award  
24 determined by Workforce Florida, Inc., for each recipient of  
25 public assistance who successfully completes a program leading  
26 to the award of a General Education Development credential.

27 (c) Historically black colleges or universities that  
28 have established programs that serve participants in the  
29 welfare transition program are eligible to participate in the  
30 Performance Based Incentive Funding Program and may earn an  
31 incentive award determined by Workforce Florida, Inc., for

1 successful placement of program completers in jobs as  
2 education paraprofessionals in at-risk schools.

3 (7)(a) A participating school district shall identify  
4 at-risk schools in which the program participants will work  
5 during the practicum part of their education. For purposes of  
6 this act, an at-risk school is a school with grades K-3 in  
7 which 50 percent or more of the students enrolled at the  
8 school are eligible for free lunches or reduced-price lunches.  
9 Priority schools are schools whose service zones include the  
10 participants' own communities.

11 (b) A participating school district may use funds  
12 appropriated by the Legislature from Agency for Workforce  
13 Innovation regional workforce board allotments to provide at  
14 least 6 months of on-the-job training to participants in the  
15 Certified Education Paraprofessional Welfare Transition  
16 Program. Participating school districts may also use funds  
17 provided by grant diversion of funds from the welfare  
18 transition program for the participants during the practicum  
19 portion of their training to earn the certificate required for  
20 their employment.

21 (8) The agencies shall give priority for funding to  
22 those programs that provide maximum security for the  
23 long-range employment and career opportunities of the program  
24 participants. Security is enhanced if employment is provided  
25 through a governmental or nongovernmental agency other than  
26 the school board, or if the plans assure in another way that  
27 the participants will supplement, rather than supplant, the  
28 workforce available to the school board. It is the intent of  
29 the Legislature that, when a program participant succeeds in  
30 becoming a certified education paraprofessional after working  
31 successfully in a school during the practicum or on-the-job

1 training supported by the program, the participant shall have  
2 the opportunity to continue in full-time employment at the  
3 school that provided the training or at another school in the  
4 district.

5 Section 448. Section 1009.65, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1009.65 Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan  
8 Repayment Program.--

9 (1) To encourage qualified medical professionals to  
10 practice in underserved locations where there are shortages of  
11 such personnel, there is established the Medical Education  
12 Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program. The function of the  
13 program is to make payments that offset loans and educational  
14 expenses incurred by students for studies leading to a medical  
15 or nursing degree, medical or nursing licensure, or advanced  
16 registered nurse practitioner certification or physician  
17 assistant licensure. The following licensed or certified  
18 health care professionals are eligible to participate in this  
19 program: medical doctors with primary care specialties,  
20 doctors of osteopathic medicine with primary care specialties,  
21 physician's assistants, licensed practical nurses and  
22 registered nurses, and advanced registered nurse practitioners  
23 with primary care specialties such as certified nurse  
24 midwives. Primary care medical specialties for physicians  
25 include obstetrics, gynecology, general and family practice,  
26 internal medicine, pediatrics, and other specialties which may  
27 be identified by the Department of Health.

28 (2) From the funds available, the Department of Health  
29 shall make payments to selected medical professionals as  
30 follows:

31

1           (a) Up to \$4,000 per year for licensed practical  
2 nurses and registered nurses, up to \$10,000 per year for  
3 advanced registered nurse practitioners and physician's  
4 assistants, and up to \$20,000 per year for physicians.  
5 Penalties for noncompliance shall be the same as those in the  
6 National Health Services Corps Loan Repayment Program.  
7 Educational expenses include costs for tuition, matriculation,  
8 registration, books, laboratory and other fees, other  
9 educational costs, and reasonable living expenses as  
10 determined by the Department of Health.

11           (b) All payments shall be contingent on continued  
12 proof of primary care practice in an area defined in s.  
13 395.602(2)(e), or an underserved area designated by the  
14 Department of Health, provided the practitioner accepts  
15 Medicaid reimbursement if eligible for such reimbursement.  
16 Correctional facilities, state hospitals, and other state  
17 institutions that employ medical personnel shall be designated  
18 by the Department of Health as underserved locations.  
19 Locations with high incidences of infant mortality, high  
20 morbidity, or low Medicaid participation by health care  
21 professionals may be designated as underserved.

22           (c) The Department of Health may use funds  
23 appropriated for the Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan  
24 Repayment Program as matching funds for federal loan repayment  
25 programs such as the National Health Service Corps State Loan  
26 Repayment Program.

27           (3) The Department of Health may adopt any rules  
28 necessary for the administration of the Medical Education  
29 Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program. The department may  
30 also solicit technical advice regarding conduct of the program  
31 from the Department of Education and Florida universities and

1 community colleges. The Department of Health shall submit a  
2 budget request for an amount sufficient to fund medical  
3 education reimbursement, loan repayments, and program  
4 administration.

5 Section 449. Section 1009.66, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1009.66 Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program.--

8 (1) To encourage qualified personnel to seek  
9 employment in areas of this state in which critical nursing  
10 shortages exist, there is established the Nursing Student Loan  
11 Forgiveness Program. The primary function of the program is  
12 to increase employment and retention of registered nurses and  
13 licensed practical nurses in nursing homes and hospitals in  
14 the state and in state-operated medical and health care  
15 facilities, public schools, birth centers, federally sponsored  
16 community health centers, family practice teaching hospitals,  
17 and specialty children's hospitals by making repayments toward  
18 loans received by students from federal or state programs or  
19 commercial lending institutions for the support of  
20 postsecondary study in accredited or approved nursing  
21 programs.

22 (2) To be eligible, a candidate must have graduated  
23 from an accredited or approved nursing program and have  
24 received a Florida license as a licensed practical nurse or a  
25 registered nurse or a Florida certificate as an advanced  
26 registered nurse practitioner.

27 (3) Only loans to pay the costs of tuition, books, and  
28 living expenses shall be covered, at an amount not to exceed  
29 \$4,000 for each year of education towards the degree obtained.

30 (4) Receipt of funds pursuant to this program shall be  
31 contingent upon continued proof of employment in the

1 designated facilities in this state. Loan principal payments  
2 shall be made by the Department of Health directly to the  
3 federal or state programs or commercial lending institutions  
4 holding the loan as follows:

5 (a) Twenty-five percent of the loan principal and  
6 accrued interest shall be retired after the first year of  
7 nursing;

8 (b) Fifty percent of the loan principal and accrued  
9 interest shall be retired after the second year of nursing;

10 (c) Seventy-five percent of the loan principal and  
11 accrued interest shall be retired after the third year of  
12 nursing; and

13 (d) The remaining loan principal and accrued interest  
14 shall be retired after the fourth year of nursing.

15  
16 In no case may payment for any nurse exceed \$4,000 in any  
17 12-month period.

18 (5) There is created the Nursing Student Loan  
19 Forgiveness Trust Fund to be administered by the Department of  
20 Health pursuant to this section and s. 1009.67 and department  
21 rules. The Comptroller shall authorize expenditures from the  
22 trust fund upon receipt of vouchers approved by the Department  
23 of Health. All moneys collected from the private health care  
24 industry and other private sources for the purposes of this  
25 section shall be deposited into the Nursing Student Loan  
26 Forgiveness Trust Fund. Any balance in the trust fund at the  
27 end of any fiscal year shall remain therein and shall be  
28 available for carrying out the purposes of this section and s.  
29 1009.67.

30 (6) In addition to licensing fees imposed under part I  
31 of chapter 464, there is hereby levied and imposed an

1 additional fee of \$5, which fee shall be paid upon licensure  
2 or renewal of nursing licensure. Revenues collected from the  
3 fee imposed in this subsection shall be deposited in the  
4 Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund of the Department  
5 of Health and will be used solely for the purpose of carrying  
6 out the provisions of this section and s. 1009.67. Up to 50  
7 percent of the revenues appropriated to implement this  
8 subsection may be used for the nursing scholarship program  
9 established pursuant to s. 1009.67.

10 (7)(a) Funds contained in the Nursing Student Loan  
11 Forgiveness Trust Fund which are to be used for loan  
12 forgiveness for those nurses employed by hospitals, birth  
13 centers, and nursing homes must be matched on a  
14 dollar-for-dollar basis by contributions from the employing  
15 institutions, except that this provision shall not apply to  
16 state-operated medical and health care facilities, public  
17 schools, county health departments, federally sponsored  
18 community health centers, teaching hospitals as defined in s.  
19 408.07, family practice teaching hospitals as defined in s.  
20 395.805, or specialty hospitals for children as used in s.  
21 409.9119. If in any given fiscal quarter there are  
22 insufficient funds in the trust fund to grant all eligible  
23 applicant requests, awards shall be based on the following  
24 priority of employer: county health departments; federally  
25 sponsored community health centers; state-operated medical and  
26 health care facilities; public schools; teaching hospitals as  
27 defined in s. 408.07; family practice teaching hospitals as  
28 defined in s. 395.805; specialty hospitals for children as  
29 used in s. 409.9119; and other hospitals, birth centers, and  
30 nursing homes.

31

1           (b) All Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund  
 2 moneys shall be invested pursuant to s. 18.125. Interest  
 3 income accruing to that portion of the trust fund not matched  
 4 shall increase the total funds available for loan forgiveness  
 5 and scholarships. Pledged contributions shall not be eligible  
 6 for matching prior to the actual collection of the total  
 7 private contribution for the year.

8           (8) The Department of Health may solicit technical  
 9 assistance relating to the conduct of this program from the  
 10 Department of Education.

11           (9) The Department of Health is authorized to recover  
 12 from the Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund its costs  
 13 for administering the Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness  
 14 Program.

15           (10) The Department of Health may adopt rules  
 16 necessary to administer this program.

17           (11) This section shall be implemented only as  
 18 specifically funded.

19           Section 450. Section 1009.67, Florida Statutes, is  
 20 created to read:

21           1009.67 Nursing scholarship program.--

22           (1) There is established within the Department of  
 23 Health a scholarship program for the purpose of attracting  
 24 capable and promising students to the nursing profession.

25           (2) A scholarship applicant shall be enrolled as a  
 26 full-time or part-time student in the upper division of an  
 27 approved nursing program leading to the award of a  
 28 baccalaureate degree or graduate degree to qualify for a  
 29 nursing faculty position or as an advanced registered nurse  
 30 practitioner or be enrolled as a full-time or part-time  
 31

1 student in an approved program leading to the award of an  
2 associate degree in nursing.

3 (3) A scholarship may be awarded for no more than 2  
4 years, in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 per year. However,  
5 registered nurses pursuing a graduate degree for a faculty  
6 position or to practice as an advanced registered nurse  
7 practitioner may receive up to \$12,000 per year. Beginning  
8 July 1, 1998, these amounts shall be adjusted by the amount of  
9 increase or decrease in the consumer price index for urban  
10 consumers published by the United States Department of  
11 Commerce.

12 (4) Credit for repayment of a scholarship shall be as  
13 follows:

14 (a) For each full year of scholarship assistance, the  
15 recipient agrees to work for 12 months in a faculty position  
16 in a college of nursing or community college nursing program  
17 in this state or at a health care facility in a medically  
18 underserved area as approved by the Department of Health.  
19 Scholarship recipients who attend school on a part-time basis  
20 shall have their employment service obligation prorated in  
21 proportion to the amount of scholarship payments received.

22 (b) Eligible health care facilities include nursing  
23 homes and hospitals in this state, state-operated medical or  
24 health care facilities, public schools, county health  
25 departments, federally sponsored community health centers,  
26 colleges of nursing in universities in this state, and  
27 community college nursing programs in this state, family  
28 practice teaching hospitals as defined in s. 395.805, or  
29 specialty children's hospitals as described in s. 409.9119.  
30 The recipient shall be encouraged to complete the service  
31 obligation at a single employment site. If continuous

1 employment at the same site is not feasible, the recipient may  
2 apply to the department for a transfer to another approved  
3 health care facility.

4 (c) Any recipient who does not complete an appropriate  
5 program of studies or who does not become licensed shall repay  
6 to the Department of Health, on a schedule to be determined by  
7 the department, the entire amount of the scholarship plus 18  
8 percent interest accruing from the date of the scholarship  
9 payment. Moneys repaid shall be deposited into the Nursing  
10 Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund established in s. 1009.66.  
11 However, the department may provide additional time for  
12 repayment if the department finds that circumstances beyond  
13 the control of the recipient caused or contributed to the  
14 default.

15 (d) Any recipient who does not accept employment as a  
16 nurse at an approved health care facility or who does not  
17 complete 12 months of approved employment for each year of  
18 scholarship assistance received shall repay to the Department  
19 of Health an amount equal to two times the entire amount of  
20 the scholarship plus interest accruing from the date of the  
21 scholarship payment at the maximum allowable interest rate  
22 permitted by law. Repayment shall be made within 1 year of  
23 notice that the recipient is considered to be in default.  
24 However, the department may provide additional time for  
25 repayment if the department finds that circumstances beyond  
26 the control of the recipient caused or contributed to the  
27 default.

28 (5) Scholarship payments shall be transmitted to the  
29 recipient upon receipt of documentation that the recipient is  
30 enrolled in an approved nursing program. The Department of  
31 Health shall develop a formula to prorate payments to

1 scholarship recipients so as not to exceed the maximum amount  
2 per academic year.

3 (6) The Department of Health shall adopt rules,  
4 including rules to address extraordinary circumstances that  
5 may cause a recipient to default on either the school  
6 enrollment or employment contractual agreement, to implement  
7 this section and may solicit technical assistance relating to  
8 the conduct of this program from the Department of Health.

9 (7) The Department of Health may recover from the  
10 Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund its costs for  
11 administering the nursing scholarship program.

12 Section 451. Section 1009.68, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14 1009.68 Florida Minority Medical Education Program.--

15 (1) There is created a Florida Minority Medical  
16 Education Program to be administered by the Department of  
17 Education in accordance with rules established by the State  
18 Board of Education. The program shall provide scholarships to  
19 enable minority students to pursue a medical education at the  
20 University of Florida, the University of South Florida,  
21 Florida State University, the University of Miami, or  
22 Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, for the  
23 purpose of addressing the primary health care needs of  
24 underserved groups.

25 (2) In order to be eligible to receive a scholarship  
26 pursuant to this section, an applicant shall:

27 (a) Be a racial or ethnic minority student.

28 (b) Be a citizen of the United States and meet the  
29 general eligibility requirements as provided in s. 1009.40,  
30 except as otherwise provided in this section.

31

- 1           (c) Have maintained residency in this state for no  
2 less than 1 year preceding the award.
- 3           (d) Be accepted by, and enroll as a full-time student  
4 in, a Florida medical school.
- 5           (e) Have an undergraduate grade point average  
6 established by rule.
- 7           (f) Have received scores on selected examinations  
8 established by rule.
- 9           (g) Meet financial need requirements established by  
10 rule.
- 11           (h) Agree to serve in a medical corps for a period of  
12 not less than 2 years for the purpose of providing health care  
13 to underserved individuals in the State of Florida.
- 14           (3) In order to renew a scholarship awarded pursuant  
15 to this section, a student shall maintain full-time student  
16 status and a cumulative grade point average established by  
17 rule.
- 18           (4) The number of scholarships annually awarded shall  
19 be three per school. Priority in the distribution of  
20 scholarships shall be given to students with the lowest total  
21 family resources.
- 22           (5) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the  
23 program shall be deposited in the State Student Financial  
24 Assistance Trust Fund. Interest income accruing to the program  
25 from funds of the program in the trust fund not allocated  
26 shall increase the funds available for scholarships. Any  
27 balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year that  
28 has been allocated to the program shall remain in the trust  
29 fund and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of  
30 this section.
- 31

1           (6) A scholarship recipient who, upon graduation,  
2 defaults on the commitment to serve in the medical corps for  
3 the full 2 years shall be required to repay all scholarship  
4 money plus interest.

5           (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
6 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

7           Section 452. Section 1009.69, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9           1009.69 Virgil Hawkins Fellows Assistance Program.--

10           (1) The Virgil Hawkins Fellows Assistance Program  
11 shall provide financial assistance for study in law to  
12 minority students in the colleges of law at the Florida State  
13 University, the University of Florida, the Florida  
14 Agricultural and Mechanical University, and the Florida  
15 International University. For the purposes of this section, a  
16 minority student qualified to receive assistance from the  
17 Virgil Hawkins Fellows Assistance Program shall be identified  
18 pursuant to policies adopted by the State Board of Education.

19           (2) Each student who is awarded a fellowship shall be  
20 entitled to receive an award under this act for each academic  
21 term that the student is in good standing as approved by the  
22 law school pursuant to guidelines of the State Board of  
23 Education.

24           (3) If a fellowship vacancy occurs, that slot shall be  
25 reassigned and funded as a continuing fellowship for the  
26 remainder of the period for which the award was originally  
27 designated.

28           (4) The State Board of Education shall adopt policies,  
29 and the Department of Education shall administer the Virgil  
30 Hawkins Fellows Assistance Program.

31

1           Section 453. Section 1009.70, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1009.70 Florida Education Fund.--

4           (1) This section shall be known and may be cited as  
5 the "Florida Education Fund Act."

6           (2)(a) The Florida Education Fund, a not-for-profit  
7 statutory corporation, is created from a challenge endowment  
8 grant from the McKnight Foundation and operates on income  
9 derived from the investment of endowment gifts and other gifts  
10 as provided by state statute and appropriate matching funds as  
11 provided by the state.

12           (b) The amount appropriated to the fund shall be on  
13 the basis of \$1 for each \$2 contributed by private sources.  
14 The Florida Education Fund shall certify to the Legislature  
15 the amount of donations contributed between July 1, 1990, and  
16 June 30, 1991. Only the new donations above the certified base  
17 shall be calculated for state matching funds during the first  
18 year of the program. In subsequent years, only the new  
19 donations above the certified prior year base shall be  
20 calculated for state matching funds.

21           (3) The Florida Education Fund shall use the income of  
22 the fund to provide for programs which seek to:

23           (a) Enhance the quality of higher educational  
24 opportunity in this state;

25           (b) Enhance equality by providing access to effective  
26 higher education programs by minority and economically  
27 deprived individuals in this state, with particular  
28 consideration to be given to the needs of both blacks and  
29 women; and

30           (c) Increase the representation of minorities in  
31 faculty and administrative positions in higher education in

1 this state and to provide more highly educated minority  
2 leadership in business and professional enterprises in this  
3 state.

4 (4) The Florida Education Fund shall be administered  
5 by a board of directors, which is hereby established.

6 (a) The board of directors shall consist of 12  
7 members, to be appointed as follows:

8 1. Two laypersons appointed by the Governor;

9 2. Two laypersons appointed by the President of the  
10 Senate;

11 3. Two laypersons appointed by the Speaker of the  
12 House of Representatives; and

13 4. Two representatives of state universities, two  
14 representatives of public community colleges, and two  
15 representatives of independent colleges or universities  
16 appointed by the State Board of Education.

17  
18 The board of directors may appoint to the board an additional  
19 five members from the private sector for the purpose of  
20 assisting in the procurement of private contributions. Such  
21 members shall serve as voting members of the board.

22 (b) Each of the educational sectors in paragraph (a)  
23 shall be represented by a president and a faculty member of  
24 the corresponding institutions.

25 (c) Each director shall hold office for a term of 3  
26 years or until resignation or removal for cause. A director  
27 may resign at any time by filing his or her written  
28 resignation with the executive secretary for the board. The  
29 terms of the directors shall be staggered so that the terms of  
30 one-third of the directors will expire annually.

31

1           (d) In the event of a vacancy on the board caused by  
2 other than the expiration of a term, a new member shall be  
3 appointed by the appointing entity in the sector of which the  
4 vacancy occurs.

5           (e) Each member is accountable to the Governor for the  
6 proper performance of the duties of his or her office. The  
7 Governor shall cause any complaint or unfavorable report  
8 received concerning an action of the board or any of its  
9 members to be investigated and shall take appropriate action  
10 thereon. The Governor may remove any member from office for  
11 malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, or  
12 permanent inability to perform his or her official duties or  
13 for pleading nolo contendere to, or being found guilty of, a  
14 crime.

15           (5) The Board of Directors of the Florida Education  
16 Fund shall review and evaluate initial programs created by the  
17 McKnight Foundation and continue funding the Black Doctorate  
18 Fellowship Program and the Junior Fellowship Program if the  
19 evaluation is positive, and the board shall identify,  
20 initiate, and fund new and creative programs and monitor,  
21 review, and evaluate those programs. The purpose of this  
22 commitment is to broaden the participation and funding  
23 potential for further significant support of higher education  
24 in this state. In addition, the board shall:

25           (a) Hold such meetings as are necessary to implement  
26 the provisions of this section.

27           (b) Select a chairperson annually.

28           (c) Adopt and use an official seal in the  
29 authentication of its acts.

30           (d) Make rules for its own government.

31           (e) Administer this section.

- 1           (f) Appoint an executive director to serve at its  
2 pleasure and perform all duties assigned by the board. The  
3 executive director shall be the chief administrative officer  
4 and agent of the board.
- 5           (g) Maintain a record of its proceedings.
- 6           (h) Delegate to the chairperson of the board the  
7 responsibility for signing final orders.
- 8           (i) Utilize existing higher education organizations,  
9 associations, and agencies to carry out its educational  
10 programs and purposes with minimal staff employment.
- 11           (j) Be empowered to enter into contracts with the  
12 Federal Government, state agencies, or individuals.
- 13           (k) Receive bequests, gifts, grants, donations, and  
14 other valued goods and services. Such bequests and gifts  
15 shall be used only for the purpose or purposes stated by the  
16 donor.
- 17           (6) The board of directors is authorized to establish  
18 a trust fund from the proceeds of the Florida Education Fund.  
19 All funds deposited into the trust fund shall be invested  
20 pursuant to the provisions of s. 215.47. Interest income  
21 accruing to the unused portion of the trust fund shall  
22 increase the total funds available for endowments. The  
23 Department of Education may, at the request of the board of  
24 directors, administer the fund for investment purposes.
- 25           (7) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Board  
26 of Directors of the Florida Education Fund recruit eligible  
27 residents of the state before it extends its search to  
28 eligible nonresidents. However, for the purposes of subsection  
29 (8), the board of directors shall recruit eligible residents  
30 only. It is further the intent of the Legislature that the  
31

1 board of directors establish service terms, if any, that  
2 accompany the award of moneys from the fund.

3 (8) There is created a legal education component of  
4 the Florida Education Fund to provide the opportunity for  
5 minorities to attain representation within the legal  
6 profession proportionate to their representation within the  
7 general population. The legal education component of the  
8 Florida Education Fund includes a law school program and a  
9 pre-law program.

10 (a) The law school scholarship program of the Florida  
11 Education Fund is to be administered by the Board of Directors  
12 of the Florida Education Fund for the purpose of increasing by  
13 200 the number of minority students enrolled in law schools in  
14 this state. Implementation of this program is to be phased in  
15 over a 3-year period.

16 1. The board of directors shall provide financial,  
17 academic, and other support to students selected for  
18 participation in this program from funds appropriated by the  
19 Legislature.

20 2. Student selection must be made in accordance with  
21 rules adopted by the board of directors for that purpose and  
22 must be based, at least in part, on an assessment of potential  
23 for success, merit, and financial need.

24 3. Support must be made available to students who  
25 enroll in private, as well as public, law schools in this  
26 state which are accredited by the American Bar Association.

27 4. Scholarships must be paid directly to the  
28 participating students.

29 5. Students who participate in this program must agree  
30 in writing to sit for The Florida Bar examination and, upon  
31 successful admission to The Florida Bar, to either practice

1 law in the state for a period of time equal to the amount of  
2 time for which the student received aid, up to 3 years, or  
3 repay the amount of aid received.

4 6. Annually the board of directors shall compile a  
5 report that includes a description of the selection process,  
6 an analysis of the academic progress of all scholarship  
7 recipients, and an analysis of expenditures. This report must  
8 be submitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of  
9 the House of Representatives, and the Governor.

10 (b) The minority pre-law scholarship loan program of  
11 the Florida Education Fund is to be administered by the Board  
12 of Directors of the Florida Education Fund for the purpose of  
13 increasing the opportunity of minority students to prepare for  
14 law school.

15 1. From funds appropriated by the Legislature, the  
16 board of directors shall provide for student fees, room,  
17 board, books, supplies, and academic and other support to  
18 selected minority undergraduate students matriculating at  
19 eligible public and independent colleges and universities in  
20 Florida.

21 2. Student selection must be made in accordance with  
22 rules adopted by the board of directors for that purpose and  
23 must be based, at least in part, on an assessment of potential  
24 for success, merit, and financial need.

25 3. To be eligible, a student must make a written  
26 agreement to enter or be accepted to enter a law school in  
27 this state within 2 years after graduation or repay the  
28 scholarship loan amount plus interest at the prevailing rate.

29 4. Recipients who fail to gain admission to a law  
30 school within the specified period of time, may, upon  
31

1 admission to law school, be eligible to have their loans  
2 canceled.

3 5. Minority pre-law scholarship loans shall be  
4 provided to 34 minority students per year for up to 4 years  
5 each, for a total of 136 scholarship loans. To continue  
6 receipt of scholarship loans, recipients must maintain a 2.75  
7 grade point average for the freshman year and a 3.25 grade  
8 point average thereafter. Participants must also take  
9 specialized courses to enhance competencies in English and  
10 logic.

11 6. The board of directors shall maintain records on  
12 all scholarship loan recipients. Participating institutions  
13 shall submit academic progress reports to the board of  
14 directors following each academic term. Annually, the board  
15 of directors shall compile a report that includes a  
16 description of the selection process, an analysis of the  
17 academic progress of all scholarship loan recipients, and an  
18 analysis of expenditures. This report must be submitted to  
19 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
20 Representatives, and the Governor.

21 Section 454. Section 1009.72, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23 1009.72 Jose Marti Scholarship Challenge Grant  
24 Program.--

25 (1) There is hereby established a Jose Marti  
26 Scholarship Challenge Grant Program to be administered by the  
27 Department of Education pursuant to this section and rules of  
28 the State Board of Education. The program shall provide  
29 matching grants for private sources that raise money for  
30 scholarships to be awarded to Hispanic-American students.  
31

1           (2) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the  
2 program shall be deposited in the State Student Financial  
3 Assistance Trust Fund. The Comptroller shall authorize  
4 expenditures from the trust fund upon receipt of vouchers  
5 approved by the Department of Education. All moneys collected  
6 from private sources for the purposes of this section shall be  
7 deposited into the trust fund. Any balance in the trust fund  
8 at the end of any fiscal year that has been allocated to the  
9 program shall remain therein and shall be available for  
10 carrying out the purposes of the program.

11           (3) The Legislature shall designate funds to be  
12 transferred to the trust fund for the program from the General  
13 Revenue Fund. Such funds shall be divided into challenge  
14 grants to be administered by the Department of Education. All  
15 appropriated funds deposited into the trust fund for the  
16 program shall be invested pursuant to the provisions of s.  
17 18.125. Interest income accruing to that portion of the funds  
18 that are allocated to the program in the trust fund and not  
19 matched shall increase the total funds available for the  
20 program.

21           (4) The amount appropriated to the trust fund for the  
22 program shall be allocated by the department on the basis of  
23 one \$5,000 challenge grant for each \$2,500 raised from private  
24 sources. Matching funds shall be generated through  
25 contributions made after July 1, 1986, and pledged for the  
26 purposes of this section. Pledged contributions shall not be  
27 eligible for matching prior to the actual collection of the  
28 total funds.

29           (5)(a) In order to be eligible to receive a  
30 scholarship pursuant to this section, an applicant shall:  
31

- 1           1. Be a Hispanic-American, or a person of Spanish  
2 culture with origins in Mexico, South America, Central  
3 America, or the Caribbean, regardless of race.
- 4           2. Be a citizen of the United States and meet the  
5 general requirements for student eligibility as provided in s.  
6 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- 7           3. Be accepted at a state university or community  
8 college or any Florida college or university that is  
9 accredited by an association whose standards are comparable to  
10 the minimum standards required to operate a postsecondary  
11 education institution at that level in Florida.
- 12           4. Enroll as a full-time undergraduate or graduate  
13 student.
- 14           5. Earn a 3.0 unweighted grade point average on a 4.0  
15 scale, or the equivalent for high school subjects creditable  
16 toward a diploma. If an applicant applies as a graduate  
17 student, he or she shall have earned a 3.0 cumulative grade  
18 point average for undergraduate college-level courses.
- 19           (b) In order to renew a scholarship awarded pursuant  
20 to this section, a student must:
- 21           1. Earn a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0  
22 scale for the previous term, maintain at least a 3.0 average  
23 for college work, or have an average below 3.0 only for the  
24 previous term and be eligible for continued enrollment at the  
25 institution.
- 26           2. Maintain full-time enrollment.
- 27           (6) The annual scholarship to each recipient shall be  
28 \$2,000. Priority in the distribution of scholarships shall be  
29 given to students with the lowest total family resources.  
30 Renewal scholarships shall take precedence over new awards in  
31 any year in which funds are not sufficient to meet the total

1 need. No undergraduate student shall receive an award for  
2 more than the equivalent of 8 semesters or 12 quarters over a  
3 period of no more than 6 consecutive years, except as  
4 otherwise provided in s. 1009.40(3). No graduate student  
5 shall receive an award for more than the equivalent of 4  
6 semesters or 6 quarters.

7 (7) The criteria and procedure for establishing  
8 standards of eligibility shall be determined by the  
9 department. The department is directed to establish a rating  
10 system upon which to base the approval of grants. Such system  
11 shall include a certification of acceptability by the  
12 postsecondary institution of the applicant's choice.

13 (8) Payment of scholarships shall be transmitted to  
14 the president of the postsecondary institution that the  
15 recipient is attending or to the president's designee. Should  
16 a recipient terminate his or her enrollment during the  
17 academic year, the president or his or her designee shall  
18 refund the unused portion of the scholarship to the department  
19 within 60 days. In the event that a recipient transfers from  
20 one eligible institution to another, his or her scholarship  
21 shall be transferable upon approval of the department.

22 (9) This section shall be implemented to the extent  
23 funded and authorized by law.

24 Section 455. Section 1009.73, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26 1009.73 Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Program.--

27 (1) There is established the Mary McLeod Bethune  
28 Scholarship Program to be administered by the Department of  
29 Education pursuant to this section and rules of the State  
30 Board of Education. The program shall provide matching grants  
31 for private sources that raise money for scholarships to be

1 awarded to students who attend Florida Agricultural and  
2 Mechanical University, Bethune-Cookman College, Edward Waters  
3 College, or Florida Memorial College.

4 (2) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the  
5 program shall be deposited in the State Student Financial  
6 Assistance Trust Fund. The Comptroller shall authorize  
7 expenditures from the trust fund upon receipt of vouchers  
8 approved by the Department of Education. The Department of  
9 Education shall receive all moneys collected from private  
10 sources for the purposes of this section and shall deposit  
11 such moneys into the trust fund. Notwithstanding the  
12 provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any  
13 balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year that  
14 has been allocated to the program shall remain in the trust  
15 fund and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of  
16 the program.

17 (3) The Legislature shall appropriate moneys to the  
18 trust fund for the program from the General Revenue Fund. Such  
19 moneys shall be applied to scholarships to be administered by  
20 the Department of Education. All moneys deposited into the  
21 trust fund for the program shall be invested pursuant to the  
22 provisions of s. 18.125. Interest income accruing to the  
23 program shall be expended to increase the total moneys  
24 available for scholarships.

25 (4) The moneys in the trust fund for the program shall  
26 be allocated by the department among the institutions of  
27 higher education listed in subsection (1) on the basis of one  
28 \$2,000 challenge grant for each \$1,000 raised from private  
29 sources. Matching funds shall be generated through  
30 contributions made after July 1, 1990, and pledged for the  
31 purposes of this section. Pledged contributions shall not be

1 eligible for matching prior to the actual collection of the  
2 total funds. The department shall allocate to each of those  
3 institutions a proportionate share of the contributions  
4 received on behalf of those institutions and a share of the  
5 appropriations and matching funds generated by such  
6 institution.

7 (5)(a) In order to be eligible to receive a  
8 scholarship pursuant to this section, an applicant must:

9 1. Meet the general eligibility requirements set forth  
10 in s. 1009.40.

11 2. Be accepted at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
12 University, Bethune-Cookman College, Edward Waters College, or  
13 Florida Memorial College.

14 3. Enroll as a full-time undergraduate student.

15 4. Earn a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, or  
16 the equivalent, for high school subjects creditable toward a  
17 diploma.

18 (b) In order to renew a scholarship awarded pursuant  
19 to this section, a student must earn a minimum cumulative  
20 grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and complete 12  
21 credits each term for which the student received the  
22 scholarship.

23 (6) The amount of the scholarship to be granted to  
24 each recipient is \$3,000 annually. Priority in the awarding  
25 of scholarships shall be given to students having financial  
26 need as determined by the institution. If funds are  
27 insufficient to provide the full amount of the scholarship  
28 authorized in this section to each eligible applicant, the  
29 institution may prorate available funds and make a partial  
30 award to each eligible applicant. A student may not receive an  
31 award for more than the equivalent of 8 semesters or 12

1 quarters over a period of 6 consecutive years, except that a  
2 student who is participating in college-preparatory  
3 instruction or who requires additional time to complete the  
4 college-level communication and computation skills testing  
5 program may continue to receive a scholarship while enrolled  
6 for the purpose of receiving college-preparatory instruction  
7 or while completing the testing program.

8 (7) The criteria and procedure for establishing  
9 standards of eligibility shall be determined by the  
10 department. The department shall establish a rating system  
11 upon which the institutions shall award the scholarships. The  
12 system must require a certification of eligibility issued by  
13 the postsecondary institution selected by the applicant.

14 (8) Scholarship moneys shall be transmitted to the  
15 president or the president's designee of the postsecondary  
16 institution that the recipient is attending. The president or  
17 his or her designee shall submit a report annually to the  
18 Department of Education on the scholarships. If a recipient  
19 terminates his or her enrollment during the academic year, the  
20 president or his or her designee shall refund the unused  
21 portion of the scholarship to the department within 60 days.  
22 If a recipient transfers from one of the institutions listed  
23 in subsection (1) to another of those institutions, the  
24 recipient's scholarship is transferable upon approval of the  
25 department.

26 (9) This section shall be implemented in any academic  
27 year to the extent funded and authorized by law.

28 (10) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
29 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

30 Section 456. Section 1009.74, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1009.74 The Theodore R. and Vivian M. Johnson

2 Scholarship Program.--

3           (1) There is established the Theodore R. and Vivian M.  
4 Johnson Scholarship Program to be administered by the  
5 Department of Education. The program shall provide  
6 scholarships to students attending a state university. The  
7 program shall be funded by contributions from the Theodore R.  
8 and Vivian M. Johnson Scholarship Foundation and from state  
9 matching funds to be allocated from the Trust Fund for Major  
10 Gifts.

11           (2) The amount to be allocated to the program shall be  
12 on the basis of a 50-percent match of funds from the Trust  
13 Fund for Major Gifts for each contribution received from the  
14 Theodore R. and Vivian M. Johnson Scholarship Foundation. The  
15 funds allocated to the program, including the corpus and  
16 interest income, shall be expended for scholarships to benefit  
17 disabled students attending a state university.

18           (3) Students eligible for receipt of scholarship funds  
19 shall provide documentation of a disability and shall have a  
20 demonstrated financial need for the funds.

21           Section 457. Section 1009.76, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23           1009.76 Ethics in Business Scholarship Program for  
24 state universities.--The Ethics in Business Scholarship  
25 Program for state universities is hereby created, to be  
26 administered by the Department of Education. Moneys  
27 appropriated and allocated to university foundations for  
28 purposes of the program shall be used to create endowments for  
29 the purpose of providing scholarships to undergraduate college  
30 students enrolled in state institutions of higher learning who  
31 register for one or more credit hours in courses in business

1 ethics and who have demonstrated a commitment to serving the  
2 interests of their community. First priority for awarding such  
3 scholarships shall be given to students who demonstrate  
4 financial need.

5 Section 458. Section 1009.765, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1009.765 Ethics in Business scholarships for community  
8 colleges and independent postsecondary educational  
9 institutions.--When the Department of Insurance receives a \$6  
10 million settlement as specified in the Consent Order of the  
11 Treasurer and Insurance Commissioner, case number 18900-96-c,  
12 that portion of the \$6 million not used to satisfy the  
13 requirements of section 18 of the Consent Order must be  
14 transferred from the Insurance Commissioner's Regulatory Trust  
15 Fund to the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund is  
16 appropriated from the State Student Financial Assistance Trust  
17 Fund to provide Ethics in Business scholarships to students  
18 enrolled in public community colleges and independent  
19 postsecondary educational institutions eligible to participate  
20 in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant  
21 Program under s. 1009.89. The funds shall be allocated to  
22 institutions for scholarships in the following ratio:  
23 Two-thirds for community colleges and one-third for eligible  
24 independent institutions. The Department of Education shall  
25 administer the scholarship program for students attending  
26 community colleges and independent institutions. These funds  
27 must be allocated to institutions that provide an equal amount  
28 of matching funds generated by private donors for the purpose  
29 of providing Ethics in Business scholarships. Public funds may  
30 not be used to provide the match, nor may funds collected for  
31 other purposes. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,

1 the State Board of Administration shall have the authority to  
2 invest the funds appropriated under this section. The  
3 Department of Education may adopt rules for administration of  
4 the program.

5 Section 459. Section 1009.77, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1009.77 Florida Work Experience Program.--

8 (1) There is established the Florida Work Experience  
9 Program to be administered by the Department of Education. The  
10 purpose of the program is to introduce eligible students to  
11 work experience that will complement and reinforce their  
12 educational program and career goals and provide a self-help  
13 student aid program. Such program shall be available to:

14 (a) Any student attending a state university or  
15 community college authorized by Florida law; or

16 (b) Any student attending a nonprofit Florida  
17 postsecondary education institution that is eligible to  
18 participate in either of the student assistance grant programs  
19 established in ss. 1009.51 and 1009.52.

20 (2)(a) A participating institution may use up to 25  
21 percent of its program allocation for student employment  
22 within the institution.

23 (b) A participating institution may use up to 10  
24 percent of its program allocation for program administration.

25 (3) Each participating institution is authorized to  
26 enter into contractual agreements with private or public  
27 employers for the purpose of establishing a Florida work  
28 experience program.

29 (4) The participating postsecondary educational  
30 institution shall be responsible for reimbursing employers for  
31 student wages from moneys it receives from the trust fund

1 pursuant to subsection (8). Public elementary or secondary  
2 school employers shall be reimbursed for 100 percent of the  
3 student's wages by the participating institution. All other  
4 employers shall be reimbursed for 70 percent of the student's  
5 wages. When a college or university employs a student on  
6 campus through this program, other student financial aid funds  
7 may not be used to fund the institution's 30-percent portion  
8 of the student's wages.

9 (5) The employer is responsible for furnishing the  
10 full cost of any mandatory benefits. Such benefits may not be  
11 considered part of the 30-percent wage requirement total for  
12 matching purposes.

13 (6) A student is eligible to participate in the  
14 Florida Work Experience Program if the student:

15 (a) Is enrolled at an eligible college or university  
16 as no less than a half-time undergraduate student in good  
17 standing. However, a student may be employed during the break  
18 between two consecutive terms or employed, although not  
19 enrolled, during a term if the student was enrolled at least  
20 half time during the preceding term and preregisters as no  
21 less than a half-time student for the subsequent academic  
22 term. A student who attends an institution that does not  
23 provide preregistration shall provide documentation of intent  
24 to enroll as no less than a half-time student for the  
25 subsequent academic term.

26 (b) Meets the general requirements for student  
27 eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise  
28 provided in this section.

29 (c) Demonstrates financial need.

30 (d) Maintains a 2.0 cumulative grade point average on  
31 a 4.0 scale for all college work.

1           (7) The Department of Education shall prescribe such  
2 rules for the program as are necessary for its administration,  
3 for the determination of eligibility and selection of  
4 institutions to receive funds for students, to ensure the  
5 proper expenditure of funds, and to provide an equitable  
6 distribution of funds between students at public and  
7 independent colleges and universities.

8           (8) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the  
9 Florida Work Experience Program shall be deposited in the  
10 State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. The Comptroller  
11 shall authorize expenditures from the trust fund upon receipt  
12 of vouchers approved by the Department of Education. Any  
13 balance therein at the end of any fiscal year that has been  
14 allocated to the program shall remain therein and shall be  
15 available for carrying out the purposes of the program.

16           Section 460. Section 1009.78, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18           1009.78 Student Loan Program.--There is hereby created  
19 a Student Loan Program, referred to in ss. 1009.78-1009.88 as  
20 the program.

21           Section 461. Section 1009.79, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23           1009.79 Issuance of revenue bonds pursuant to s. 15,  
24 Art. VII, State Constitution.--

25           (1) The issuance of revenue bonds to finance the  
26 establishment of the program, to be payable primarily from  
27 payments of interest, principal, and handling charges to the  
28 program from the recipients of the loans, and with the other  
29 revenues authorized hereby being pledged as additional  
30 security, is hereby authorized, subject and pursuant to the  
31

1 provisions of s. 15, Art. VII, State Constitution; the State  
2 Bond Act, ss. 215.57-215.83; and ss. 1009.78-1009.88.

3 (2) The amount of such revenue bonds to be issued  
4 shall be determined by the Division of Bond Finance of the  
5 State Board of Administration. However, the total principal  
6 amount outstanding shall not exceed \$80 million, other than  
7 refunding bonds issued pursuant to s. 215.79.

8 Section 462. Section 1009.80, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1009.80 Approval of loans; administration of  
11 program.--

12 (1) The loans to be made with the proceeds of the  
13 program shall be determined and approved by the Department of  
14 Education, pursuant to rules promulgated by the State Board of  
15 Education. The program shall be administered by the  
16 Department of Education as provided by law and the proceeds  
17 thereof shall be maintained and secured in the same manner as  
18 other public trust funds.

19 (2) The Department of Education may contract for the  
20 purchase of federally insured student loans to be made by  
21 other eligible lenders under the guaranteed student loan  
22 program; however, any such loans must comply with all  
23 applicable requirements of s. 15, Art. VII of the State  
24 Constitution, ss. 1009.78-1009.88, the rules of the State  
25 Board of Education relating to the guaranteed student loan  
26 program, and the proceedings authorizing the student loan  
27 revenue bonds, and the loans so purchased shall have been made  
28 during the period specified in the contract.

29 (3) The Department of Education may sell loan notes  
30 acquired pursuant to ss. 1009.78-1009.88 to the federally  
31 created Student Loan Marketing Association or another

1 federally authorized holder of such notes. The department may  
2 also repurchase loan notes from authorized holders of such  
3 notes. The department shall comply with applicable federal  
4 law and regulations and the provisions of any agreement with  
5 the Student Loan Marketing Association or the other authorized  
6 holders.

7 Section 463. Section 1009.81, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9 1009.81 Loan agreements.--The Department of Education  
10 may enter into loan agreements between the department and the  
11 recipients of loans from the program for such periods and  
12 under such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by  
13 the applicable rules and regulations and mutually agreed upon  
14 by the parties thereto in order to carry out the purposes of  
15 s. 15, Art. VII, State Constitution and ss. 1009.78-1009.88.

16 Section 464. Section 1009.82, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18 1009.82 Terms of loans.--The term of all authorized  
19 loans shall be fixed by rules adopted by the state board and  
20 the loan agreements to be entered into with the student  
21 borrowers.

22 Section 465. Section 1009.83, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1009.83 Rate of interest and other charges.--The  
25 Department of Education shall from time to time fix the  
26 interest and other charges to be paid for any student loan, at  
27 rates sufficient to pay the interest on revenue bonds issued  
28 pursuant to ss. 1009.78-1009.88, plus any costs incident to  
29 issuance, sale, security, and retirement thereof, including  
30 administrative expenses.

31

1 Section 466. Section 1009.84, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1009.84 Procurement of insurance as security for  
4 loans.--The Department of Education may contract with any  
5 insurance company or companies licensed to do business in the  
6 state for insurance payable in the event of the death or total  
7 disability of any student borrower in an amount sufficient to  
8 retire the principal and interest owed under a loan made as  
9 provided in ss. 1009.78-1009.88. The cost of any insurance  
10 purchased under this section shall be paid by the student  
11 borrower as a part of the handling charges for the loan or as  
12 a separate item to be paid in connection with the loan.

13 Section 467. Section 1009.85, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15 1009.85 Participation in guaranteed student loan  
16 program.--The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
17 necessary for participation in the guaranteed student loan  
18 program, as provided by the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
19 U.S.C. ss. 1071 et seq.), as amended or as may be amended. The  
20 intent of this act is to authorize student loans when this  
21 state, through the Department of Education, has become an  
22 eligible lender under the provisions of the applicable federal  
23 laws providing for the guarantee of loans to students and the  
24 partial payment of interest on such loans by the United States  
25 Government.

26 Section 468. Section 1009.86, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1009.86 Student Loan Operating Trust Fund.--  
29 (1) The Student Loan Operating Trust Fund is hereby  
30 created, to be administered by the Department of Education.  
31 Funds shall be credited to the trust fund pursuant to the

1 Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, from loan processing  
2 and issuance fees, administrative cost allowances, account  
3 maintenance fees, default aversion fees, amounts remaining  
4 from collection of defaulted loans, amounts borrowed from the  
5 Student Loan Guaranty Reserve Fund, and other amounts  
6 specified in federal regulation. The purpose of the trust fund  
7 is to segregate funds used for administration of the  
8 guaranteed student loan program from the reserve funds used to  
9 guarantee student loans contained in the Student Loan Guaranty  
10 Reserve Fund. The fund is exempt from the service charges  
11 imposed by s. 215.20.

12 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and  
13 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the  
14 end of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund at the  
15 end of the year and shall be available for carrying out the  
16 purposes of the trust fund.

17 (3) Pursuant to the provisions of s. 19(f)(2), Art.  
18 III of the State Constitution, the trust fund shall, unless  
19 terminated sooner, be terminated on July 1, 2003. However,  
20 prior to its scheduled termination, the trust fund shall be  
21 reviewed as provided in s. 215.3206(1) and (2).

22 Section 469. Section 1009.87, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1009.87 Provisions of ss. 1009.78-1009.88  
25 cumulative.--The provisions of ss. 1009.78-1009.88 shall be in  
26 addition to the other provisions of this chapter and shall not  
27 be construed to be in derogation thereof, except as otherwise  
28 expressly provided hereby.

29 Section 470. Section 1009.88, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31

1           1009.88 Validation of bonds.--Revenue bonds issued  
2 pursuant to ss. 1009.78-1009.88 shall be validated in the  
3 manner provided by chapter 75. In actions to validate such  
4 revenue bonds, the complaint shall be filed in the circuit  
5 court of the county where the seat of state government is  
6 situated, the notice required by s. 75.06 to be published  
7 shall be published only in the county where the complaint is  
8 filed, and the complaint and order of the circuit court shall  
9 be served only on the attorney of the circuit in which the  
10 action is pending.

11           Section 471. Section 1009.89, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13           1009.89 The William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident  
14 access grants.--

15           (1) The Legislature finds and declares that  
16 independent nonprofit colleges and universities eligible to  
17 participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident  
18 Access Grant Program are an integral part of the higher  
19 education system in this state and that a significant number  
20 of state residents choose this form of higher education. The  
21 Legislature further finds that a strong and viable system of  
22 independent nonprofit colleges and universities reduces the  
23 tax burden on the citizens of the state. Because the William  
24 L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program is not  
25 related to a student's financial need or other criteria upon  
26 which financial aid programs are based, it is the intent of  
27 the Legislature that the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident  
28 Access Grant Program not be considered a financial aid program  
29 but rather a tuition assistance program for its citizens.

30           (2) The William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access  
31 Grant Program shall be administered by the Department of

1 Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for  
2 the administration of the program.

3 (3) The department shall issue through the program a  
4 William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant to any  
5 full-time degree-seeking undergraduate student registered at  
6 an independent nonprofit college or university which is  
7 located in and chartered by the state; which is accredited by  
8 the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of  
9 Colleges and Schools; which grants baccalaureate degrees;  
10 which is not a state university or state community college;  
11 and which has a secular purpose, so long as the receipt of  
12 state aid by students at the institution would not have the  
13 primary effect of advancing or impeding religion or result in  
14 an excessive entanglement between the state and any religious  
15 sect. Any independent college or university that was eligible  
16 to receive tuition vouchers on January 1, 1989, and which  
17 continues to meet the criteria under which its eligibility was  
18 established, shall remain eligible to receive William L. Boyd,  
19 IV, Florida resident access grant payments.

20 (4) A person is eligible to receive such William L.  
21 Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant if:

22 (a) He or she meets the general requirements,  
23 including residency, for student eligibility as provided in s.  
24 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this section; and

25 (b)1. He or she is enrolled as a full-time  
26 undergraduate student at an eligible college or university;

27 2. He or she is not enrolled in a program of study  
28 leading to a degree in theology or divinity; and

29 3. He or she is making satisfactory academic progress  
30 as defined by the college or university in which he or she is  
31 enrolled.

1           (5)(a) Funding for the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida  
2 Resident Access Grant Program shall be based on a formula  
3 composed of planned enrollment and the state cost of funding  
4 undergraduate enrollment at public institutions pursuant to s.  
5 1011.90. The amount of the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida  
6 resident access grant issued to a full-time student shall be  
7 an amount as specified in the General Appropriations Act. The  
8 William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant may be paid  
9 on a prorated basis in advance of the registration period. The  
10 department shall make such payments to the college or  
11 university in which the student is enrolled for credit to the  
12 student's account for payment of tuition and fees.  
13 Institutions shall certify to the department the amount of  
14 funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to the  
15 department any undisbursed advances or refunds within 60 days  
16 of the end of regular registration. Students shall not be  
17 eligible to receive the award for more than 9 semesters or 14  
18 quarters, except as otherwise provided in s. 1009.40(3).  
19           (b) If the combined amount of the William L. Boyd, IV,  
20 Florida resident access grant issued pursuant to this act and  
21 all other scholarships and grants for tuition or fees exceeds  
22 the amount charged to the student for tuition and fees, the  
23 department shall reduce the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida  
24 resident access grant issued pursuant to this act by an amount  
25 equal to such excess.  
26           (6) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the  
27 William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program  
28 shall be deposited in the State Student Financial Assistance  
29 Trust Fund. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and  
30 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the  
31 end of any fiscal year which has been allocated to the William

1 L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program shall  
2 remain therein and shall be available for carrying out the  
3 purposes of this section. If the number of eligible students  
4 exceeds the total authorized in the General Appropriations  
5 Act, an institution may use its own resources to assure that  
6 each eligible student receives the full benefit of the grant  
7 amount authorized.

8 Section 472. Part III.c. of chapter 1009, Florida  
9 Statutes, shall be entitled "Role of the Department of  
10 Education" and shall consist of ss. 1009.90-1009.96.

11 Section 473. Section 1009.90, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13 1009.90 Duties of the Department of Education.--The  
14 duties of the department shall include:

15 (1) Administration of this part and rules adopted by  
16 the State Board of Education.

17 (2) Administration of federal funding, insurance, or  
18 reinsurance in full compliance with applicable federal laws  
19 and regulations.

20 (3) Development of written administrative procedures  
21 and controls for the administration of each financial aid  
22 program conducted by the office, maintenance of program  
23 records and documents, timely collection and remittance of  
24 insurance premiums, and timely assignment of defaulted loans  
25 to collection agencies.

26 (4) Annual compilation of sources of financial aid  
27 available to students in this state.

28 (5) Biennial analysis of the amount of available  
29 financial aid moneys and the effect of such moneys on student  
30 access to postsecondary institutions.

31

1           (6) Biennial internal evaluation of the administrative  
2 efficiency and effectiveness of the office.

3           (7) Annual assessment of the accuracy of eligibility  
4 information from a random sample of award recipients.

5           (8) Annual review of procedures for the distribution  
6 of state financial aid funds.

7           (9) Development and submission of a report, annually,  
8 to the State Board of Education, the President of the Senate,  
9 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which shall  
10 include, but not be limited to, recommendations for the  
11 distribution of state financial aid funds.

12           (10) Development and evaluation of a comprehensive,  
13 long-range program of all sources of student financial aid.

14           (11) Dissemination of information on available  
15 financial aid programs to district school superintendents and  
16 other persons who request such information.

17           (12) Calculation of the amount of need-based student  
18 financial aid required to offset fee increases recommended by  
19 the State Board of Education and inclusion of such amount  
20 within the legislative budget request for student assistance  
21 grant programs.

22           Section 474. Section 1009.91, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24           1009.91 Assistance programs and activities of the  
25 department.--

26           (1) The department may contract for the administration  
27 of the student financial assistance programs as specifically  
28 provided in ss. 295.01, 1009.29, 1009.56, and 1009.78.

29           (2) The department may contract to provide the  
30 planning and development activities required pursuant to the  
31 provisions of this part.

1           (3) The department shall administer the guarantee of  
2 student loans made by participating commercial financial  
3 institutions in such a manner as to fully comply with  
4 applicable provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as  
5 amended, relating to loan reinsurance.

6           (4) The department shall maintain records on the  
7 student loan default rate of each Florida postsecondary  
8 institution and report that information annually to both the  
9 institution and the State Board of Education.

10           Section 475. Section 1009.92, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12           1009.92 Funding for programs administered by the  
13 department.--

14           (1) In the preparation of its annual budget, the  
15 department shall request that the Legislature continue to  
16 provide funding for applicable programs from the General  
17 Revenue Fund.

18           (2) The department is authorized to expend moneys from  
19 available trust funds in applicable student financial  
20 assistance programs.

21           (3) There is created a Student Loan Guaranty Reserve  
22 Fund, which shall be administered by the department in  
23 carrying out the provisions of this act.

24           (4) The principal sources of operating funds shall be  
25 from the earnings from the temporary investment of the Student  
26 Loan Guaranty Reserve Fund and from compensation for services  
27 performed under contract for the administration of student  
28 financial assistance programs pursuant to s. 1009.91.

29           (5) The department is authorized to accept grant funds  
30 under the Leveraging Educational Assistance Program and  
31 Supplemental Leveraging Educational Assistance Program of the

1 Federal Government, as provided by the Higher Education Act of  
2 1965, as amended.

3 (6) The department is authorized to accept federal  
4 advances for the establishment of the Student Loan Guaranty  
5 Reserve Fund pursuant to the Higher Education Act of 1965, as  
6 amended, under agreement with the United States Commissioner  
7 of Education and to maintain such advances until recalled by  
8 the United States Commissioner of Education.

9 (7) The department is authorized to assess a student  
10 loan insurance premium on each loan guaranteed by the  
11 department. The amount of insurance premium will be determined  
12 by the department in the amount sufficient to maintain the  
13 pledged level of reserve funds but in no event may the amount  
14 of the insurance premium exceed the maximum provided by  
15 federal law.

16 (8) The department shall invest, or contract for the  
17 temporary investment of, any unencumbered cash, and the  
18 interest earned therefrom, except as otherwise provided for by  
19 law or covenant, shall accrue to the Student Loan Guaranty  
20 Reserve Fund or for the administration of financial aid  
21 programs.

22 Section 476. Section 1009.93, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1009.93 Student financial aid planning and  
25 development.--

26 (1) The department shall administer a student  
27 financial aid planning and development program. It is the  
28 intent of the Legislature that a specific sum of funds be  
29 allocated each year for the purpose of sponsoring the design,  
30 development, and implementation of a comprehensive program of  
31 student financial aid and of initiating activities of

1 inservice training for student financial aid administrators  
2 and activities to encourage maximum lender participation in  
3 guaranteed loans.

4       (2) The objective of a state program is the  
5 maintenance of a state student financial aid program to  
6 supplement a basic national program which will provide equal  
7 access to postsecondary education to citizens of this state  
8 who have the ability and motivation to benefit from a  
9 postsecondary education. In the development of a state program  
10 to achieve this objective, it shall be the policy that:

11       (a) State student financial aid be provided primarily  
12 on the basis of financial need;

13       (b) Students receiving need-based financial aid be  
14 expected to contribute toward their cost of education through  
15 self-help resources such as savings, work, and loans;

16       (c) Student financial aid be available to state  
17 residents for attendance at accredited public or private  
18 institutions of higher education in this state;

19       (d) Student financial aid be provided for all levels  
20 of postsecondary education; and

21       (e) State student financial aid be administered by a  
22 central state agency.

23

24 Planning and development must be in accordance with the  
25 foregoing objective and policies.

26       (3) The planning and development procedures shall  
27 provide for:

28       (a) The review of public policy;  
29       (b) The development of performance objectives;  
30       (c) The development of alternate approaches;  
31       (d) The evaluation of performance; and

1           (e) The participation and involvement in the planning  
2 process of representatives of the groups affected by a state  
3 program of student financial aid.

4           (4) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
5 providing for the verification of the independent status of  
6 state financial aid recipients.

7           (5) The department shall encourage industry and  
8 education linkages through the development of temporary  
9 employment opportunities for students attending postsecondary  
10 institutions in this state.

11           Section 477. Section 1009.94, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13           1009.94 Student financial assistance database.--

14           (1) The Department of Education shall design and  
15 maintain a student financial assistance database that can be  
16 used to support all aspects of the administration and delivery  
17 of state-funded student financial aid. In addition, the  
18 database must have the capability of providing policymakers  
19 with comprehensive information regarding the various financial  
20 assistance programs available to students attending Florida  
21 postsecondary education institutions.

22           (2) For purposes of this section, financial assistance  
23 includes:

24           (a) For all students, any scholarship, grant, loan,  
25 fee waiver, tuition assistance payment, or other form of  
26 compensation provided from state or federal funds.

27           (b) For students attending public institutions, any  
28 scholarship, grant, loan, fee waiver, tuition assistance  
29 payment, or other form of compensation supported by  
30 institutional funds.

31

1           (3) The database must include records on any student  
2 receiving any form of financial assistance as described in  
3 subsection (2). Institutions participating in any state  
4 financial assistance program shall annually submit such  
5 information to the Department of Education in a format  
6 prescribed by the department and consistent with the  
7 provisions of s. 1002.22.

8           Section 478. Section 1009.95, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10           1009.95 Delinquent accounts.--

11           (1) The Department of Education is directed to exert  
12 every lawful and reasonable effort to collect all delinquent  
13 unpaid and uncanceled scholarship loan notes, student loan  
14 notes, and defaulted guaranteed loan notes.

15           (2) The department may establish a recovery account  
16 into which unpaid and uncanceled scholarship loan note,  
17 student loan note, and defaulted guaranteed loan note accounts  
18 may be transferred.

19           (3) The department may settle any delinquent unpaid  
20 and uncanceled scholarship loan notes, student loan notes, and  
21 defaulted guaranteed loan notes and employ the service of a  
22 collection agent when deemed advisable in collecting  
23 delinquent or defaulted accounts. However, no collection agent  
24 may be paid a commission in excess of 35 percent of the amount  
25 collected. Any expense incurred by the department in enforcing  
26 the collection of a loan note may be borne by the signer of  
27 the note and may be added to the amount of the principal of  
28 such note.

29           (4) The department may charge off unpaid and  
30 uncanceled scholarship loan notes and student loan notes which  
31 are at least 3 years delinquent and which prove uncollectible

1 after good faith collection efforts. However, a delinquent  
2 account with a past due balance of \$25 or less may be charged  
3 off as uncollectible when it becomes 6 months past due and the  
4 cost of further collection effort or assignment to a  
5 collection agent would not be warranted.

6 (5) No individual borrower who has been determined to  
7 be in default in making legally required scholarship loan,  
8 student loan, or guaranteed loan repayments shall be furnished  
9 with his or her academic transcripts or other student records  
10 until such time as the loan is paid in full or the default  
11 status has been removed.

12 (6) The department may charge an individual borrower  
13 who has been determined to be in default in making legally  
14 required loan repayments the maximum interest rate authorized  
15 by law.

16 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt such  
17 rules as are necessary to regulate the collection, settlement,  
18 and charging off of delinquent unpaid and uncanceled  
19 scholarship loan notes, student loan notes, and defaulted  
20 guaranteed loan notes.

21 Section 479. Section 1009.96, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23 1009.96 Annual review of financial assistance  
24 programs.--All new and existing financial assistance programs  
25 authorized under this chapter which are not funded for 3  
26 consecutive years after enactment shall stand repealed.  
27 Financial assistance programs provided under this part on July  
28 1, 1992, which lose funding for 3 consecutive years shall  
29 stand repealed. The Department of Education shall annually  
30 review the legislative appropriation for financial assistance  
31 programs to identify such programs.

1           Section 480. Part IV of chapter 1009, Florida  
2 Statutes, shall be entitled "Prepaid College Board Programs"  
3 and shall consist of ss. 1009.97-1009.984.

4           Section 481. Section 1009.97, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1009.97 General provisions.--

7           (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDING; EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY.--The  
8 Legislature recognizes that educational opportunity at the  
9 postsecondary level is a critical state interest and is best  
10 ensured through the provision of postsecondary institutions  
11 that are geographically and financially accessible, that  
12 affordability and accessibility of higher education are  
13 essential to the welfare and well-being of the residents of  
14 the state and are a critical state interest, and that  
15 promoting and enhancing financial access to postsecondary  
16 institutions serve a legitimate public purpose.

17           (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the intent of the  
18 Legislature that a prepaid program be established through  
19 which many of the costs associated with postsecondary  
20 attendance may be paid in advance and fixed at a guaranteed  
21 level for the duration of undergraduate enrollment and that  
22 this program fosters timely financial planning for  
23 postsecondary attendance and to encourage employer  
24 participation in such planning through program contributions  
25 on behalf of employees and the dependents of employees. It is  
26 further the intent of the Legislature that a savings program  
27 be established as a supplement and alternative to the prepaid  
28 program to allow persons to make contributions to a trust  
29 account to meet some or all of the qualified higher education  
30 expenses of a designated beneficiary, consistent with federal  
31 law authorizing such programs, but without a guarantee by the

1 state that such contributions, together with the investment  
2 return on such contributions, if any, will be adequate to pay  
3 for qualified higher education expenses, to enable  
4 participants to save for qualified higher education expenses,  
5 and to provide a choice to persons who determine that the  
6 overall educational needs of their families are best suited to  
7 a savings program or who wish to save to meet postsecondary  
8 educational needs beyond the traditional 4-year curriculum.  
9 Finally, the Legislature intends that the prepaid program and  
10 the savings program be conducted in a manner to maximize  
11 program efficiency and effectiveness.

12 (3) DEFINITIONS.--As used in ss. 1009.97-1009.984, the  
13 term:

14 (a) "Advance payment contract" means a contract  
15 entered into by the board and a purchaser pursuant to s.  
16 1009.98.

17 (b) "Board" means the Florida Prepaid College Board.

18 (c) "Trust fund" means the Florida Prepaid College  
19 Trust Fund.

20 (d) "Prepaid program" means the Florida Prepaid  
21 College Program established pursuant to s. 1009.98.

22 (e) "Purchaser" means a person who makes or is  
23 obligated to make advance registration or dormitory residence  
24 payments in accordance with an advance payment contract.

25 (f) "Qualified beneficiary" means:

26 1. A resident of this state at the time a purchaser  
27 enters into an advance payment contract on behalf of the  
28 resident;

29 2. A nonresident who is the child of a noncustodial  
30 parent who is a resident of this state at the time that such  
31

1 parent enters into an advance payment contract on behalf of  
 2 the child; or

3 3. For purposes of advance payment contracts entered  
 4 into pursuant to s. 1009.983, a graduate of an accredited high  
 5 school in this state who is a resident of this state at the  
 6 time he or she is designated to receive the benefits of the  
 7 advance payment contract.

8 (g) "Registration fee" means tuition fee, financial  
 9 aid fee, building fee, and Capital Improvement Trust Fund fee.

10 (h) "State postsecondary institution" means any public  
 11 community college or state university.

12 (i) "Benefactor" means any person making a deposit,  
 13 payment, contribution, gift, or other expenditure into the  
 14 savings program.

15 (j) "Designated beneficiary" means:

16 1. Any individual designated in the participation  
 17 agreement;

18 2. Any individual defined in s. 152(a)(1)-(8) of the  
 19 Internal Revenue Code; or

20 3. Any individual receiving a scholarship from  
 21 interests in the program purchased by a state or local  
 22 government or an organization described in s. 501(c)(3) of the  
 23 Internal Revenue Code.

24 (k) "Eligible educational institution" means an  
 25 institution of higher education that qualifies under s. 529 of  
 26 the Internal Revenue Code as an eligible educational  
 27 institution.

28 (l) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue  
 29 Code of 1986, as defined in s. 220.03(1), and regulations  
 30 adopted pursuant thereto.

31

1           (m) "Participation agreement" means an agreement  
 2 between the board and a benefactor for participation in the  
 3 savings program for a designated beneficiary.

4           (n) "Savings program" means the Florida College  
 5 Savings Program established pursuant to s. 1009.981.

6           (o) "Qualified higher education expenses" means higher  
 7 education expenses permitted under s. 529 of the Internal  
 8 Revenue Code and required for the enrollment or attendance of  
 9 a designated beneficiary at an eligible educational  
 10 institution, including undergraduate and graduate schools, and  
 11 any other higher education expenses that are permitted under  
 12 s. 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

13           (p) "Prepaid fund" means the fund within the trust  
 14 fund into which moneys belonging to the prepaid program are  
 15 deposited and held.

16           (q) "Savings fund" means the fund within the trust  
 17 fund into which moneys belonging to the savings program are  
 18 deposited and held.

19           Section 482. Section 1009.971, Florida Statutes, is  
 20 created to read:

21           1009.971 Florida Prepaid College Board.--

22           (1) FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE BOARD; CREATION.--The  
 23 Florida Prepaid College Board is hereby created as a body  
 24 corporate with all the powers of a body corporate for the  
 25 purposes delineated in this section. The board shall  
 26 administer the prepaid program and the savings program, and  
 27 shall perform essential governmental functions as provided in  
 28 ss. 1009.97-1009.984. For the purposes of s. 6, Art. IV of the  
 29 State Constitution, the board shall be assigned to and  
 30 administratively housed within the State Board of  
 31

1 Administration, but it shall independently exercise the powers  
2 and duties specified in ss. 1009.97-1009.984.

3 (2) FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE BOARD; MEMBERSHIP.--The  
4 board shall consist of seven members to be composed of the  
5 Attorney General, the Chief Financial Officer, the Deputy  
6 Commissioner of Colleges and Universities, the Deputy  
7 Commissioner of Community Colleges, and three members  
8 appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the  
9 Senate. Each member appointed by the Governor shall possess  
10 knowledge, skill, and experience in the areas of accounting,  
11 actuary, risk management, or investment management. Each  
12 member of the board not appointed by the Governor may name a  
13 designee to serve on the board on behalf of the member;  
14 however, any designee so named shall meet the qualifications  
15 required of gubernatorial appointees to the board. Members  
16 appointed by the Governor shall serve terms of 3 years. Any  
17 person appointed to fill a vacancy on the board shall be  
18 appointed in a like manner and shall serve for only the  
19 unexpired term. Any member shall be eligible for reappointment  
20 and shall serve until a successor qualifies. Members of the  
21 board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed  
22 for per diem and travel in accordance with s. 112.061. Each  
23 member of the board shall file a full and public disclosure of  
24 his or her financial interests pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of  
25 the State Constitution and corresponding statute.

26 (3) FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE BOARD; ELECTIONS;  
27 MEETINGS.--The board shall annually elect a board member to  
28 serve as chair and a board member to serve as vice chair and  
29 shall designate a secretary-treasurer who need not be a member  
30 of the board. The secretary-treasurer shall keep a record of  
31 the proceedings of the board and shall be the custodian of all

1 printed material filed with or by the board and of its  
2 official seal. Notwithstanding the existence of vacancies on  
3 the board, a majority of the members shall constitute a  
4 quorum. The board shall take no official action in the absence  
5 of a quorum. The board shall meet, at a minimum, on a  
6 quarterly basis at the call of the chair.

7 (4) FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE BOARD; POWERS AND  
8 DUTIES.--The board shall have the powers and duties necessary  
9 or proper to carry out the provisions of ss. 1009.97-1009.984,  
10 including, but not limited to, the power and duty to:

11 (a) Appoint an executive director to serve as the  
12 chief administrative and operational officer of the board and  
13 to perform other duties assigned to him or her by the board.

14 (b) Adopt an official seal and rules.

15 (c) Sue and be sued.

16 (d) Make and execute contracts and other necessary  
17 instruments.

18 (e) Establish agreements or other transactions with  
19 federal, state, and local agencies, including state  
20 universities and community colleges.

21 (f) Administer the trust fund in a manner that is  
22 sufficiently actuarially sound to defray the obligations of  
23 the prepaid program and the savings program, considering the  
24 separate purposes and objectives of each program. The board  
25 shall annually evaluate or cause to be evaluated the actuarial  
26 soundness of the prepaid fund. If the board perceives a need  
27 for additional assets in order to preserve actuarial soundness  
28 of the prepaid program, the board may adjust the terms of  
29 subsequent advance payment contracts to ensure such soundness.

30 (g) Invest funds not required for immediate  
31 disbursement.

- 1           (h) Appear in its own behalf before boards,  
2 commissions, or other governmental agencies.
- 3           (i) Hold, buy, and sell any instruments, obligations,  
4 securities, and property determined appropriate by the board.
- 5           (j) Require a reasonable length of state residence for  
6 qualified beneficiaries.
- 7           (k) Segregate contributions and payments to the trust  
8 fund into the appropriate fund.
- 9           (l) Procure and contract for goods and services,  
10 employ personnel, and engage the services of private  
11 consultants, actuaries, managers, legal counsel, and auditors  
12 in a manner determined to be necessary and appropriate by the  
13 board.
- 14           (m) Solicit and accept gifts, grants, loans, and other  
15 aids from any source or participate in any other way in any  
16 government program to carry out the purposes of ss.  
17 1009.97-1009.984.
- 18           (n) Require and collect administrative fees and  
19 charges in connection with any transaction and impose  
20 reasonable penalties, including default, for delinquent  
21 payments or for entering into an advance payment contract or a  
22 participation agreement on a fraudulent basis.
- 23           (o) Procure insurance against any loss in connection  
24 with the property, assets, and activities of the trust fund or  
25 the board.
- 26           (p) Impose reasonable time limits on use of the  
27 benefits provided by the prepaid program or savings program.  
28 However, any such limitations shall be specified within the  
29 advance payment contract or the participation agreement,  
30 respectively.
- 31

- 1           (q) Delineate the terms and conditions under which  
2 payments may be withdrawn from the trust fund and impose  
3 reasonable fees and charges for such withdrawal. Such terms  
4 and conditions shall be specified within the advance payment  
5 contract or the participation agreement.
- 6           (r) Provide for the receipt of contributions in lump  
7 sums or installment payments.
- 8           (s) Require that purchasers of advance payment  
9 contracts or benefactors of participation agreements verify,  
10 under oath, any requests for contract conversions,  
11 substitutions, transfers, cancellations, refund requests, or  
12 contract changes of any nature. Verification shall be  
13 accomplished as authorized and provided for in s.  
14 92.525(1)(a).
- 15           (t) Delegate responsibility for administration of one  
16 or both of the comprehensive investment plans required in s.  
17 1009.973 to persons the board determines to be qualified. Such  
18 persons shall be compensated by the board.
- 19           (u) Endorse insurance coverage written exclusively for  
20 the purpose of protecting advance payment contracts, and  
21 participation agreements, and the purchasers, benefactors, and  
22 beneficiaries thereof, including group life policies and group  
23 disability policies, which are exempt from the provisions of  
24 part V of chapter 627.
- 25           (v) Form strategic alliances with public and private  
26 entities to provide benefits to the prepaid program, savings  
27 program, and participants of either or both programs.
- 28           (w) Solicit proposals and contract, pursuant to s.  
29 287.057, for the marketing of the prepaid program or the  
30 savings program, or both together. Any materials produced for  
31 the purpose of marketing the prepaid program or the savings

1 program shall be submitted to the board for review. No such  
2 materials shall be made available to the public before the  
3 materials are approved by the board. Any educational  
4 institution may distribute marketing materials produced for  
5 the prepaid program or the savings program; however, all such  
6 materials shall be approved by the board prior to  
7 distribution. Neither the state nor the board shall be liable  
8 for misrepresentation of the prepaid program or the savings  
9 program by a marketing agent.

10 (x) Establish other policies, procedures, and criteria  
11 to implement and administer the provisions of ss.  
12 1009.97-1009.984.

13 (y) Adopt procedures to govern contract dispute  
14 proceedings between the board and its vendors.

15 (5) FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE BOARD; CONTRACTUAL  
16 SERVICES.--The board shall solicit proposals and contract,  
17 pursuant to s. 287.057, for:

18 (a) The services of records administrators.

19 (b) Investment consultants to review the performance  
20 of the board's investment managers and advise the board on  
21 investment management and performance and investment policy,  
22 including the contents of the comprehensive investment plans.

23 (c) Trustee services firms to provide trustee and  
24 related services to the board. The trustee services firm shall  
25 agree to meet the obligations of the board to qualified  
26 beneficiaries if moneys in the fund fail to offset the  
27 obligations of the board as a result of imprudent selection or  
28 supervision of investment programs by such firm.

29 (d) Investment managers to provide investment  
30 portfolios for the prepaid program or the savings program.  
31 Investment managers shall be limited to authorized insurers as

1 defined in s. 624.09, banks as defined in s. 658.12,  
2 associations as defined in s. 665.012, authorized Securities  
3 and Exchange Commission investment advisers, and investment  
4 companies as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940.  
5 All investment managers shall have their principal place of  
6 business and corporate charter located and registered in the  
7 United States. In addition, each investment manager shall  
8 agree to meet the obligations of the board to qualified  
9 beneficiaries if moneys in the fund fail to offset the  
10 obligations of the board as a result of imprudent investing by  
11 such provider. Each authorized insurer shall evidence superior  
12 performance overall on an acceptable level of surety in  
13 meeting its obligations to its policyholders and other  
14 contractual obligations. Only qualified public depositories  
15 approved by the Insurance Commissioner and Treasurer shall be  
16 eligible for board consideration. Each investment company  
17 shall provide investment plans as specified within the request  
18 for proposals.

19  
20 The goals of the board in procuring such services shall be to  
21 provide all purchasers and benefactors with the most secure,  
22 well-diversified, and beneficially administered prepaid  
23 program or savings program possible, to allow all qualified  
24 firms interested in providing such services equal  
25 consideration, and to provide such services to the state at no  
26 cost and to the purchasers and benefactors at the lowest cost  
27 possible. Evaluations of proposals submitted pursuant to this  
28 subsection shall include, but not be limited to, fees and  
29 other costs that are charged to purchasers or benefactors that  
30 affect account values, or that impact the operational costs of  
31 the prepaid program or the savings program; past experience

1 and past performance in providing the required services;  
 2 financial history and current financial strength and capital  
 3 adequacy to provide the required services; and capabilities  
 4 and experience of the proposed personnel that will provide the  
 5 required services.

6 (6) QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAM STATUS.--Notwithstanding  
 7 any other provision of ss. 1009.97-1009.984, the board may  
 8 adopt rules necessary for the prepaid program and the savings  
 9 program each to retain its status as a "qualified tuition  
 10 program" in order to maintain its tax exempt status or other  
 11 similar status of the program, purchasers, and qualified  
 12 beneficiaries under the Internal Revenue Code. The board shall  
 13 inform participants in the prepaid program and the savings  
 14 program of changes to the tax or securities status of advance  
 15 purchase contracts and participation agreements.

16 Section 483. Section 1009.972, Florida Statutes, is  
 17 created to read:

18 1009.972 Florida Prepaid College Trust Fund.--

19 (1) There is created within the State Board of  
 20 Administration the Florida Prepaid College Trust Fund. The  
 21 trust fund shall be segregated into two separate funds, the  
 22 prepaid fund and the savings fund.

23 (2) The prepaid fund shall consist of state  
 24 appropriations, moneys acquired from other governmental or  
 25 private sources for the prepaid program, and moneys remitted  
 26 in accordance with advance payment contracts. Dividends,  
 27 interest, and gains accruing to the prepaid fund shall  
 28 increase the total funds available for the prepaid program. If  
 29 dividends, interest, and gains for the prepaid fund exceed the  
 30 amount necessary for program administration and disbursements,  
 31

1 the board may designate an additional percentage of the  
2 prepaid fund to serve as a contingency fund.

3 (3) The savings fund shall consist of appropriations,  
4 moneys acquired from other governmental or private sources for  
5 the savings program, and moneys remitted in accordance with  
6 participation agreements. The amounts on deposit in the  
7 savings fund shall remain therein and shall be available  
8 solely for carrying out the purposes of the savings program.

9 (4) Any balance contained within the trust fund, and  
10 within each fund in the trust fund, at the end of a fiscal  
11 year shall remain therein and shall be available for carrying  
12 out the purposes of each respective program and the  
13 direct-support organization established pursuant to s.  
14 1009.983. Moneys contained within the trust fund shall be  
15 exempt from the investment requirements of s. 18.10. All funds  
16 deposited in the prepaid fund may be invested pursuant to s.  
17 215.47. Any funds of a direct-support organization created  
18 pursuant to s. 1009.983 shall be exempt from the provisions of  
19 this section.

20 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 717,  
21 funds associated with terminated advance payment contracts  
22 pursuant to s. 1009.98(4)(k) and canceled contracts for which  
23 no refunds have been claimed shall be retained by the board.  
24 The board shall establish procedures for notifying purchasers  
25 who subsequently cancel their advance payment contracts of any  
26 unclaimed refund and shall establish a time period after which  
27 no refund may be claimed by a purchaser who canceled a  
28 contract. The board may transfer funds retained from such  
29 terminated advance payment contracts and cancelled contracts  
30 to the Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship Program to provide  
31 matching funds for prepaid tuition scholarships for

1 economically disadvantaged youth that remain drug free and  
2 crime free.

3 (6) The assets of the prepaid fund and the savings  
4 fund shall be maintained, invested, and expended solely for  
5 the purposes of the prepaid program and the savings program,  
6 respectively, and shall not be loaned, transferred, or  
7 otherwise used by the state for any purpose other than the  
8 purposes of ss. 1009.97-1009.984. This subsection shall not be  
9 construed to prohibit the board from investing in, by purchase  
10 or otherwise, bonds, notes, or other obligations of the state  
11 or an agency or instrumentality of the state. Unless otherwise  
12 specified by the board, assets of the prepaid fund and the  
13 savings fund shall be expended in the following order of  
14 priority:

15 (a) To make payments to state postsecondary  
16 institutions on behalf of qualified beneficiaries or  
17 designated beneficiaries.

18 (b) To make refunds upon termination of advance  
19 payment contracts or participation agreements.

20 (c) To pay the costs of administration and operations  
21 for the prepaid program and the savings program.

22 Section 484. Section 1009.973, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1009.973 Comprehensive investment plans.--The Florida  
25 Prepaid College Board shall establish separate comprehensive  
26 investment plans for the prepaid program and for the savings  
27 program, each subject to the approval of the State Board of  
28 Administration. Each comprehensive investment plan shall  
29 specify the investment policies to be utilized by the board in  
30 its administration of each respective program. The board may  
31 place assets of each program in investment products pursuant

1 to the comprehensive investment plan for each respective  
2 program and in such proportions as may be designated or  
3 approved under the plan for each respective program. Such  
4 products shall be underwritten and offered in compliance with  
5 the applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and rules  
6 by persons authorized by applicable federal and state  
7 authorities. A purchaser may not direct the investment of his  
8 or her contribution to the prepaid program. A benefactor or  
9 designated beneficiary may not direct the investment of any  
10 contributions to the savings program other than the specific  
11 fund options provided by the board, if any. Board members and  
12 employees of the board are not prohibited from purchasing  
13 advance payment contracts or entering into participation  
14 agreements by virtue of their fiduciary responsibilities as  
15 members of the board or official duties as employees of the  
16 board.

17 Section 485. Section 1009.974, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1009.974 Exemption from claims of creditors.--Moneys  
20 paid into or out of the trust fund by or on behalf of a  
21 purchaser or qualified beneficiary of an advance payment  
22 contract or benefactor or designated beneficiary of a  
23 participation agreement are exempt, as provided by s. 222.22,  
24 from all claims of creditors of the purchaser or the qualified  
25 beneficiary of an advance payment contract or the benefactor  
26 or designated beneficiary of a participation agreement,  
27 respectively, provided that the advance payment contract or  
28 participation agreement has not been terminated. Neither  
29 moneys paid into the prepaid program or savings program nor  
30 benefits accrued through the prepaid program or savings  
31 program may be pledged for the purpose of securing a loan.

1           Section 486. Section 1009.975, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1009.975 Payroll deduction authority.--The state or  
4 any state agency, county, municipality, or other political  
5 subdivision may, by contract or collective bargaining  
6 agreement, agree with any employee to remit payments toward  
7 advance payment contracts or participation agreements through  
8 payroll deductions made by the appropriate officer or officers  
9 of the state, state agency, county, municipality, or political  
10 subdivision. Such payments shall be held and administered in  
11 accordance with ss. 1009.97-1009.984.

12           Section 487. Section 1009.976, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14           1009.976 Annual report.--On or before March 31 of each  
15 year, the Florida Prepaid College Board shall prepare or cause  
16 to be prepared separate reports setting forth in appropriate  
17 detail an accounting of the prepaid program and the savings  
18 program which include a description of the financial condition  
19 of each respective program at the close of the fiscal year.  
20 The board shall submit copies of the reports to the Governor,  
21 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
22 Representatives, and the minority leaders of the House and  
23 Senate and shall make the report for the prepaid program  
24 available to each purchaser and the report for the savings  
25 program available to each benefactor and designated  
26 beneficiary. The accounts of the fund for the prepaid program  
27 and the savings program shall be subject to annual audits by  
28 the Auditor General.

29           Section 488. Section 1009.98, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31           1009.98 Florida Prepaid College Program.--

1           (1) FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE PROGRAM; CREATION.--There  
2 is created a Florida Prepaid College Program to provide a  
3 medium through which the cost of registration and dormitory  
4 residence may be paid in advance of enrollment in a state  
5 postsecondary institution at a rate lower than the projected  
6 corresponding cost at the time of actual enrollment. Such  
7 payments shall be combined and invested in a manner that  
8 yields, at a minimum, sufficient interest to generate the  
9 difference between the prepaid amount and the cost of  
10 registration and dormitory residence at the time of actual  
11 enrollment. Students who enroll in a state postsecondary  
12 institution pursuant to this section shall be charged no fees  
13 in excess of the terms delineated in the advance payment  
14 contract.

15           (2) PREPAID COLLEGE PLANS.--At a minimum, the board  
16 shall make advance payment contracts available for two  
17 independent plans to be known as the community college plan  
18 and the university plan. The board may also make advance  
19 payment contracts available for a dormitory residence plan.  
20 The board may restrict the number of participants in the  
21 community college plan, university plan, and dormitory  
22 residence plan, respectively. However, any person denied  
23 participation solely on the basis of such restriction shall be  
24 granted priority for participation during the succeeding year.

25           (a)1. Through the community college plan, the advance  
26 payment contract shall provide prepaid registration fees for a  
27 specified number of undergraduate semester credit hours not to  
28 exceed the average number of hours required for the conference  
29 of an associate degree. Qualified beneficiaries shall bear the  
30 cost of any laboratory fees associated with enrollment in  
31 specific courses. Each qualified beneficiary shall be

1 classified as a resident for tuition purposes, pursuant to s.  
2 1009.21, regardless of his or her actual legal residence.

3 2. Effective July 1, 1998, the board may provide  
4 advance payment contracts for additional fees delineated in s.  
5 1009.23, not to exceed the average number of hours required  
6 for the conference of an associate degree, in conjunction with  
7 advance payment contracts for registration fees. Community  
8 college plan contracts purchased prior to July 1, 1998, shall  
9 be limited to the payment of registration fees as defined in  
10 s. 1009.97.

11 (b)1. Through the university plan, the advance payment  
12 contract shall provide prepaid registration fees for a  
13 specified number of undergraduate semester credit hours not to  
14 exceed the average number of hours required for the conference  
15 of a baccalaureate degree. Qualified beneficiaries shall bear  
16 the cost of any laboratory fees associated with enrollment in  
17 specific courses. Each qualified beneficiary shall be  
18 classified as a resident for tuition purposes pursuant to s.  
19 1009.21, regardless of his or her actual legal residence.

20 2. Effective July 1, 1998, the board may provide  
21 advance payment contracts for additional fees delineated in s.  
22 1009.24(8)-(11), for a specified number of undergraduate  
23 semester credit hours not to exceed the average number of  
24 hours required for the conference of a baccalaureate degree,  
25 in conjunction with advance payment contracts for registration  
26 fees. Such contracts shall provide prepaid coverage for the  
27 sum of such fees, to a maximum of 45 percent of the cost of  
28 registration fees. University plan contracts purchased prior  
29 to July 1, 1998, shall be limited to the payment of  
30 registration fees as defined in s. 1009.97.  
31

1           (c) The cost of participation in contracts authorized  
2 under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) shall be based primarily  
3 on the current and projected registration fees within the  
4 Florida Community College System or the State University  
5 System, respectively, and the number of years expected to  
6 elapse between the purchase of the plan on behalf of a  
7 qualified beneficiary and the exercise of the benefits  
8 provided in the plan by such beneficiary.

9           (d) Through the dormitory residence plan, the advance  
10 payment contract may provide prepaid housing fees for a  
11 maximum of 10 semesters of full-time undergraduate enrollment  
12 in a state university. Dormitory residence plans shall be  
13 purchased in increments of 2 semesters. The cost of  
14 participation in the dormitory residence plan shall be based  
15 primarily on the average current and projected housing fees  
16 within the State University System and the number of years  
17 expected to elapse between the purchase of the plan on behalf  
18 of a qualified beneficiary and the exercise of the benefits  
19 provided in the plan by such beneficiary. Qualified  
20 beneficiaries shall have the highest priority in the  
21 assignment of housing within university residence halls.  
22 Qualified beneficiaries shall bear the cost of any additional  
23 elective charges such as laundry service or long-distance  
24 telephone service. Each state university may specify the  
25 residence halls or other university-held residences eligible  
26 for inclusion in the plan. In addition, any state university  
27 may request immediate termination of a dormitory residence  
28 contract based on a violation or multiple violations of rules  
29 of the residence hall or other university-held residences. In  
30 the event that sufficient housing is not available for all  
31 qualified beneficiaries, the board shall refund the purchaser

1 or qualified beneficiary an amount equal to the fees charged  
2 for dormitory residence during that semester. If a qualified  
3 beneficiary fails to be admitted to a state university or  
4 chooses to attend a community college that operates one or  
5 more dormitories or residency opportunities, or has one or  
6 more dormitories or residency opportunities operated by the  
7 community college direct-support organization, the qualified  
8 beneficiary may transfer or cause to have transferred to the  
9 community college, or community college direct-support  
10 organization, the fees associated with dormitory residence.  
11 Dormitory fees transferred to the community college or  
12 community college direct-support organization may not exceed  
13 the maximum fees charged for state university dormitory  
14 residence for the purposes of this section, or the fees  
15 charged for community college or community college  
16 direct-support organization dormitories or residency  
17 opportunities, whichever is less.

18 (3) TRANSFER OF BENEFITS TO PRIVATE AND OUT-OF-STATE  
19 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND TO AREA TECHNICAL CENTERS.--A  
20 qualified beneficiary may apply the benefits of an advance  
21 payment contract toward:

22 (a) An independent college or university that is  
23 located and chartered in Florida, that is not for profit, that  
24 is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern  
25 Association of Colleges and Schools or the Accrediting Council  
26 for Independent Colleges and Schools, and that confers degrees  
27 as defined in s. 1005.02.

28 (b) An out-of-state college or university that is not  
29 for profit and is accredited by a regional accrediting  
30 association, and that confers degrees.  
31

1           (c) An applied technology diploma program or technical  
2 certificate program conducted by a community college listed in  
3 s. 1004.02(2) or technical center operated by a district  
4 school board.

5  
6 The board shall transfer or cause to be transferred to the  
7 institution designated by the qualified beneficiary an amount  
8 not to exceed the redemption value of the advance payment  
9 contract at a state postsecondary institution. If the cost of  
10 registration or housing fees at such institution is less than  
11 the corresponding fees at a state postsecondary institution,  
12 the amount transferred may not exceed the actual cost of  
13 registration and housing fees. A transfer authorized under  
14 this subsection may not exceed the number of semester credit  
15 hours or semesters of dormitory residence contracted on behalf  
16 of a qualified beneficiary. Notwithstanding any other  
17 provision in this section, an institution must be an "eligible  
18 educational institution" under s. 529 of the Internal Revenue  
19 Code to be eligible for the transfer of advance payment  
20 contract benefits.

21           (4) ADVANCE PAYMENT CONTRACTS.--The board shall  
22 develop advance payment contracts for registration and may  
23 develop advance payment contracts for dormitory residence as  
24 provided in this section. Advance payment contracts shall be  
25 exempt from chapter 517 and the Florida Insurance Code. Such  
26 contracts shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

27           (a) The amount of the payment or payments and the  
28 number of payments required from a purchaser on behalf of a  
29 qualified beneficiary.

30  
31

1       (b) The terms and conditions under which purchasers  
2 shall remit payments, including, but not limited to, the date  
3 or dates upon which each payment shall be due.

4       (c) Provisions for late payment charges and for  
5 default.

6       (d) Provisions for penalty fees for withdrawals from  
7 the fund.

8       (e) Except for an advance payment contract entered  
9 into pursuant to subsection (9) or s. 1009.983, the name and  
10 date of birth of the qualified beneficiary on whose behalf the  
11 contract is drawn and the terms and conditions under which  
12 another person may be substituted as the qualified  
13 beneficiary.

14       (f) The name of any person who may terminate the  
15 contract. The terms of the contract shall specify whether the  
16 contract may be terminated by the purchaser, the qualified  
17 beneficiary, a specific designated person, or any combination  
18 of these persons.

19       (g) The terms and conditions under which a contract  
20 may be terminated, modified, or converted, the name of the  
21 person entitled to any refund due as a result of termination  
22 of the contract pursuant to such terms and conditions, and the  
23 amount of refund, if any, due to the person so named.

24       (h) The number of semester credit hours or semesters  
25 of dormitory residence contracted by the purchaser.

26       (i) The state postsecondary system toward which the  
27 contracted credit hours or semesters of dormitory residence  
28 will be applied.

29       (j) The assumption of a contractual obligation by the  
30 board to the qualified beneficiary to provide for a specified  
31 number of semester credit hours of undergraduate instruction

1 at a state postsecondary institution, not to exceed the  
2 average number of credit hours required for the conference of  
3 the degree that corresponds to the plan purchased on behalf of  
4 the qualified beneficiary or to provide for a specified number  
5 of semesters of dormitory residence, not to exceed the number  
6 of semesters of full-time enrollment required for the  
7 conference of a baccalaureate degree.

8 (k) The period of time after which advance payment  
9 contracts that have not been terminated or the benefits used  
10 shall be considered terminated. Time expended by a qualified  
11 beneficiary as an active duty member of any of the armed  
12 services of the United States shall be added to the period of  
13 time specified by the board. No purchaser or qualified  
14 beneficiary whose advance payment contract is terminated  
15 pursuant to this paragraph shall be entitled to a refund.  
16 Notwithstanding chapter 717, the board shall retain any moneys  
17 paid by the purchaser for an advance payment contract that has  
18 been terminated in accordance with this paragraph. Such moneys  
19 may be transferred to the Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship  
20 Program to provide matching funds for prepaid tuition  
21 scholarships for economically disadvantaged youths that remain  
22 drug free and crime free.

23 (l) Other terms and conditions deemed by the board to  
24 be necessary or proper.

25 (5) REFUNDS.--

26 (a) No refund shall exceed the amount paid into the  
27 fund by the purchaser except as provided in paragraphs (b) and  
28 (c).

29 (b) If the beneficiary is awarded a scholarship, the  
30 terms of which cover the benefits included in the advance  
31 payment contracts, moneys paid for the purchase of the advance

1 payment contracts shall be refunded to the purchaser in  
2 semester installments coinciding with the tuition by the  
3 beneficiary in an amount which, in total, does not exceed the  
4 redemption value of the advance payment contract at a state  
5 postsecondary institution.

6 (c) In the event of the death or total disability of  
7 the beneficiary, moneys paid for the purchase of advance  
8 payment contracts shall be refunded to the purchaser in an  
9 amount not to exceed the redemption value of the advance  
10 payment contract at a state postsecondary institution.

11 (d) If an advance payment contract is converted from  
12 one registration plan to a plan of lesser value, the amount  
13 refunded shall not exceed the difference between the amount  
14 paid for the original contract and the amount that would have  
15 been paid for the contract to which the plan is converted had  
16 the converted plan been purchased under the same payment plan  
17 at the time the original advance payment contract was  
18 executed.

19 (e) No refund shall be authorized through an advance  
20 payment contract for any school year partially attended but  
21 not completed. For purposes of this section, a school year  
22 partially attended but not completed shall mean any one  
23 semester whereby the student is still enrolled at the  
24 conclusion of the official drop-add period, but withdraws  
25 before the end of such semester. If a beneficiary does not  
26 complete a community college plan or university plan for  
27 reasons other than specified in paragraph (c), the purchaser  
28 shall receive a refund of the amount paid into the fund for  
29 the remaining unattended years of the advance payment contract  
30 pursuant to rules promulgated by the board.  
31

- 1           (6) CONFIDENTIALITY OF ACCOUNT  
2 INFORMATION.--Information that identifies the purchasers or  
3 beneficiaries of any plan promulgated under this section and  
4 their advance payment account activities is exempt from the  
5 provisions of s. 119.07(1). However, the board may authorize  
6 the program's records administrator to release such  
7 information to a community college, college, or university in  
8 which a beneficiary may enroll or is enrolled. Community  
9 colleges, colleges, and universities shall maintain such  
10 information as exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).
- 11           (7) OBLIGATIONS OF BOARD.--The state shall agree to  
12 meet the obligations of the board to qualified beneficiaries  
13 if moneys in the fund fail to offset the obligations of the  
14 board. The Legislature shall appropriate to the Florida  
15 Prepaid College Trust Fund the amount necessary to meet the  
16 obligations of the board to qualified beneficiaries.
- 17           (8) PROGRAM TERMINATION.--In the event that the state  
18 determines the prepaid program to be financially infeasible,  
19 the state may discontinue the provision of the program. Any  
20 qualified beneficiary who has been accepted by and is enrolled  
21 or is within 5 years of enrollment in an eligible independent  
22 college or university or state postsecondary institution shall  
23 be entitled to exercise the complete benefits for which he or  
24 she has contracted. All other contract holders shall receive a  
25 refund of the amount paid in and an additional amount in the  
26 nature of interest at a rate that corresponds, at a minimum,  
27 to the prevailing interest rates for savings accounts provided  
28 by banks and savings and loan associations.
- 29           (9) SCHOLARSHIPS.--A nonprofit organization described  
30 in s. 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and  
31 exempt from taxation under s. 501(a) of the United States

1 Internal Revenue Code may purchase advance payment contracts  
2 for a scholarship program that has been approved by the board  
3 and is operated by the purchasing organization.

4 Section 489. Section 1009.981, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1009.981 Florida College Savings Program.--

7 (1)(a) The Florida Prepaid College Board is authorized  
8 to create, establish, and administer the Florida College  
9 Savings Program to promote and enhance the affordability of  
10 higher education in the state and to enable persons to  
11 contribute funds that are combined and invested to pay the  
12 subsequent higher education expenses of a designated  
13 beneficiary. The board may not implement the savings program  
14 until it has obtained:

15 1. A written opinion from counsel specializing in  
16 federal tax matters indicating that the savings program  
17 constitutes a qualified tuition program under s. 529 of the  
18 Internal Revenue Code;

19 2. A written opinion from a qualified member of the  
20 United States Patent Bar indicating that the implementation of  
21 the savings program or the operation of the savings program  
22 will not knowingly infringe upon any patent or copyright  
23 specifically related to the financing of higher education  
24 expenses;

25 3. A written opinion of qualified counsel specializing  
26 in federal securities law that the savings program and the  
27 offering of participation in the savings program does not  
28 violate federal securities law; and

29 4. A written opinion from the board's litigation  
30 counsel indicating that the implementation or operation of the  
31

1 savings program will not adversely impact any pending  
2 litigation against the board.

3 (b) The benefactor retains ownership of all amounts on  
4 deposit in his or her account with the savings program up to  
5 the date of distribution on behalf of a designated  
6 beneficiary. Earnings derived from investment of the  
7 contributions shall be considered to be held in trust in the  
8 same manner as contributions, except as applied for purposes  
9 of the designated beneficiary and for purposes of maintaining  
10 and administering the program as provided in this section.

11 (c) All amounts attributable to penalties shall be  
12 used for purposes of the savings program or as required by the  
13 Internal Revenue Code, and other amounts received other than  
14 contributions shall be properties of the savings program.  
15 Proceeds from penalties shall remain with the program and may  
16 be used for any costs or purposes of the savings program or  
17 used as required by the Internal Revenue Code.

18 (d) Deposits and contributions to the program, the  
19 property of the board, and the earnings on the college savings  
20 accounts are exempt from taxation.

21 (e) The assets of the savings program shall be  
22 continuously invested and reinvested in a manner consistent  
23 with the purposes of the program, expended on expenses  
24 incurred by the operation and management of the savings  
25 program, or refunded to the benefactor or designated  
26 beneficiary under the conditions provided in the participation  
27 agreement. The board is not required to invest directly in  
28 obligations of the state or any political subdivision of the  
29 state or in any investment or other fund administered by the  
30 state.

31 (2) PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS.--

1           (a) The board may establish plans to permit  
2 benefactors to prepay the qualified higher education expenses  
3 associated with enrollment in an eligible educational  
4 institution and may permit benefactors to select from among  
5 alternative investment plans designed to provide funds to pay  
6 qualified education expenses of a designated beneficiary. The  
7 board shall not accept contributions in excess of the amount  
8 allowed pursuant to s. 529 of the Internal Revenue Code and  
9 shall prescribe by rule the methodology and information  
10 sources that shall be used to determine the projected costs of  
11 qualified higher education expenses for designated  
12 beneficiaries of prescribed ages.

13           (b) The board shall develop a participation agreement  
14 which shall be the agreement between the board and each  
15 benefactor, which may include, but is not limited to:

16           1. The name, date of birth, and social security number  
17 of the designated beneficiary.

18           2. The amount of the contribution or contributions and  
19 number of contributions required from a benefactor on behalf  
20 of a designated beneficiary.

21           3. The terms and conditions under which benefactors  
22 shall remit contributions, including, but not limited to, the  
23 date or dates upon which each contribution is due. Deposits to  
24 the savings program by benefactors may only be in cash.  
25 Benefactors may contribute in a lump sum, periodically, in  
26 installments, or through electronic funds transfer or employer  
27 payroll deductions.

28           4. Provisions for late contribution charges and for  
29 default.

30           5. Provisions for penalty fees for withdrawals from  
31 the program.

1           6. The name of the person who may terminate  
2 participation in the program. The participation agreement must  
3 specify whether the account may be terminated by the  
4 benefactor, the designated beneficiary, a specific designated  
5 person, or any combination of these persons.

6           7. The terms and conditions under which an account may  
7 be terminated, modified, or converted, the name of the person  
8 entitled to any refund due as a result of termination of the  
9 account pursuant to such terms and conditions, and the amount  
10 of refund, if any, due to the person so named.

11           8. Penalties for distributions not used or made in  
12 accordance with s. 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

13           9. Any charges or fees in connection with the  
14 administration of the savings fund.

15           10. The period of time after which each participation  
16 agreement shall be considered to be terminated. Time expended  
17 by a designated beneficiary as an active duty member of any of  
18 the armed services of the United States shall be added to the  
19 period specified pursuant to this subparagraph. Should a  
20 participation agreement be terminated, the balance of the  
21 account, after notice to the benefactor, shall be declared  
22 unclaimed and abandoned property. The board shall retain any  
23 monies paid by the benefactor for a participation agreement  
24 that has been terminated in accordance with this subparagraph.  
25 Such moneys may be transferred to the Florida Prepaid Tuition  
26 Scholarship Program to provide matching funds for prepaid  
27 tuition scholarships for economically disadvantaged youths  
28 that remain drug free and crime free.

29           11. Other terms and conditions deemed by the board to  
30 be necessary or proper.

31

1           (c) The participation agreement shall clearly state  
2 that:  
3           1. The contract is only a debt or obligation of the  
4 savings program and the savings fund, and is not otherwise a  
5 debt or obligation of the state.  
6           2. Participation in the program does not guarantee  
7 that sufficient funds will be available to cover all qualified  
8 higher education expenses for any designated beneficiary and  
9 does not guarantee admission to or continued enrollment at an  
10 eligible educational institution of any designated  
11 beneficiary.  
12           (d) The participation agreement may be freely amended  
13 throughout its term for purposes including, but not limited  
14 to, allowing to enable the benefactor to increase or decrease  
15 the level of participation, change designated beneficiaries,  
16 and carry out similar matters permitted by this section and  
17 the Internal Revenue Code.  
18           (3) DISTRIBUTIONS FOR QUALIFIED HIGHER EDUCATION  
19 EXPENSES.--The board shall establish requirements and  
20 procedures for beneficiaries to realize the benefits of  
21 participation agreements. In establishing such requirements  
22 and procedures, the board shall make distributions in as  
23 efficient and expeditious manner as is prudent and possible,  
24 consistent with the Internal Revenue Code.  
25           (4) REFUNDS.--  
26           (a) A benefactor may request a refund of the principal  
27 amount of his or her contributions, plus actual investment  
28 earnings or minus actual investment losses on the  
29 contributions, less any applicable penalty, and less any  
30 amounts used to provide benefits to the designated  
31 beneficiary.

1           **(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a penalty may not**  
2 **be levied if a benefactor requests a refund from the program**  
3 **due to:**  
4           **1. Death of the beneficiary.**  
5           **2. Total disability of the beneficiary.**  
6           **3. Scholarship, allowance, or payment received by the**  
7 **beneficiary to the extent that the amount of the refund does**  
8 **not exceed the amount of the scholarship, allowance, or**  
9 **payment in accordance with federal law.**  
10           **(c) If a benefactor requests a refund of funds**  
11 **contributed to the program for any cause other than those**  
12 **listed in paragraph (b), there shall be imposed a penalty of**  
13 **10 percent of the earnings of the account and any applicable**  
14 **taxes, or the amount required by the Internal Revenue Code.**  
15 **Earnings shall be calculated as the total value of the**  
16 **participation agreement, less the aggregate contributions, or**  
17 **in the manner prescribed in the Internal Revenue Code.**  
18           **(5) MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATION; PENALTY.--If the**  
19 **benefactor or the designated beneficiary makes any material**  
20 **misrepresentation in the application for a participation**  
21 **agreement or in any communication with the board regarding the**  
22 **program, especially regarding the withdrawal or distribution**  
23 **of funds therefrom, the account may be involuntarily**  
24 **liquidated by the board. If the account is so liquidated, the**  
25 **benefactor is entitled to a refund, subject to a 10-percent**  
26 **penalty or the amount required by the Internal Revenue Code.**  
27           **(6) CONFIDENTIALITY OF ACCOUNT**  
28 **INFORMATION.--Information that identifies the benefactors or**  
29 **the designated beneficiary of any account initiated under this**  
30 **section and information regarding individual account**  
31 **activities conducted through the savings program established**

1 in this section are confidential and exempt from the  
2 provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State  
3 Constitution. However, the board may authorize the release of  
4 such information to a community college, college, or  
5 university in which a designated beneficiary may enroll or is  
6 enrolled. Community colleges, colleges, and universities shall  
7 maintain the confidentiality of such information. This  
8 subsection is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act  
9 of 1995 in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand repealed  
10 on October 2, 2005, unless reviewed and saved from repeal  
11 through reenactment by the Legislature.

12 (7) OBLIGATIONS OF BOARD.--Any contract or  
13 participation agreement entered into by or any obligation of  
14 the board on behalf of and for the benefit of the savings  
15 program does not constitute a debt or obligation of the state  
16 but is an obligation of the savings program. The state has no  
17 obligation to any designated beneficiary or any other person  
18 as a result of the savings program. The obligation of the  
19 savings program is limited solely to those amounts deposited  
20 in the savings fund. All amounts obligated to be paid from the  
21 savings fund are limited to amounts available for such  
22 obligation. The amounts on deposit in the savings program may  
23 only be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of this  
24 section.

25 (8) PROGRAM TERMINATION.--The savings program shall  
26 continue in existence until its existence is terminated by  
27 law. If the state determines that the savings program is  
28 financially infeasible, the state may discontinue the savings  
29 program. Upon termination of the savings program, all deposits  
30 shall be returned to benefactors, to the extent possible, and  
31 any unclaimed assets in the savings program may be transferred

1 to the Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship Program to provide  
 2 matching funds for prepaid tuition scholarships for  
 3 economically disadvantaged youths that remain drug free and  
 4 crime free.

5 (9) STATE PLEDGE.--The state pledges to benefactors  
 6 and designated beneficiaries of the savings program that the  
 7 state will not limit or alter the rights under this section  
 8 which are vested in the program until such obligations are met  
 9 and discharged. However, this subsection does not preclude  
 10 such limitation if adequate provision is made by law for the  
 11 protection of the benefactors and designated beneficiaries  
 12 pursuant to the obligations of the board, and, if the state or  
 13 the board determines that the savings program is not  
 14 financially feasible, the state or the board may discontinue  
 15 the program. If the program is discontinued, the board shall  
 16 refund to benefactors their contributions to the program, plus  
 17 any investment earnings or minus any investment losses. The  
 18 board, on behalf of the state, may include this pledge and  
 19 undertaking by the state in participation agreements.

20 Section 490. Section 1009.982, Florida Statutes, is  
 21 created to read:

22 1009.982 Disclaimer.--Nothing in ss. 1009.97-1009.984  
 23 shall be construed as a promise or guarantee that a qualified  
 24 beneficiary or a designated beneficiary will be admitted to a  
 25 state postsecondary institution or to a particular state  
 26 postsecondary institution, will be allowed to continue  
 27 enrollment at a state postsecondary institution after  
 28 admission, or will be graduated from a state postsecondary  
 29 institution.

30 Section 491. Section 1009.983, Florida Statutes, is  
 31 created to read:

1           1009.983 Direct-support organization; authority.--

2           (1) The Florida Prepaid College Board may establish a  
3 direct-support organization which is:

4           (a) A Florida corporation, not for profit,  
5 incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved  
6 by the Secretary of State.

7           (b) Organized and operated exclusively to receive,  
8 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures  
9 to or for the benefit of the board.

10           (c) An organization which the board, after review, has  
11 certified to be operating in a manner consistent with the  
12 goals of the board and in the best interests of the state.  
13 Unless so certified, the organization may not use the name of  
14 the prepaid program or savings program.

15           (2) The direct-support organization shall operate  
16 under written contract with the board. The contract must  
17 provide for:

18           (a) Approval of the articles of incorporation and  
19 bylaws of the direct-support organization by the board.

20           (b) Submission of an annual budget for the approval of  
21 the board. The budget must comply with rules adopted by the  
22 board.

23           (c) Certification by the board that the direct-support  
24 organization is complying with the terms of the contract and  
25 in a manner consistent with the goals and purposes of the  
26 board and in the best interest of the state. Such  
27 certification must be made annually and reported in the  
28 official minutes of a meeting of the board.

29           (d) The reversion to the board, or to the state if the  
30 board ceases to exist, of moneys and property held in trust by  
31 the direct-support organization for the benefit of the board

1 or prepaid program if the direct-support organization is no  
2 longer approved to operate for the board or if the board  
3 ceases to exist.

4 (e) The fiscal year of the direct-support  
5 organization, which must begin July 1 of each year and end  
6 June 30 of the following year.

7 (f) The disclosure of material provisions of the  
8 contract and of the distinction between the board and the  
9 direct-support organization to donors of gifts, contributions,  
10 or bequests, and such disclosure on all promotional and  
11 fundraising publications.

12 (3) The direct-support organization shall provide for  
13 an annual financial audit in accordance with s. 215.981. The  
14 board and Auditor General may require and receive from the  
15 organization or its independent auditor any detail or  
16 supplemental data relative to the operation of the  
17 organization.

18 (4) The identity of donors who desire to remain  
19 anonymous shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions  
20 of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State  
21 Constitution, and such anonymity shall be maintained in the  
22 auditor's report. Information received by the organization  
23 that is otherwise confidential or exempt by law shall retain  
24 such status. Any sensitive, personal information regarding  
25 contract beneficiaries, including their identities, is exempt  
26 from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of  
27 the State Constitution.

28 (5) The chair and the executive director of the board  
29 shall be directors of the direct-support organization and  
30 shall jointly name, at a minimum, three other individuals to  
31 serve as directors of the organization.

1           (6) The board may authorize the direct-support  
2 organization established in this section to use board  
3 property, except money, and use facilities and personal  
4 services subject to the provisions of this section. If the  
5 direct-support organization does not provide equal employment  
6 opportunities to all persons regardless of race, color,  
7 religion, sex, age, or national origin, it may not use the  
8 property, facilities, or personal services of the board. For  
9 the purposes of this section, the term "personal services"  
10 includes full-time personnel and part-time personnel as well  
11 as payroll processing as prescribed by rule of the board. The  
12 board shall adopt rules prescribing the procedures by which  
13 the direct-support organization is governed and any conditions  
14 with which such a direct-support organization must comply to  
15 use property, facilities, or personal services of the board.

16           (7) The board may invest funds of the direct-support  
17 organization which have been allocated for the purchase of  
18 advance payment contracts for scholarships with receipts for  
19 advance payment contracts.

20           Section 492. Section 1009.984, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22           1009.984 Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship  
23 Program.--The Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship Program is  
24 established to provide economically disadvantaged youth with  
25 prepaid postsecondary tuition scholarships. The direct-support  
26 organization established pursuant to s. 1009.983 shall  
27 administer the program with the assistance and cooperation of  
28 the Department of Education to:

29           (1) Provide an incentive for economically  
30 disadvantaged youth to improve school attendance and academic  
31

1 performance in order to graduate and pursue a postsecondary  
2 education.

3 (2) Obtain the commitment and involvement of private  
4 sector entities by virtue of funding matches with a ratio of  
5 50 percent provided by the private sector and 50 percent  
6 provided by the state.

7 (3) Purchase prepaid tuition scholarships for students  
8 certified by the Department of Education to the direct-support  
9 organization who meet minimum economic and school requirements  
10 and remain drug free and crime free.

11 (a) For the purpose of this subsection, "drug free"  
12 means not being convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for,  
13 any violation of chapter 893 after being designated a  
14 recipient of a Florida prepaid tuition scholarship.

15 (b) For the purpose of this subsection, "crime free"  
16 means not being convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for,  
17 any felony or first degree misdemeanor as defined in ss.  
18 775.08 and 775.081 after being designated a recipient of a  
19 Florida prepaid tuition scholarship.

20 Section 493. Part V of chapter 1009, Florida Statutes,  
21 shall be entitled "Florida Higher Education Loan Authority"  
22 and shall consist of ss. 1009.99-1009.9994.

23 Section 494. Section 1009.99, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25 1009.99 Short title.--Sections 1009.99-1009.9994 may  
26 be cited as the "Florida Higher Education Loan Authority Act."

27 Section 495. Section 1009.991, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1009.991 Purpose.--It is the purpose of this act to  
30 provide assistance and an additional method of financing the  
31 cost of higher education to students and the families of

1 students attending institutions of higher education in this  
2 state and to encourage investment of private capital to  
3 provide funds for financing student loans.

4 Section 496. Section 1009.992, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1009.992 Definitions.--As used in this act:

7 (1) "Authority" means any public corporation created  
8 by s. 1009.993 or any board, body, commission, department, or  
9 officer of the county succeeding to the principal functions  
10 thereof or to whom the powers conferred upon an authority by  
11 this act are given by this act.

12 (2) "Authority loan" means any loan by an authority to  
13 an institution of higher education for the purpose of funding  
14 education loans.

15 (3) "Bond" or "revenue bond" means any revenue bond of  
16 an authority issued under the provisions of this act,  
17 including any revenue-refunding bond, notwithstanding that the  
18 bond may be secured by mortgage or the full faith and credit  
19 of a participating institution of higher education or any  
20 other lawfully pledged security of a participating institution  
21 of higher education.

22 (4) "Bond resolution" means the resolution of an  
23 authority and the trust agreement, if any, and any supplement  
24 or amendment to the foregoing, authorizing the issuance of,  
25 and providing for the terms and conditions applicable to,  
26 obligations.

27 (5) "Bond service charge" means the principal  
28 (including mandatory sinking fund requirements for retirement  
29 of obligations) and interest, and redemption premium, if any,  
30 required to be paid by an authority on obligations.

31

1           (6) "Borrower" means any student who has received an  
2 education loan or any parent who has received or agreed to pay  
3 an education loan.

4           (7) "Clerk" means the clerk of a commission or the  
5 county officer charged with the duties customarily imposed  
6 upon the clerk.

7           (8) "Commission" means a board of county commissioners  
8 or other body charged with governing the county.

9           (9) "Default insurance" means insurance insuring  
10 education loans, authority loans, or obligations against  
11 default.

12           (10) "Default reserve fund" means a fund established  
13 pursuant to a bond resolution for the purpose of securing  
14 education loans, authority loans, or obligations.

15           (11) "Education loan" means a loan which is made by an  
16 institution to a student or the parents of a student, or both,  
17 in an amount not in excess of the maximum amount specified in  
18 regulations to be formulated by the authority, in order to  
19 finance all or any part of the cost of the student's  
20 attendance at such institution.

21           (12) "Education loan series portfolio" means all  
22 educational loans made by a specific institution which are  
23 funded from the proceeds of an authority loan to such  
24 institution out of the proceeds of a related specific issue of  
25 obligations through the authority.

26           (13) "Institution" means any college or university  
27 which, by virtue of law or charter, is accredited by and holds  
28 membership in the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary  
29 Accreditation; which grants baccalaureate or associate  
30 degrees; which is not a pervasively sectarian institution; and  
31

1 which does not discriminate in the admission of students on  
2 the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or creed.

3 (14) "Loan funding deposit" means moneys or other  
4 property which is deposited by an institution with the  
5 authority or a trustee for the purpose of:

6 (a) Providing security for obligations;  
7 (b) Funding a default reserve fund;  
8 (c) Acquiring default insurance; or  
9 (d) Defraying costs of the authority, and

10

11 which shall be in such amounts as are deemed necessary by the  
12 authority as a condition for participation by such institution  
13 in the program of the authority.

14 (15) "Obligation" means any revenue bond, note, or  
15 other evidence of indebtedness of an authority, including any  
16 interest coupon pertaining thereto, issued under this act,  
17 including any refunding bond.

18 (16) "Parent" means any parent or guardian of a  
19 student at an institution.

20 (17) "Participating institution" means an institution  
21 of higher education which, pursuant to the provisions of this  
22 act, undertakes the financing of an educational student loan  
23 program or undertakes the refunding or refinancing of  
24 obligations, a mortgage, or advances as provided in and  
25 permitted by this act.

26 (18) "Person" means any person, firm, partnership,  
27 association, corporation, or other body, public or private.

28 Section 497. Section 1009.993, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30 1009.993 Authority; creation, membership, terms of  
31 members, expenses.--

1           (1) In each county there is created a public body  
2 corporate and politic to be known as the ".... County  
3 Education Loan Authority." Each such authority is constituted  
4 as a public instrumentality, and its exercise of the powers  
5 conferred by this act shall be deemed the performance of an  
6 essential public function. No authority shall transact any  
7 business or exercise any power pursuant to this act until the  
8 commission by ordinance or resolution declares that there is a  
9 need for an authority to function in such county.

10           (2) The commission may adopt such an ordinance or  
11 resolution of need if it finds that the youth of the county  
12 and state do not have the opportunity to attend institutions  
13 of higher learning located within the county because of their  
14 inability to obtain financing for the cost of such education  
15 and the inability of such institutions to provide adequate  
16 financial aid to their students.

17           (3) In any suit, action, or proceeding involving the  
18 validity or enforcement of or relating to any contract of the  
19 authority, the authority shall be conclusively deemed to have  
20 been established and authorized to transact business and  
21 exercise its powers hereunder upon proof of the adoption of an  
22 ordinance or resolution by the commission declaring the need  
23 for the authority. Such ordinance or resolution shall be  
24 sufficient if it declares that there is such a need for an  
25 authority in the county. A copy of such ordinance or  
26 resolution certified by the clerk shall be admissible in  
27 evidence in any suit, action, or proceeding.

28           (4) The ordinance or resolution shall designate five  
29 persons as members of the authority. The membership of the  
30 authority shall include:  
31

1       (a) A trustee, director, officer, or employee of an  
2 institution located in such county.

3       (b) One lay citizen who does not derive a majority of  
4 his or her income from education or an education-related  
5 field.

6       (c) Two persons from the commercial financial  
7 community in the county, each of whom has a favorable  
8 reputation for skill, knowledge, and experience in the field  
9 of state and municipal finance.

10       (d) One person from the commercial financial community  
11 or educational community in the state who has a favorable  
12 reputation for skill, knowledge, and experience in the field  
13 of higher education loan finance.

14       (5) Of the members first appointed, one shall serve  
15 for 1 year, one for 2 years, one for 3 years, one for 4 years,  
16 and one for 5 years, in each case until his or her successor  
17 is appointed and has qualified. Thereafter, the commission  
18 shall appoint for terms of 5 years each members to succeed  
19 those whose terms will expire. The commission shall fill any  
20 vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term. Any member of  
21 the authority may be reappointed. Any member of the authority  
22 may be removed by the commission for misfeasance, malfeasance,  
23 or willful neglect of duty. Before entering upon his or her  
24 duties, each member of the authority shall take and subscribe  
25 to the oath or affirmation required by the State Constitution.  
26 A record of each such oath shall be filed with the Department  
27 of State and with the clerk.

28       (6) The authority shall annually elect one of its  
29 members as chair and one as vice chair and shall also appoint  
30 an executive director who shall not be a member of the  
31

1 authority and who shall serve at the pleasure of the authority  
2 and receive such compensation as fixed by the authority.

3 (7) The executive director shall keep a record of the  
4 proceedings of the authority and shall be custodian of all  
5 books, documents, and papers filed with the authority; the  
6 minute book or journal of the authority; and its official  
7 seal. The director may have copies made of all minutes and  
8 other records and documents of the authority and may give  
9 certificates under the official seal of the authority to the  
10 effect that such copies are true copies, and any person  
11 dealing with the authority may rely upon any such certificate.

12 (8) Three members of the authority shall constitute a  
13 quorum, and the affirmative vote of a majority of the members  
14 present at a meeting shall be necessary for any action to be  
15 taken; however, any action may be taken by an authority with  
16 the unanimous consent of all of the members. A vacancy in the  
17 membership of the authority shall not impair the right of a  
18 quorum to exercise the rights or perform the duties of the  
19 authority. The majority shall not include any member who has a  
20 conflict of interest, and a statement by a member of a  
21 conflict of interest is conclusive for this purpose. Any  
22 action taken by the authority under the provisions of this act  
23 may be authorized by resolution at any regular or special  
24 meeting. Each such resolution shall take effect immediately  
25 and need not be published or posted.

26 (9) The members of the authority shall receive no  
27 compensation for the performance of their duties, but each  
28 member, when engaged in the performance of such duties, shall  
29 be entitled to per diem and travel expenses as provided in s.  
30 112.061.

31

1           (10) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, it  
2 shall not be, nor shall it constitute, a conflict of interest  
3 for a trustee, director, officer, or employee of an  
4 institution to serve as a member of the authority.

5           Section 498. Section 1009.994, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7           1009.994 Functions and powers of authority.--Each  
8 authority shall have the following functions and powers:

9           (1) To adopt rules for the regulation of its affairs  
10 and the conduct of its business.

11           (2) To adopt an official seal.

12           (3) To maintain an office at a place it designates.

13           (4) To sue and be sued in its own name and to plead  
14 and be impleaded.

15           (5) To establish rules for the use of education loan  
16 financing programs and to designate a participating  
17 institution as its agent to establish rules for the use of a  
18 program undertaken by such participating institution.

19           (6) To issue obligations for the purpose of making  
20 authority loans to participating institutions for the purpose  
21 of providing education loans utilizing such eligibility  
22 standards for borrowers as the authority determines to be  
23 necessary, but such standards shall include the following:

24           (a) Each student shall have a certificate of admission  
25 or enrollment at a participating institution;

26           (b) Each student or his or her parents shall satisfy  
27 such financial qualifications as the authority shall  
28 establish; and

29           (c) Each student and his or her parents shall submit  
30 such information to the applicable institution as may be  
31 required by the authority.

1           (7) To contract with financial institutions and other  
2 qualified loan origination and servicing organizations, which  
3 shall assist in prequalifying borrowers for education loans  
4 and which shall service and administer each education loan and  
5 the respective loan series portfolio of each institution, and  
6 to establish sufficient fees for each educational loan to  
7 cover the applicable pro rata cost of such servicing and  
8 originating organizations.

9           (8) To establish criteria governing the eligibility of  
10 institutions to participate in its programs, the making and  
11 allocation of authority loans and education loans, provisions  
12 for default, the establishment of default reserve funds, the  
13 purchase of default insurance, the provision of prudent debt  
14 service reserves, and the furnishing by participating  
15 institutions of such additional guarantees of the education  
16 loans, authority loans, or obligations as the authority shall  
17 determine necessary to assure the marketability of the  
18 obligations and the adequacy of the security therefor;  
19 however, the provisions applicable to participation by Florida  
20 public participating institutions in the financing programs of  
21 the authority shall be subject to approval and authorization  
22 by the budgetary and other state agencies having jurisdiction  
23 over those institutions.

24           (9) To fix, revise, charge, and collect rates, fees,  
25 and charges for services furnished by the authority and to  
26 contract with any person in respect thereto, including any  
27 financial institution, loan originator, servicer,  
28 administrator, issuer of letters of credit, or insurer.

29           (10) To employ consultants, attorneys, accountants,  
30 financial experts, loan processors, bankers, managers, and  
31

1 such other employees and agents as may be necessary and to fix  
2 their compensation.

3 (11) To receive and accept, from any source, loans,  
4 contributions, or grants for or in aid of an authority  
5 education loan financing program or any portion thereof and,  
6 when required, to use such funds, property, or labor only for  
7 the purposes for which it was loaned, contributed, or granted.

8 (12) To make authority loans to institutions and  
9 require that the proceeds thereof be used solely for making  
10 education loans or for costs and fees in connection therewith  
11 and to require institutions to obtain certification from each  
12 borrower that proceeds from any education loan are used solely  
13 for the purpose intended by this act.

14 (13) To charge to and apportion among participating  
15 institutions administrative and operating costs and expenses  
16 incurred in the exercise of the powers and duties conferred by  
17 this act.

18 (14) To borrow working capital funds and other funds  
19 as may be necessary for startup and continuing operations,  
20 provided that such funds are borrowed solely in the name of  
21 the authority. Such borrowings shall be limited obligations of  
22 the character described in s. 1009.9975 and shall be payable  
23 solely from revenues of the authority or proceeds of  
24 obligations pledged for that purpose.

25 (15) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this act,  
26 to commingle and pledge as security for a series or issue of  
27 obligations, with the consent of all of the institutions which  
28 are participating in such series or issue:

29 (a) The education loan series portfolios and some or  
30 all future education loan series portfolios of such  
31 institutions; and

1           (b) The loan funding deposits of such institutions,  
2 except that education loan series portfolios and other  
3 security and moneys set aside in any fund pledged for any  
4 series or issue of obligations shall be held for the sole  
5 benefit of such series or issue separate and apart from  
6 education loan series portfolios and other security and moneys  
7 pledged for any other series of issue of obligations of the  
8 authority. Obligations may be issued in series under one or  
9 more resolutions or trust agreements in the discretion of the  
10 authority.

11           (16) To examine records and financial reports of  
12 participating institutions and to examine records and  
13 financial reports of any contractor organization or  
14 institution retained by the authority under the provisions of  
15 this act.

16           (17) To make loans to a participating institution to  
17 refund outstanding obligations, mortgages, or advances issued,  
18 made, or given by such institution for authority loans; and  
19 whenever such refunding obligations are issued to refund  
20 obligations, the proceeds of which were used to make authority  
21 loans, the authority may reduce the amount of interest owed to  
22 it by the institution which had received authority loans from  
23 the proceeds of the refunded obligations. Such institution  
24 may use this reduced amount to reduce the amount of interest  
25 being paid on education loans which the institution had made  
26 pursuant to the authority loans from the proceeds of the  
27 refunded obligations.

28           (18) To authorize its officers, agents, and employees  
29 to take any other action which is necessary in order to carry  
30 out the purposes of this act.

31

1           Section 499. Section 1009.995, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1009.995 Expenses of authority.--All expenses incurred  
4 in carrying out the provisions of this act shall be payable  
5 solely from funds provided under the provisions of this act;  
6 and, except as specifically authorized under this act, no  
7 liability shall be incurred by an authority beyond the extent  
8 to which moneys have been provided under this act.

9           Section 500. Section 1009.996, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11           1009.996 Higher education facilities authority as  
12 higher education loan authority.--As an alternative to the  
13 creation of an authority, a commission may confer all rights,  
14 powers, privileges, duties, and immunities of an authority  
15 upon any entity in existence on July 1, 1982, which has been  
16 authorized by law to function as a higher education facilities  
17 authority pursuant to the provisions of chapter 243. Any such  
18 entity which has been vested with the rights, powers,  
19 privileges, duties, and immunities of a higher education loan  
20 authority shall be subject to all provisions and  
21 responsibilities imposed by this act, notwithstanding any  
22 provisions to the contrary in any law which established the  
23 entity. Nothing in this act shall be construed to impair or  
24 diminish any powers of any other entity in existence on July  
25 1, 1982, or to repeal, modify, or amend any law establishing  
26 such entity, except as specifically set forth herein.

27           Section 501. Section 1009.9965, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29           1009.9965 Moneys, endowments, properties; acquisition,  
30 deposit, and guarantees.--Each authority is authorized to  
31 establish specific guidelines relating to the deposits of

1 moneys, endowments, or properties by institutions which  
2 moneys, endowments, or properties would provide prudent  
3 security for education loan funding programs, authority loans,  
4 education loans, or obligations; and it may establish  
5 guidelines relating to guarantees of, or contracts to  
6 purchase, education loans or obligations by such institutions,  
7 financial institutions, or others. A default reserve fund may  
8 be established for each series or issue of obligations. In  
9 this regard, the authority is empowered to receive such  
10 moneys, endowments, properties, and guarantees as it deems  
11 appropriate and, if necessary, to take title in the name of  
12 the authority or in the name of a participating institution or  
13 a trustee, subject, however, to the limitations applicable to  
14 public participating institutions set forth in s. 1009.994(8).

15 Section 502. Section 1009.997, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17 1009.997 Conveyance of loan funding deposit to  
18 participating institutions.--When the principal of and  
19 interest on obligations of an authority issued to finance the  
20 cost of an education loan financing program, including any  
21 refunding obligations issued to refund and refinance such  
22 obligations, have been fully paid and retired or when adequate  
23 provision has been made to fully pay and retire the  
24 obligations and all other conditions of the bond resolution  
25 have been satisfied and the lien created by such bond  
26 resolution has been released in accordance with the provisions  
27 thereof, the authority shall promptly do such things and  
28 execute such deeds and conveyances as are necessary to convey  
29 any remaining moneys, properties, and other assets comprising  
30 loan funding deposits to the institutions in proportion to the  
31 amounts furnished by the respective institutions.

1 Section 503. Section 1009.9975, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1009.9975 Notes of authority.--An authority may issue  
4 its negotiable notes for any corporate purpose and renew any  
5 notes by the issuance of new notes, whether or not the notes  
6 to be renewed have matured. The authority may issue notes  
7 partly to renew notes or to discharge other obligations then  
8 outstanding and partly for any other purpose. The notes may be  
9 authorized, sold, executed, and delivered in the same manner  
10 as bonds. Any resolution authorizing notes of the authority  
11 or any issue thereof may contain any provisions which the  
12 authority is authorized to include in any resolution  
13 authorizing revenue bonds or any issue thereof, and the  
14 authority may include in any notes any terms, covenants, or  
15 conditions which it is authorized to include in any bonds.  
16 All such notes shall be payable solely from the revenues of  
17 the authority, subject only to any contractual rights of the  
18 holders of any of its notes or other obligations then  
19 outstanding.

20 Section 504. Section 1009.9976, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22 1009.9976 Issuance of obligations.--

23 (1) An authority may issue its negotiable revenue  
24 obligations for any corporate purpose. In anticipation of the  
25 sale of such obligations, the authority may issue negotiable  
26 bond anticipation notes and may renew them, but the maximum  
27 maturity of any such note, including renewals thereof, shall  
28 not exceed 5 years from the date of issue of the original  
29 note. Such notes shall be paid from revenues of the authority  
30 available therefor and not otherwise pledged or from the  
31 proceeds of sale of the revenue bonds of the authority in

1 anticipation of which they were issued. The notes shall be  
2 issued in the same manner as the revenue bonds. Such notes and  
3 the resolution authorizing them may contain any provisions,  
4 conditions, or limitations which a bond resolution of the  
5 authority may contain.

6 (2) Each issue of obligations shall be payable solely  
7 out of those revenues of the authority that pertain to the  
8 program relating to such issue, including principal and  
9 interest on authority loans and education loans; payments by  
10 institutions of higher education, banks, insurance companies,  
11 or others pursuant to letters of credit or purchase  
12 agreements; investment earnings from funds or accounts  
13 maintained pursuant to the bond resolution; insurance  
14 proceeds; loan funding deposits; proceeds of sales of  
15 education loans; proceeds of refunding obligations; and fees,  
16 charges, and other revenues of the authority from such  
17 program, subject only to any agreements with the holders of  
18 particular revenue bonds or notes pledging any particular  
19 reserves.

20 (3) The obligations may be issued as serial  
21 obligations or as term obligations, or in both forms. The  
22 obligations shall be authorized by a bond resolution of the  
23 authority and shall bear such dates; mature at such times, not  
24 to exceed the year following the last year in which the final  
25 payments in an education loan series portfolio are due or 30  
26 years, whichever is sooner, from their respective dates of  
27 issue; bear interest at such rates; be payable at such times;  
28 be in such denominations; be in such form, either coupon or  
29 fully registered; carry such registration and conversion  
30 privileges; be payable in lawful money of the United States of  
31 America at such places; and be subject to such terms of

1 redemption as such bond resolution may provide. Obligations  
2 shall be executed by the manual or facsimile signatures of  
3 such officers of the authority as shall be designated by the  
4 authority. Obligations may be sold at public or private sale  
5 in such manner and for such price as the authority shall  
6 determine. Pending preparation of the definitive bonds, the  
7 authority may issue interim receipts or certificates which  
8 shall be exchanged for such definitive bonds.

9 (4) Any bond resolution may contain provisions, which  
10 shall be a part of the contract with the holders of the  
11 obligations to be authorized, as to:

12 (a) The pledging or assigning of all or part of the  
13 revenues derived from the authority loans and education loans  
14 to secure the payment of the obligations to be issued.

15 (b) The fees and other amounts to be charged; the sums  
16 to be raised in each year thereby; and the use, investment,  
17 and disposition of such sums.

18 (c) The setting aside of loan funding deposits, debt  
19 service reserves, capitalized interest accounts, cost of  
20 insurance accounts, and sinking funds and the regulation,  
21 investment, and disposition thereof.

22 (d) Limitations on the right of the authority or its  
23 agent to restrict and regulate the use of education loans.

24 (e) Limitations on the purpose to which the proceeds  
25 of sale of any issue of obligations then or thereafter to be  
26 issued may be invested or applied.

27 (f) Limitations on the issuance of additional  
28 obligations; the terms upon which additional obligations may  
29 be issued and secured; the terms upon which additional  
30 obligations may rank on a parity with, or be subordinate or  
31

1 superior to, other obligations; and the refunding of  
2 outstanding obligations.

3 (g) The procedure, if any, by which the terms of any  
4 contract with bondholders may be amended or abrogated, the  
5 amount of obligations the holders of which must consent  
6 thereto, and the manner in which such consent may be given.

7 (h) Limitations on the amount of moneys derived from  
8 the loan program to be expended for operating, administrative,  
9 or other expenses of the authority.

10 (i) Defining the acts or omissions to act which  
11 constitute a default in the duties of the authority to holders  
12 of obligations and providing the rights or remedies of such  
13 holders in the event of a default.

14 (j) Providing for guarantees, pledges or endowments,  
15 letters of credit, property, or other security for the benefit  
16 of the holders of such obligations.

17 (k) Any other matters relating to the obligations  
18 which the authority deems desirable to include in the bond  
19 resolution.

20 (5) Neither the members of the authority nor any  
21 person executing the obligations shall be liable personally on  
22 the obligations or be subject to any personal liability or  
23 accountability by reason of the issuance thereof.

24 (6) The authority shall have power to purchase its  
25 obligations out of any funds available therefor. The  
26 authority may hold, pledge, cancel, or resell such obligations  
27 subject to and in accordance with agreements with bondholders.

28 (7) The authority shall have the power to refund any  
29 of its obligations. Such refunding obligations shall be  
30 issued in the same manner as other obligations of the  
31 authority.

1           Section 505. Section 1009.9977, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1009.9977 Trust agreement to secure obligations.--In  
4 the discretion of the authority, any obligations issued under  
5 the provisions of this act may be secured by a trust agreement  
6 by and between the authority and a corporate trustee, which  
7 may be any trust company or bank having the powers of a trust  
8 company within or without the state. The trust agreement may  
9 pledge or assign the revenues to be received by the authority;  
10 may contain such provisions for protecting and enforcing the  
11 rights and remedies of the bondholders as may be reasonable  
12 and proper and not in violation of law, particularly including  
13 such provisions as have hereinabove been specifically  
14 authorized to be included in any bond resolution of the  
15 authority; and may restrict individual rights of action by  
16 bondholders. Any bank or trust company incorporated under the  
17 laws of this state which may act as depository of the proceeds  
18 of bonds or of revenues or other moneys may furnish such  
19 indemnifying bonds or pledge such securities as may be  
20 required by the authority. Any such trust agreement may set  
21 forth the rights and remedies of the bondholders and of the  
22 trustee. In addition, any trust agreement may contain such  
23 other provisions as the authority may deem reasonable and  
24 proper for the security of the bondholders. All expenses  
25 incurred in carrying out the provisions of the trust agreement  
26 may be treated as part of the cost of the operation of an  
27 education loan program.

28           Section 506. Section 1009.9978, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30           1009.9978 Payment of obligations.--Obligations issued  
31 under the provisions of this act shall not be deemed to

1 constitute a debt or liability of the state or the county or a  
2 pledge of the faith and credit of the state or any county, but  
3 such obligations shall be payable solely from the funds herein  
4 provided therefor from revenues. Each such obligation shall  
5 contain on its face a statement to the effect that neither the  
6 county nor the authority shall be obligated to pay the same or  
7 the interest thereon except from revenues of the loan program  
8 for which it is issued and that neither the faith and credit  
9 nor the taxing power of the state or of any political  
10 subdivision thereof is pledged to the payment of the principal  
11 of or the interest on such bonds. The issuance of obligations  
12 under the provisions of this act shall not directly,  
13 indirectly, or contingently obligate the state or any  
14 political subdivision thereof to levy or pledge any form of  
15 taxation whatever therefor or to make any appropriation for  
16 their payment.

17 Section 507. Section 1009.9979, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1009.9979 Pledge of revenues.--Each authority shall  
20 fix, revise, charge, and collect fees, and it is empowered to  
21 contract with any person in respect thereof. Each agreement  
22 entered into by the authority with an institution shall  
23 provide that the fees and other amounts payable by the  
24 institution of higher education with respect to any program of  
25 the authority shall be sufficient at all times to:

26 (1) Pay the institution's share of the administrative  
27 costs and expenses of such program;

28 (2) Pay the principal of, the premium, if any, on, and  
29 the interest on outstanding obligations of the authority which  
30 have been issued in respect of such program to the extent that  
31 other revenues of the authority pledged for the payment of the

1 obligations are insufficient to pay the obligations as they  
2 become due and payable;

3 (3) Create and maintain reserves which may, but need  
4 not, be required or provided for in the bond resolution  
5 relating to such obligations of the authority; and

6 (4) Establish and maintain whatever education loan  
7 servicing, control, or audit procedures are deemed necessary  
8 to the prudent operations of the authority.

9  
10 The authority shall pledge the revenues from each program as  
11 security for the issue of obligations relating to such  
12 program. Such pledge shall be valid and binding from the time  
13 the pledge is made; the revenues so pledged by the authority  
14 shall immediately be subject to the lien of such pledge  
15 without any physical delivery thereof or further act, and the  
16 lien of any such pledge shall be valid and binding against all  
17 parties having claims of any kind in tort, in contract, or  
18 otherwise against the authority or any participating  
19 institution, irrespective of whether such parties have notice  
20 thereof.

21 Section 508. Section 1009.998, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23 1009.998 Funds as trust funds.--All moneys received by  
24 or on behalf of an authority pursuant to this act, whether as  
25 proceeds from the sale of obligations or as revenues, shall be  
26 deemed to be trust funds to be held and applied solely as  
27 provided in this act. Any officer with whom, or any bank or  
28 trust company with which, such moneys are deposited shall act  
29 as trustee of such moneys and shall hold and apply the same  
30 for the purposes of this act, subject to such regulations as  
31

1 this act and the bond resolution authorizing the issue of any  
2 obligations may provide.

3 Section 509. Section 1009.9981, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1009.9981 Obligations; qualities of investment  
6 securities.--All obligations issued under the provisions of  
7 this act, regardless of form or terms, shall have all the  
8 qualities and incidents, including negotiability, of  
9 investment securities under the Uniform Commercial Code.  
10 Compliance with the provisions of such code respecting the  
11 filing of a financing statement to perfect a security interest  
12 is not necessary for perfecting any security interest granted  
13 by an authority.

14 Section 510. Section 1009.9982, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 1009.9982 Rights of holders of obligations.--Any  
17 holder of obligations issued pursuant to this act or a trustee  
18 under a trust agreement entered into pursuant to this act,  
19 except to the extent that the rights herein given may be  
20 restricted by any bond resolution or trust agreement, may, by  
21 any suitable form of legal proceedings:

22 (1) Protect and enforce any and all rights under the  
23 laws of this state or granted hereunder or by the bond  
24 resolution or trust agreement;

25 (2) Enjoin unlawful activities; and

26 (3) In the event of default with respect to the  
27 payment of any principal of, premiums, if any, on, and  
28 interest on any obligation or in the performance of any  
29 covenant or agreement on the part of the authority in the bond  
30 resolution, apply to the circuit court to appoint a receiver  
31 to administer and operate the education loan program or

1 programs, the revenues of which are pledged to the payment of  
2 principal of, premium, if any, on, and interest on such  
3 obligations, with full power to pay, and to provide for  
4 payment of, principal of, premium, if any, on, and interest on  
5 such obligations and with such powers, subject to the  
6 direction of the court, as are permitted by law and are  
7 accorded receivers, excluding any power to pledge additional  
8 revenues of the authority to the payment of such principal,  
9 premium, and interest.

10 Section 511. Section 1009.9983, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1009.9983 Refunding obligations; purpose, proceeds;  
13 investment of proceeds.--

14 (1) An authority may provide for the issuance of  
15 obligations for the purpose of refunding any of its  
16 obligations then outstanding, including the payment of any  
17 redemption premium thereon and any interest accrued or to  
18 accrue to the earliest or any subsequent date of redemption,  
19 purchase, or maturity of such obligations.

20 (2) The proceeds of any such obligations issued for  
21 the purpose of refunding outstanding obligations may, in the  
22 discretion of the authority, be applied to the purchase or  
23 retirement at maturity or redemption of such outstanding  
24 obligations either on their earliest or any subsequent  
25 redemption date or upon the purchase or at the maturity  
26 thereof and may, pending such application, be placed in escrow  
27 to be applied to such purchase or retirement at maturity or  
28 redemption on such date as may be determined by the authority.

29 (3) Any such escrowed proceeds, pending such use, may  
30 be invested and reinvested in direct obligations of the United  
31 States of America or in certificates of deposit or time

1 deposits of financial institutions secured as to principal by  
2 such direct obligations, which direct obligations,  
3 certificates of deposit, or time deposits mature at such time  
4 as shall be appropriate to assure the prompt payment, as to  
5 principal, interest, and redemption premium, if any, of the  
6 outstanding obligations to be so refunded. The interest,  
7 income, and profits, if any, earned or realized on any such  
8 investment may also be applied to the payment of the  
9 outstanding obligations to be so refunded. After the terms of  
10 the escrow have been fully satisfied and carried out, any  
11 balance of such proceeds and interest, income, and profits, if  
12 any, earned or realized on the investments thereof shall be  
13 returned to the authority for use in any lawful manner.

14 (4) All such refunding bonds shall be subject to this  
15 act in the same manner and to the same extent as other revenue  
16 bonds issued pursuant to this act.

17 Section 512. Section 1009.9984, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1009.9984 Investment of funds of authority.--Except as  
20 otherwise provided in s. 1009.9983(3), an authority may invest  
21 any funds in:

22 (1) Direct obligations of the United States of  
23 America;

24 (2) Obligations as to which the timely payment of  
25 principal and interest is fully guaranteed by the United  
26 States of America;

27 (3) Obligations of the Federal Intermediate Credit  
28 Banks, Federal Banks for Cooperatives, Federal Land Banks,  
29 Federal Home Loan Banks, Federal National Mortgage  
30 Association, Government National Mortgage Association, and  
31 Student Loan Marketing Association;

1           (4) Certificates of deposit or time deposits  
2 constituting direct obligations of any financial institution  
3 as defined by the financial institutions codes, as now or  
4 hereafter amended, except that investments may be made only in  
5 those certificates of deposit or time deposits in financial  
6 institutions which are insured by the appropriate federal  
7 regulatory agency as defined in s. 655.005; and

8           (5) Withdrawable capital accounts or deposits of state  
9 or federally chartered savings and loan associations which are  
10 insured by an agency of the Federal Government. Any such  
11 securities may be purchased at the offering or market price  
12 thereof at the time of such purchase. All such securities so  
13 purchased shall mature or be redeemable on a date prior to the  
14 time when, in the judgment of the authority, the funds so  
15 invested will be required for expenditure. The express  
16 judgment of the authority as to the time when any funds will  
17 be required for expenditure or be redeemable is final and  
18 conclusive.

19           Section 513. Section 1009.9985, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21           1009.9985 Obligations as legal investments.--Any bank,  
22 banker, trust company, savings bank or institution, building  
23 and loan association, savings and loan association, investment  
24 company, or other person carrying on a banking business or  
25 investment business; insurance company or insurance  
26 association; executor, administrator, guardian, trustee, or  
27 other fiduciary; or public officer or public body of the state  
28 or its political subdivisions may legally invest any sinking  
29 funds, moneys, or other funds belonging to it or within its  
30 control in any obligations issued pursuant to this act.  
31

1           Section 514. Section 1009.9986, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:  
3           1009.9986 Validation of bonds and proceedings.--A  
4 higher education loan authority shall determine its authority  
5 to issue any of its bonds, and the legality of all proceedings  
6 in connection therewith, as provided in chapter 75.

7           Section 515. Section 1009.9987, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:  
9           1009.9987 Actions to contest validity of bonds.--An  
10 action or proceeding to contest the validity of any bond  
11 issued under this act, other than a proceeding pursuant to s.  
12 1009.9986, shall be commenced within 30 days after  
13 notification, in a newspaper of general circulation within the  
14 area, of the passage by the authority of the resolution  
15 authorizing the issuance of such bond.

16           Section 516. Section 1009.9988, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:  
18           1009.9988 Annual report.--Each authority shall keep an  
19 accurate account of all of its activities and shall annually  
20 provide a report thereof to the commission and to the  
21 Commissioner of Education. Such report shall be a public  
22 record and open for inspection at the offices of the authority  
23 during normal business hours. The report shall include:  
24           (1) Summaries of all applications by institutions of  
25 higher education for education loan financing assistance  
26 presented to the authority during such fiscal year;  
27           (2) Summaries of all education loan programs which  
28 have received any form of financial assistance from the  
29 authority during such year;  
30           (3) The nature and amount of all education loan  
31 financing assistance;

1           (4) A report concerning the financial condition of the  
2 various education loan series portfolios; and

3           (5) Projected activities of the authority for the next  
4 fiscal year, including projections of the total amount of  
5 financial assistance anticipated and the amount of obligations  
6 that will be necessary to provide the projected level of  
7 assistance during the next fiscal year.

8           Section 517. Section 1009.9989, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10           1009.9989 Act as alternative method.--This act shall  
11 be deemed to provide a complete, additional, and alternative  
12 method for the doing of the things authorized hereby and shall  
13 be regarded as supplemental and additional to powers or rights  
14 conferred by other laws; however, the issuance of obligations  
15 and refunding obligations under this act need not comply with  
16 the requirements of any other law applicable to the issuance  
17 of obligations. Except as otherwise expressly provided in  
18 this act, none of the powers granted to an authority under  
19 this act shall be subject to the supervision or regulation, or  
20 require the approval or consent, of any municipality or  
21 political subdivision or any department, division, commission,  
22 board, body, bureau, official, or agency thereof or of the  
23 state.

24           Section 518. Section 1009.9990, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26           1009.9990 State agreement.--The state does hereby  
27 pledge to and agree with the holders of any obligations issued  
28 under this act, and with those parties who may enter into  
29 contracts with an authority pursuant to the provisions of this  
30 act, that the state will not limit or alter the rights hereby  
31 vested in the authority until such obligations, together with

1 the interest thereon, are fully met and discharged and such  
 2 contracts are fully performed on the part of the authority;  
 3 however, nothing herein contained shall preclude such  
 4 limitation or alteration if adequate provision is made by law  
 5 for the protection of the holders of such obligations of an  
 6 authority or those entering into such contracts with an  
 7 authority. An authority is authorized to include this pledge  
 8 and undertaking for the state in such obligations or  
 9 contracts.

10 Section 519. Section 1009.9991, Florida Statutes, is  
 11 created to read:

12 1009.9991 Conflicts of interest.--

13 (1) If any member, officer, or employee of an  
 14 authority has an interest, either direct or indirect, in any  
 15 contract to which the authority is, or is to be, a party or in  
 16 any institution requesting an authority loan from the  
 17 authority, such interest shall be disclosed to the authority  
 18 in writing and shall be set forth in the minutes of the  
 19 authority. The person having such interest shall not  
 20 participate in any action by the authority with respect to  
 21 such contract or such institution.

22 (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
 23 limit the right of any member, officer, or employee of an  
 24 authority to acquire an interest in bonds of the authority or  
 25 to have an interest in any banking institution in which the  
 26 bonds of the authority are, or are to be, deposited or which  
 27 is, or is to be, acting as trustee or paying agent under any  
 28 bond resolution, trust indenture, or similar instrument to  
 29 which the authority is a party.

30 Section 520. Section 1009.9992, Florida Statutes, is  
 31 created to read:

1           1009.9992 Liberal construction.--This act, being  
2 necessary for the welfare of the state and its inhabitants,  
3 shall be liberally construed to effect its purpose.

4           Section 521. Section 1009.9993, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1009.9993 Tax exemption.--Neither an authority nor its  
7 agent or trustee shall be required to pay any taxes or  
8 assessments upon any transactions, or any property acquired or  
9 used by the authority or its agents or trustees under the  
10 provisions of this act or upon the income therefrom. Any  
11 bonds, notes, or other obligations issued under the provisions  
12 of this act and their transfer and the income therefrom,  
13 including any profit made on the sale thereof, shall at all  
14 times be exempt from taxation of any kind by the state or any  
15 of its political subdivisions. The exemption granted by this  
16 section shall not be applicable to any tax imposed by chapter  
17 220 on interest, income, or profits on debt obligations owned  
18 by corporations.

19           Section 522. Section 1009.9994, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21           1009.9994 State Board of Administration authority to  
22 borrow and lend funds to finance student loans; conditions and  
23 limitations.--

24           (1) The State of Florida, acting through the State  
25 Board of Administration, is authorized to borrow funds to  
26 finance student loans and to lend such funds to eligible  
27 lenders described under the provisions of the Higher Education  
28 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. ss. 1071 et seq.), as amended or as may  
29 be amended, or other federal laws providing for the guarantee  
30 of loans to students and the partial payment of interest on  
31 such loans by the United States Government.

1           (2) In order to obtain such funds, the State of  
2 Florida, acting through the State Board of Administration, is  
3 authorized to enter into loan agreements and interlocal  
4 agreements with any county, municipality, special district, or  
5 other local governmental body. Such agreements shall be for  
6 such periods and under such terms and conditions as may be  
7 mutually agreed upon by the parties thereto in order to carry  
8 out the purposes of s. 15, Art. VII of the State Constitution.  
9 The loans shall be repaid only from the proceeds received  
10 under loan agreements with eligible lenders or from the  
11 proceeds received from the repayment of the student loans.  
12 Such agreements shall provide that the loans to the state will  
13 not constitute a general or moral obligation or a pledge of  
14 the faith and credit or the taxing power of the state.  
15           (3) The State of Florida, acting through the State  
16 Board of Administration, is further authorized to enter into  
17 loan agreements or other contracts under which the state will  
18 loan the funds obtained from the local governments to eligible  
19 lenders as defined in s. 435(g)(1)(D) of the Higher Education  
20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. ss. 1071 et seq.), as amended or as may  
21 be amended, or other federal laws providing for the guarantee  
22 of loans to students and the partial payment of interest on  
23 such loans by the United States Government. Such agreements  
24 or contracts shall be for such periods and under such terms  
25 and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties  
26 thereto in order to carry out the purposes of s. 15, Art. VII  
27 of the State Constitution. Higher Education Loan Program of  
28 Florida, Inc., a Florida nonprofit corporation, is hereby  
29 designated an eligible lender hereunder, and any other lender,  
30 to the extent permitted under s. 435(g)(1)(D) of the Higher  
31 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. ss. 1071 et seq.), as amended

1 or as may be amended, or other federal laws providing for the  
2 guarantee of loans to students and the partial payment of  
3 interest on such loans by the United States Government, may be  
4 designated by the Governor, with the concurrence of the State  
5 Board of Administration, as an eligible lender hereunder.

6 (4) The State of Florida, acting through the State  
7 Board of Administration, is further authorized to enter into  
8 such further contracts and to take such further actions as may  
9 be necessary or convenient in order to carry out the purposes  
10 of this section.

11 (5) Notice shall be published in a newspaper of  
12 general circulation within the territorial jurisdiction of the  
13 governmental body following adoption by the local governmental  
14 body of a resolution authorizing a loan agreement or  
15 interlocal agreement under this section. An action or  
16 proceeding to contest the validity of any such loan agreement  
17 or interlocal agreement must be commenced within 30 days after  
18 publication of such notice.

19 (6) The provisions of this section shall be liberally  
20 construed in order to effectively carry out its purposes.  
21 This section shall be deemed to provide an additional and  
22 alternative method for the doing of the things authorized  
23 hereby and shall be regarded as supplemental to powers  
24 conferred by other laws, and shall not be regarded as in  
25 derogation of any powers now existing.

26 Section 523. Contingent upon ss. 1011.41 and  
27 1011.4106, Florida Statutes, which transfer funding associated  
28 with student tuition and fees and other authorized fees for  
29 services to local accounts to be managed by university boards  
30 of trustees, becoming law, the total receipts of the state  
31 which are subject to the revenue limitations of Article VII,

1 Section 1(e) of the Florida Constitution shall be reduced by  
 2 the Revenue Estimation Conference to reflect this transfer.

3 Section 524. Chapter 1010, Florida Statutes, shall be  
 4 entitled "Financial Matters" and shall consist of ss.  
 5 1010.01-1010.86.

6 Section 525. Part I of chapter 1010, Florida Statutes,  
 7 shall be entitled "General Accounting Requirements" and shall  
 8 consist of ss. 1010.01-1010.11.

9 Section 526. Section 1010.01, Florida Statutes, is  
 10 created to read:

11 1010.01 Uniform records and accounts.--

12 (1) The financial records and accounts of each school  
 13 district, community college, university, and other institution  
 14 or agency under the supervision of the State Board of  
 15 Education shall be prepared and maintained as prescribed by  
 16 law and rules of the State Board of Education.

17 (2) Rules of the State Board of Education shall  
 18 incorporate the requirements of law and the appropriate  
 19 requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board  
 20 (GASB) for State and Local Government.

21 (3) Required financial accounts and reports shall  
 22 include provisions that are unique to each of the following:  
 23 K-12 school districts, community colleges, and state  
 24 universities, and shall provide for the data to be reported to  
 25 the National Center of Educational Statistics and other  
 26 governmental and professional educational data information  
 27 services as appropriate.

28 Section 527. Section 1010.011, Florida Statutes, is  
 29 created to read:

30 1010.011 Definition.--For purposes of chapters 1010  
 31 and 1011, the following terms: university, universities, and

1 university board of trustees include New College under the  
2 supervision of the State Board of Education.

3 Section 528. Section 1010.02, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1010.02 Financial accounting and expenditures.--All  
6 funds accruing to a school district, a community college, or a  
7 university must be received, accounted for, and expended in  
8 accordance with law and rules of the State Board of Education.

9 Section 529. Section 1010.03, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11 1010.03 Delinquent accounts.--District school boards,  
12 community college boards of trustees, and university boards of  
13 trustees:

14 (1) Shall exert every effort to collect all delinquent  
15 accounts.

16 (2) May charge off or settle such accounts as may  
17 prove uncollectible.

18 (3) May employ the services of a collection agency  
19 when deemed advisable in collecting delinquent accounts.

20 (4) May adopt rules, as necessary, to implement the  
21 provisions of this section, including setoff procedures,  
22 payroll deductions, and restrictions on release of  
23 transcripts, awarding of diplomas, and access to other  
24 resources and services of the school district, community  
25 college, or university.

26 Section 530. Section 1010.04, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1010.04 Purchasing.--

29 (1) Purchases and leases by school districts,  
30 community colleges, and universities shall comply with the  
31 requirements of law and rules of the State Board of Education.

1           (2) Each district school board, community college  
2 board of trustees, and each university board of trustees shall  
3 adopt rules to be followed in making purchases.

4           (3) In districts in which the county purchasing agent  
5 is authorized by law to make purchases for the benefit of  
6 other governmental agencies within the county, the district  
7 school board and community college board of trustees shall  
8 have the option to purchase from the current county contracts  
9 at the unit price stated therein if such purchase is to the  
10 economic advantage of the district school board or the  
11 community college board of trustees; subject to confirmation  
12 of the items of purchase to the standards and specifications  
13 prescribed by the school district or community college.

14           (4) The State Board of Education may, by rule, provide  
15 for alternative procedures for bidding or purchasing in cases  
16 in which the character of the item requested renders  
17 competitive bidding impractical.

18           Section 531. Section 1010.05, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20           1010.05 Federal grants; maximization of indirect cost  
21 allowance.--The Department of Education shall maximize the  
22 available federal indirect cost allowed on all federal grants.  
23 Beginning with the 2002-2003 fiscal year, none of the funds  
24 received from indirect cost allowance shall be expended by the  
25 department without specific appropriation by the Legislature.  
26 Funds received pursuant to s. 1004.22 are specifically exempt  
27 from this provision.

28           Section 532. Section 1010.07, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30           1010.07 Bonds or insurance required.--  
31

1           (1) Each district school board, community college  
2 board of trustees, and university board of trustees shall  
3 ensure that each official and employee responsible for  
4 handling, expending, or authorizing the expenditure of funds  
5 shall be appropriately bonded or insured to protect the board  
6 and the funds involved.

7           (2) Contractors paid from school district, community  
8 college, or university funds shall give bond for the faithful  
9 performance of their contracts in such amount and for such  
10 purposes as prescribed by s. 255.05 or by rules of the State  
11 Board of Education relating to the type of contract involved.  
12 It shall be the duty of the district school board, community  
13 college board of trustees, and university board of trustees to  
14 require construction contractors a bond adequate to protect  
15 the board and the board's funds involved.

16           Section 533. Section 1010.08, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18           1010.08 Promotion and public relations; funding.--Each  
19 district school board and community college board of trustees  
20 may budget and use a portion of the funds accruing to it from  
21 auxiliary enterprises and undesignated gifts for promotion and  
22 public relations as prescribed by rules of the State Board of  
23 Education. Such funds may be used to provide hospitality to  
24 business guests in the district or elsewhere. However, such  
25 hospitality expenses may not exceed the amount authorized for  
26 such contingency funds as prescribed by rules of the State  
27 Board of Education.

28           Section 534. Section 1010.09, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30           1010.09 Direct-support organizations.--School  
31 district, community college, and university direct-support

1 organizations shall be organized and conducted under the  
2 provisions of ss. 1004.28, 1004.70, 1013.77 and rules of the  
3 State Board of Education, as applicable.

4 Section 535. Section 1010.11, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1010.11 Electronic transfer of funds.--Pursuant to the  
7 provisions of s. 215.85, each district school board, community  
8 college board of trustees, and university board of trustees  
9 shall adopt written policies prescribing the accounting and  
10 control procedures under which any funds under their control  
11 are allowed to be moved by electronic transaction for any  
12 purpose including direct deposit, wire transfer, withdrawal,  
13 or investment. Electronic transactions shall comply with the  
14 provisions of chapter 668.

15 Section 536. Part II of chapter 1010, Florida  
16 Statutes, shall be entitled "Financial Reporting" and shall  
17 consist of ss. 1010.20-1010.24.

18 Section 537. Section 1010.20, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1010.20 Cost accounting and reporting for school  
21 districts.--

22 (1) COST ACCOUNTING.--Each school district shall  
23 account for expenditures of all state, local, and federal  
24 funds on a school-by-school and a district-aggregate basis in  
25 accordance with the manual developed by the Department of  
26 Education or as provided by law.

27 (2) COST REPORTING.--

28 (a) Each district shall report on a district-aggregate  
29 basis expenditures for inservice training pursuant to s.  
30 1011.62(3) and for categorical programs as provided in s.  
31 1011.62(5).

1       (b) Each district shall report on a school-by-school  
2 and on an aggregate district basis expenditures for each  
3 program funded in s. 1011.62(1)(c).

4       (c) The Commissioner of Education shall present to the  
5 Legislature, prior to the opening of the regular session each  
6 year, a district-by-district report of the expenditures  
7 reported pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b). The report shall  
8 include total expenditures, a detailed analysis showing  
9 expenditures for each program, and such other data as may be  
10 useful for management of the education system. The  
11 Commissioner of Education shall also compute cost factors  
12 relative to the base student allocation for each funded  
13 program in s. 1011.62(1)(c).

14       (3) PROGRAM EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS.--

15       (a) Each district shall expend at least the percent of  
16 the funds generated by each of the programs listed in this  
17 section on the aggregate total school costs for such programs:

18           1. Kindergarten and grades 1, 2, and 3, 90 percent.

19           2. Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, 80 percent.

20           3. Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, 80 percent.

21           4. Programs for exceptional students, on an aggregate  
22 program basis, 90 percent.

23           5. Grades 7 through 12 career and technical education  
24 programs, on an aggregate program basis, 80 percent.

25           6. Students-at-risk programs, on an aggregate program  
26 basis, 80 percent.

27           7. Juvenile justice programs, on an aggregate program  
28 basis, 80 percent.

29           8. Any new program established and funded under s.  
30 1011.62(1)(c), that is not included under subparagraphs 1.-6.,  
31 on an aggregate basis as appropriate, 80 percent.

1           (b) Funds for inservice training established in s.  
2 1011.62(3) and for categorical programs established in s.  
3 1011.62(5) shall be expended for the costs of the identified  
4 programs as provided by law and in accordance with the rules  
5 of the State Board of Education.

6           Section 538. Section 1010.21, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8           1010.21 Indirect costs.--District school boards shall  
9 assess district indirect costs only for services received by  
10 the program or institution against which such cost is  
11 assessed. When assigning each specific indirect cost to  
12 multiple programs or institutions, district school boards  
13 shall identify one basis for the assessment of such cost and  
14 shall maintain the same basis for assigning such cost to each  
15 program or institution.

16           Section 539. Section 1010.215, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18           1010.215 Educational funding accountability.--

19           (1) As used in this section, the term:

20           (a) "Administrative personnel" means those employees  
21 responsible for management functions such as the development  
22 of broad policies and implementation of those policies through  
23 the direction of personnel.

24           (b) "Educational support personnel" means  
25 district-based and school-based employees, including  
26 professional staff, technicians, secretaries, clerks, skilled  
27 workers, transportation employees, food service employees, and  
28 custodial and maintenance workers.

29           (c) "Instructional personnel" means classroom  
30 teachers, including substitute teachers.

31

1           (d) "Instructional specialists" means staff members  
2 responsible for providing student personnel services,  
3 librarians, and media specialists.

4           (e) "Instructional support personnel" means aides or  
5 assistants to instructional personnel or instructional  
6 specialists.

7           (f) "Managers" means instructional and  
8 noninstructional employees with some managerial and  
9 supervisory functions, although primarily responsible for  
10 general operations. This category includes only  
11 district-based employees.

12           (2) Each district school board must classify each  
13 employee of the district school board into one of the  
14 following categories:

15           (a) Instructional personnel;

16           (b) Instructional specialists;

17           (c) Instructional support personnel;

18           (d) Administrative personnel;

19           (e) Managers; or

20           (f) Educational support personnel.

21  
22 The district school board shall notify each employee of such  
23 classification.

24           (3)(a) The school public accountability report to  
25 parents must include the number of employees in each of the  
26 categories listed in subsection (2), by work location.  
27 However, this does not include the number of temporary  
28 substitute employees.

29           (b) Any teacher-to-student ratio or class size measure  
30 required by law or State Board of Education rule must be  
31 computed by dividing the number of students in membership at

1 the school by the number of full-time equivalent instructional  
2 personnel pursuant to paragraph (2)(a). Class size reports for  
3 exceptional student education shall be computed by dividing  
4 the number of exceptional students in membership by the number  
5 of full-time equivalent exceptional education classroom  
6 teachers who are classified as instructional personnel  
7 pursuant to paragraph (2)(a).

8 (4)(a) All expenditures within the general and special  
9 revenue funds for each district school board, including  
10 salaries, benefits, purchased services, energy services,  
11 materials and supplies, capital outlay, and miscellaneous  
12 expenditures, for the following purposes are classified as  
13 administrative expenditures:

- 14 1. District school board.
- 15 2. General administration.
- 16 3. School administration, excluding support  
17 expenditures.
- 18 4. Facilities acquisition and construction at the  
19 district level.
- 20 5. Fiscal services.
- 21 6. Central services at the district level.

22 (b) All expenditures within the general and special  
23 revenue funds for each district school board, including  
24 salaries, benefits, purchased services, energy services,  
25 materials and supplies, capital outlay, and miscellaneous  
26 expenditures, for the following purposes are classified as  
27 instructional expenditures:

- 28 1. Instruction.
- 29 2. Instructional support services, including student  
30 personnel services, instructional media services, instruction  
31

1 and curriculum development, and instructional staff training  
 2 services.

3       3. School administration, including support  
 4 expenditures.

5       4. Facilities acquisition and construction at the  
 6 school level.

7       5. Food services.

8       6. Central services at the school level.

9       7. Student transportation services.

10       8. Operation of plant.

11       9. Maintenance of plant.

12

13 Definitions for the functions specified in this subsection are  
 14 specified in State Board of Education rules.

15       (5) The annual school public accountability report  
 16 required by ss. 1001.42(16) and 1008.345 must include a school  
 17 financial report. The purpose of the school financial report  
 18 is to better inform parents and the public concerning how  
 19 revenues were spent to operate the school during the prior  
 20 fiscal year. Each school's financial report must follow a  
 21 uniform, districtwide format that is easy to read and  
 22 understand.

23       (a) Total revenue must be reported at the school,  
 24 district, and state levels. The revenue sources that must be  
 25 addressed are state and local funds, other than lottery funds;  
 26 lottery funds; federal funds; and private donations.

27       (b) Expenditures must be reported as the total  
 28 expenditures per unweighted full-time equivalent student at  
 29 the school level and the average expenditures per full-time  
 30 equivalent student at the district and state levels in each of  
 31 the following categories and subcategories:

- 1           1. Teachers, excluding substitute teachers, and  
2 education paraprofessionals who provide direct classroom  
3 instruction to students enrolled in programs classified by s.  
4 1011.62 as:
- 5           a. Basic programs;
  - 6           b. Students-at-risk programs;
  - 7           c. Special programs for exceptional students;
  - 8           d. Career education programs; and
  - 9           e. Adult programs.
- 10           2. Substitute teachers.
- 11           3. Other instructional personnel, including  
12 school-based instructional specialists and their assistants.
- 13           4. Contracted instructional services, including  
14 training for instructional staff and other contracted  
15 instructional services.
- 16           5. School administration, including school-based  
17 administrative personnel and school-based education support  
18 personnel.
- 19           6. The following materials, supplies, and operating  
20 capital outlay:
- 21           a. Textbooks;
  - 22           b. Computer hardware and software;
  - 23           c. Other instructional materials;
  - 24           d. Other materials and supplies; and
  - 25           e. Library media materials.
  - 26           7. Food services.
  - 27           8. Other support services.
  - 28           9. Operation and maintenance of the school plant.
- 29           (c) The school financial report must also identify the  
30 types of district-level expenditures that support the school's  
31 operations. The total amount of these district-level

1 expenditures must be reported and expressed as total  
2 expenditures per full-time equivalent student.

3 (6) Based on the classifications in this section, each  
4 district school board shall annually submit a report by  
5 January 1, which identifies and summarizes administrative  
6 expenditures and instructional expenditures by fund for the  
7 preceding fiscal year. The report shall also state the number  
8 of unweighted full-time equivalent students enrolled in the  
9 school district. The total amount of administrative  
10 expenditures shall be divided by the number of unweighted  
11 full-time equivalent students to determine the administrative  
12 expenditures per student. This calculation is to be made  
13 separately for the general and the special revenue funds. In  
14 addition, the report shall reflect the number of employees in  
15 each category outlined in subsection (2) and the percentage of  
16 employees in each category, excluding the number of temporary  
17 substitute employees. This report shall be submitted to the  
18 commissioner and shall be made available to the public. The  
19 school public accountability report shall contain notification  
20 of the availability of this report.

21 Section 540. Section 1010.22, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23 1010.22 Cost accounting and reporting for workforce  
24 education.--

25 (1) Each school district and each community college  
26 shall account for expenditures of all state, local, federal,  
27 and other funds in the manner prescribed by the State Board of  
28 Education.

29 (2) Each school district and each community college  
30 shall report expenditures for workforce education in  
31

1 accordance with requirements prescribed by the State Board of  
2 Education.

3 (3) The Department of Education, in cooperation with  
4 school districts and community colleges, shall develop and  
5 maintain a database of valid comparable information on  
6 workforce education which will meet both state and local  
7 needs.

8 Section 541. Section 1010.23, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1010.23 Cost accounting and reporting for community  
11 colleges.--Community colleges shall provide an annual report  
12 on the cost of operations as provided in s. 1011.84.

13 Section 542. Section 1010.24, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15 1010.24 Cost accounting and reporting for  
16 universities.--Universities shall provide an annual  
17 expenditure analysis report as provided in s. 1011.90.

18 Section 543. Part III of chapter 1010, Florida  
19 Statutes, shall be entitled "Audit Requirements and  
20 Procedures" and shall consist of ss. 1010.30-1010.34.

21 Section 544. Section 1010.30, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23 1010.30 Audits required.--School districts, community  
24 colleges, universities, and other institutions and agencies  
25 under the supervision of the State Board of Education are  
26 subject to the audit provisions under ss. 11.45 and 218.39.

27 Section 545. Section 1010.305, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1010.305 Audit of student enrollment.--

30 (1) The Auditor General shall periodically examine the  
31 records of school districts, and other agencies as

1 appropriate, to determine compliance with law and State Board  
2 of Education rules relating to the classification, assignment,  
3 and verification of full-time equivalent student enrollment  
4 and student transportation reported under the Florida  
5 Education Finance Program.

6 (2) If it is determined that the approved criteria and  
7 procedures for the placement of students and the conduct of  
8 programs have not been followed by the district, appropriate  
9 adjustments in the full-time equivalent student count for that  
10 district must be made, and any excess funds must be deducted  
11 from subsequent allocations of state funds to that district.  
12 As provided for by rule, if errors in a specific program of a  
13 district recur in consecutive years due to lack of corrective  
14 action by the district, adjustments may be made based upon  
15 statistical estimates of error projected to the overall  
16 district program.

17 Section 546. Section 1010.33, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1010.33 Financial and performance audits.--Each  
20 district school board and community college board of trustees,  
21 and university board of trustees is authorized to have an  
22 audit of their accounts and records by an independent  
23 certified public accountant retained by them and paid from  
24 their public funds. These audits are in addition to those  
25 required by ss. 11.45 and 218.39.

26 Section 547. Section 1010.34, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1010.34 Audits of direct-support  
29 organizations.--Audits of school district, community college,  
30 and state university direct-support organizations are subject  
31

1 to the audit provisions of ss. 1013.77(4), 1004.28(5), and  
2 1004.70(6), as applicable.

3 Section 548. Part IV of chapter 1010, Florida  
4 Statutes, shall be entitled "Provisions Relating to Bonding"  
5 and shall consist of ss. 1010.40-1010.619.

6 Section 549. Section 1010.40, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8 1010.40 Proposals for issuing bonds.--Whenever the  
9 residents of a school district in this state shall desire the  
10 issuance of bonds by such school district for the purpose of  
11 acquiring, building, enlarging, furnishing, or otherwise  
12 improving buildings or school grounds, or for any other  
13 exclusive use of the public schools within such school  
14 district, they shall present to the district school board a  
15 petition signed by not less than 25 percent of the duly  
16 qualified electors residing within the school district,  
17 setting forth in general terms the amount of the bonds desired  
18 to be issued, the purpose thereof, and that the proceeds  
19 derived from the sale of such bonds shall be used for the  
20 purposes set forth in the petition. The requirement for such  
21 petition may be dispensed with and the proposition of issuing  
22 bonds for the purposes as herein outlined may be initiated by  
23 the district school board of the said district; however,  
24 nothing contained in this section shall repeal any of the  
25 provisions of ss. 100.201-100.221, 100.241, 100.261-100.341,  
26 and 100.351.

27 Section 550. Section 1010.41, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1010.41 Procedure of district school boards with  
30 reference to proposals for issuing bonds.--It shall be the  
31 duty of the district school board to plan the school financial

1 program of the district so that, insofar as practicable,  
2 needed capital outlay expenditures can be made without the  
3 necessity of issuing bonds. Whenever the district school board  
4 proposes an issue of bonds or has received any petition  
5 proposing the issuance of bonds, as provided in s. 1010.40,  
6 the said board shall forthwith proceed as follows:

7       (1) The district school board, after considering  
8 recommendations submitted by the district school  
9 superintendent, shall determine whether in its opinion the  
10 projects for which bonds are proposed to be issued are  
11 essential for the school program of the district.

12       (2) If the proposed projects are deemed essential by  
13 the district school board or if the proposed projects are  
14 rejected in whole or in part, the district school board shall,  
15 if practicable, prepare a plan for carrying out the projects,  
16 or at least part of the projects, with current funds which  
17 have been or can be set aside for that purpose.

18       (3) If the district school board determines that any  
19 portion of the projects cannot be carried out so that all  
20 costs can be met from the proceeds of a special district  
21 millage voted for that purpose or from district current funds  
22 that are not needed for salaries of teachers or other  
23 necessary expenses of operating the schools or from such funds  
24 that can reasonably be expected to be available by the time  
25 the projects are completed, or cannot be completed on the  
26 basis of a loan against district current funds, approved in  
27 accordance with s. 1011.14, the district school board shall  
28 then determine the amount of bonds necessary to be issued to  
29 complete the projects as proposed for the district and shall  
30 adopt and transmit to the Department of Education a resolution  
31 setting forth the proposals with reference to the projects and

1 the proposed plan for financing the projects, said resolution  
2 to be in such form and contain such information as may be  
3 prescribed by the State Board of Education. If the Department  
4 of Education shall determine that the issuance of bonds as  
5 proposed is unnecessary or is unnecessary in the amount and  
6 according to the plan proposed, and shall notify the district  
7 school board accordingly, the district school board shall then  
8 amend its resolution to conform to the recommendation of the  
9 Department of Education, and no further action shall be taken  
10 for a period of at least 1 year on the proposal for a bond  
11 issue unless, within 30 days thereafter, a petition signed by  
12 at least 35 percent of the qualified electors within the  
13 district is received by the school board requesting that an  
14 election be called to vote bonds for the purposes set forth  
15 and in an amount which shall not exceed the amount of bonds  
16 proposed by the district school board. If such a petition is  
17 received by the district school board, as provided herein, or  
18 if the resolution proposing a bond issue has been approved by  
19 the Department of Education, the school board shall then  
20 proceed at its next ensuing meeting to adopt a resolution  
21 authorizing that an election be held for the purpose of  
22 determining whether bonds shall be issued as proposed.

23       Section 551. Section 1010.42, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25       1010.42 Publication of resolution.--It shall be the  
26 duty of the district school board, when the resolution  
27 proposing a bond issue has been approved by the Department of  
28 Education or when such a proposal has been rejected by the  
29 Department of Education and a new petition signed by 35  
30 percent of the qualified electors of the district has been  
31 presented, and when the resolution authorizing an election has

1 been adopted as set forth above, to cause such resolution to  
2 be published at least once each week for 2 consecutive weeks  
3 in some newspaper published in the district. This resolution  
4 may also include a notice of election as prescribed in s.  
5 1010.43.

6 Section 552. Section 1010.43, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8 1010.43 Notice of election; qualifications of  
9 electors.--The district school board shall also, at the  
10 meeting at which is passed the resolution provided for in s.  
11 1010.41, order that an election shall be held in the school  
12 district to determine whether or not there shall be issued by  
13 the district the bonds provided for in such resolution, in  
14 which election only the duly qualified electors thereof shall  
15 vote; and prior to the time of holding such election, the  
16 district school board shall cause to be published at least  
17 once each week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper  
18 published in the district a notice of the holding of such  
19 election, which shall specify the time and place or places of  
20 the holding thereof. The resolution prescribed in s. 1010.41  
21 may be incorporated in and published as a part of the notice  
22 prescribed in this section.

23 Section 553. Section 1010.44, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25 1010.44 Conduct of election; form of ballot;  
26 appointment of inspectors; canvassing returns.--The election,  
27 provided for in s. 1010.43, shall be held at the place or  
28 several places in the district where the last general election  
29 was held throughout the district, unless the district school  
30 board orders otherwise; and the district school board shall  
31 appoint inspectors for the election and cause to be prepared

1 and furnished to the inspectors the ballots to be used at the  
2 election; the form of ballots for such election shall be: "For  
3 bonds" or "Against bonds." The inspectors shall make returns  
4 to the the district school board immediately after the  
5 election, and the school board shall hold a special meeting as  
6 soon thereafter as practicable for the purpose of canvassing  
7 the election returns and shall determine and certify its  
8 result.

9           Section 554. Section 1010.45, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11           1010.45 Result of election held.--If it appears by the  
12 result of the election that a majority of the votes cast shall  
13 be "For bonds," the district school board shall issue the  
14 bonds authorized by the election for the purposes specified in  
15 the resolution as published, not to exceed the amount named  
16 therein. If the majority of the votes cast shall have been  
17 "Against bonds," no bonds shall be issued.

18           Section 555. Section 1010.46, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20           1010.46 If election adverse, no second election within  
21 6 months.--If the result of the election is adverse to the  
22 issuance of the bonds, no election shall be held for such  
23 purpose within 6 months thereafter. In the event such election  
24 shall result or shall have resulted in an equal number of  
25 votes being cast for the issuance of the bonds as shall be  
26 cast adverse to issuance of bonds, the district school board  
27 may call and order another or second election within the  
28 district to have determined the question of whether the bonds  
29 specified in the original petition and resolution shall be  
30 issued by the district, after giving notice as provided for by  
31 s. 1010.43, and it shall not be necessary to have presented to

1 the district school board further petitions to order the  
2 second election.

3 Section 556. Section 1010.47, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1010.47 Receiving bids and sale of bonds.--

6 (1) If the issuance of bonds is authorized at the  
7 election, or if any bonds outstanding against the district are  
8 being refunded, the district school board shall cause notice  
9 to be given by publication in some newspaper published in the  
10 district that the board will receive bids for the purchase of  
11 the bonds at the office of the district school superintendent.  
12 The notice shall be published twice and the first publication  
13 shall be given not less than 30 days prior to the date set for  
14 receiving the bids. The notice shall specify the amount of the  
15 bonds offered for sale, shall state whether the bids shall be  
16 sealed bids or whether the bonds are to be sold at auction,  
17 and shall give the schedule of maturities of the proposed  
18 bonds and such other pertinent information as may be  
19 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education. Bidders  
20 may be invited to name the rate of interest that the bonds are  
21 to bear or the district school board may name rates of  
22 interest and invite bids thereon. In addition to publication  
23 of notice of the proposed sale as set forth in this  
24 subsection, the district school board shall notify in writing  
25 at least three recognized bond dealers in the state, and, at  
26 the same time, notify the Department of Education concerning  
27 the proposed sale and enclose a copy of the advertisement.

28 (2) All bonds and refunding bonds issued as provided  
29 by law shall be sold to the highest and best bidder at such  
30 public sale unless sold at a better price or yield basis  
31 within 30 days after failure to receive an acceptable bid at a

1 duly advertised public sale, provided that at no time shall  
2 bonds or refunding bonds be sold or exchanged at less than par  
3 value except as specifically authorized by the Department of  
4 Education; and provided, further, that the district school  
5 board shall have the right to reject all bids and cause a new  
6 notice to be given in like manner inviting other bids for such  
7 bonds, or to sell all or any part of such bonds to the State  
8 Board of Education at a price and yield basis that shall not  
9 be less advantageous to the district school board than that  
10 represented by the highest and best bid received. In the  
11 marketing of the bonds the district school board shall be  
12 entitled to have such assistance as can be rendered by the  
13 Division of Bond Finance, the Commissioner of Education, or  
14 any other public state officer or agency. In determining the  
15 highest and best bidder for bonds offered for sale, the net  
16 interest cost to the school board as shown in standard bond  
17 tables shall govern, provided that the determination of the  
18 district school board as to the highest and best bidder shall  
19 be final.

20 Section 557. Section 1010.48, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22 1010.48 Bidders to give security.--The district school  
23 board may require of all bidders for the bonds that they give  
24 security by bond or by a deposit to the district school board  
25 that the bidder shall comply with the terms of the bid, and  
26 any bidder whose bid is accepted shall be liable to the  
27 district school board for all damages on account of the  
28 nonperformance of the terms of such bid or to a forfeiture of  
29 the deposit required by the district school board.

30 Section 558. Section 1010.49, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1010.49 Form and denomination of bonds.--The district  
2 school board may prescribe the denomination of the bonds to be  
3 issued, and such bonds may be issued with or without interest  
4 coupons in the discretion of the board. The form of the bonds  
5 to be issued may be prescribed by the State Board of Education  
6 on the recommendation of the Department of Legal Affairs. The  
7 schedule of maturities of the proposed bonds shall be so  
8 arranged that the total payments required each year shall be  
9 as nearly equal as practicable. The schedule shall provide  
10 that all bonds are to be retired within a period of 20 years  
11 from the date of issuance unless a longer period is required  
12 and has been specifically approved by the Department of  
13 Education. All bonds issued under this section that bear  
14 interest in excess of 2.99 percent shall be callable on terms  
15 prescribed by the district school board beginning not later  
16 than 10 years from the date of issuance.

17           Section 559. Section 1010.50, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19           1010.50 Investment of fiduciary funds in bonds;  
20 security for deposit of public funds.--School district bonds  
21 authorized and issued under the provisions of this chapter  
22 shall be lawful investments for fiduciary and trust funds,  
23 including all funds in the control of trustees, assignees,  
24 administrators, and executors, and may be accepted as security  
25 for all deposits of public funds.

26           Section 560. Section 1010.51, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28           1010.51 Records to be kept and reports to be  
29 made.--The district school board shall maintain a complete  
30 record of all bonds issued under the provisions of this  
31 chapter, which record shall show upon what authority the bonds

1 are issued, the amount for which issued, the persons to whom  
2 issued, the date of issuance, the purpose or purposes for  
3 which issued, the rate of interest to be paid, and the time  
4 and place of payment of each installment of principal and  
5 interest. This record shall be so arranged as to show the  
6 amount of principal and interest to be paid each year and  
7 shall also show the annual or semiannual payments which are  
8 made and the bonds which are canceled. In addition the  
9 district school superintendent shall file with the Department  
10 of Education in accordance with rules of the State Board of  
11 Education reports giving such information as may be required  
12 regarding any bonds which may be issued as provided herein.

13 Section 561. Section 1010.52, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15 1010.52 Bonds may be validated; validity of  
16 bonds.--When an issue of bonds for any school district shall  
17 be authorized in the manner provided under the terms of this  
18 chapter, such bonds shall, in the discretion of the district  
19 school board, be subject to validation in the manner provided  
20 for in chapter 75. In lieu of validation as set forth in that  
21 chapter, the district school board may, in its discretion,  
22 submit to the Department of Legal Affairs all information  
23 relating to the issuance of bonds as provided in said chapter  
24 75, and an approving opinion of the Department of Legal  
25 Affairs shall be sufficient evidence that the bonds are valid.  
26 Bonds reciting that they are issued pursuant to the terms of  
27 this chapter shall, in any action or proceeding involving  
28 their validity, be conclusively deemed to be fully authorized  
29 thereby, to have been issued, sold, executed, and delivered in  
30 conformity therewith, and with all other provisions of law  
31 applicable thereto, and shall be incontestable, anything

1 herein or in other statutes to the contrary notwithstanding,  
2 unless such action or proceeding is begun before or within 30  
3 days after the date upon which the bonds are sold, paid for  
4 and delivered.

5 Section 562. Section 1010.53, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1010.53 Proceeds; how expended.--The proceeds derived  
8 from the sale of the bonds shall be held by the district  
9 school board and shall be expended by the board for the  
10 purpose for which the bonds were authorized for the school  
11 district, and shall be held and expended in the manner  
12 following:

13 (1) The district school board shall deposit, or cause  
14 to be deposited, the proceeds arising from the sale of each  
15 issue of bonds in a separate bond construction fund account in  
16 the school depository.

17 (2) All or any part of the fund derived from the  
18 proceeds of any such bond issue that in the judgment of the  
19 district school board is not immediately needed may be placed  
20 in the following securities maturing not later than the time  
21 when the funds are reasonably expected to be needed:

22 (a) In investments listed in s. 218.415(16).

23 (b) In any bonds issued by the district; provided,  
24 such bonds are not in default and can be obtained at a price  
25 which will result in a net saving to the taxpayers of the  
26 district.

27 (c) In any obligations of the district school board  
28 approved in accordance with the provisions of ss. 1011.13,  
29 1011.14, and 1011.15.

30 (d) In any bonds issued by the State Board of  
31 Education or another school district.

1           Section 563. Section 1010.54, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1010.54 Disposition of surplus of bond issue.--Should  
4 there remain any of the proceeds of the sale of school  
5 district bonds after the purpose and object for which the  
6 bonds were issued shall have been carried out and performed by  
7 the district school board, the surplus then shall be held by  
8 the district school board and expended for the exclusive use  
9 of the public schools within the school district as the  
10 district school board may deem reasonable and proper.

11           Section 564. Section 1010.55, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13           1010.55 Additional bond issues.--After the issuance by  
14 any school district of bonds in the manner authorized in this  
15 chapter, the qualified electors of the school district may  
16 thereafter, from time to time, in the manner herein provided  
17 for, authorize one or more additional bond issues as they may  
18 determine upon.

19           Section 565. Section 1010.56, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21           1010.56 Board of Administration to act as fiscal agent  
22 in issuance and sale of motor vehicle anticipation  
23 certificates.--

24           (1) In aid of the provisions of s. 18, Art. XII of the  
25 State Constitution of 1885 as adopted by s. 9(d), Art. XII,  
26 1968 revised constitution and the additional provisions of s.  
27 9(d), the State Board of Administration may upon request of  
28 the State Board of Education, act as fiscal agent for the  
29 State Board of Education in the issuance and sale of any or  
30 all bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates,  
31 including any refunding of bonds, certificates or interest

1 coupons thereon which may be issued pursuant to the above  
2 cited provisions of the State Constitution and upon request of  
3 the State Board of Education the State Board of Administration  
4 may take over the management, control, bond trusteeship,  
5 administration, custody and payment of any or all debt service  
6 or other funds or assets now or hereafter available for any  
7 bonds or certificates issued for the purpose of obtaining  
8 funds for the use of any district school board or to pay, fund  
9 or refund any bonds or certificates theretofore issued for  
10 such purpose. The State Board of Education may from time to  
11 time provide by its duly adopted resolution or resolutions the  
12 duties said fiscal agent shall perform as authorized by this  
13 section and such duties may be changed, modified or repealed  
14 by subsequent resolution or resolutions as the State Board of  
15 Education may deem appropriate, provided, however, that such  
16 changes shall only affect the duties of the State Board of  
17 Administration as fiscal agent and shall not affect or modify  
18 the paramount constitutional authority of the State Board of  
19 Education nor affect, modify, or impair the contract rights of  
20 persons holding or owning the obligations so authorized to be  
21 issued.

22 (2) No such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation  
23 certificates shall ever be issued by the State Board of  
24 Administration until after the adoption of a resolution  
25 requesting the issuance thereof by the State Board of  
26 Education for and on behalf of the district for which the  
27 obligations are to be issued.

28 (3) All such bonds or certificates issued pursuant to  
29 this part shall be issued in the name of the State Board of  
30 Education but shall be issued for and on behalf of the  
31 district school board requesting the issuance thereof and

1 shall be issued pursuant to any rules adopted by the State  
2 Board of Education which are not in conflict with the  
3 provisions of s. 18, Art. XII of the State Constitution of  
4 1885 as adopted by s. 9(d), Art. XII, 1968 revised  
5 constitution, and the additional provisions of s. 9(d).

6 (4) The proceeds of any sale of original bonds or  
7 original certificates shall be deposited in the State Treasury  
8 to the credit of the particular construction account for which  
9 the original bonds or original certificates were issued and  
10 shall be under the direct control and supervision of the State  
11 Board of Education, and withdrawals from such construction  
12 accounts shall be made only upon warrants signed by the  
13 Comptroller and drawn upon the Treasurer. Such warrants shall  
14 be issued by the Comptroller only when the vouchers requesting  
15 such warrants are accompanied by the certificates of the State  
16 Board of Education to the effect that such withdrawals are  
17 proper expenditures for the cost of the particular  
18 construction account against which the requested warrants are  
19 to be drawn.

20 (5) The State Board of Administration shall annually  
21 determine the amounts necessary to meet the debt service  
22 requirements of all bonds or certificates administered by it  
23 pursuant to this section and shall certify to the State Board  
24 of Education said amounts needed. The State Board of  
25 Education, upon being satisfied that the amounts are correct,  
26 shall pay the amounts direct to the State Board of  
27 Administration for application by the State Board of  
28 Administration as provided under the terms of the resolutions  
29 authorizing the issuance of the bonds or certificates and as  
30 provided in s. 18, Art. XII of the State Constitution of 1885  
31

1 as adopted by s. 9(d), Art. XII, 1968 revised constitution,  
2 and the additional provisions of s. 9(d).

3 (6) The expenses of the State Board of Administration  
4 incident to the issuance and sale of any bonds or certificates  
5 issued under the provisions of the constitution and under the  
6 provisions of this section shall be paid from the proceeds of  
7 the sale of the bonds or certificates or from the funds  
8 distributable to each county under the provisions of s. 18(a),  
9 Art. XII of the Constitution of 1885 as adopted by s. 9(d),  
10 Art. XII, 1968 revised constitution. All other expenses of the  
11 State Board of Administration for services rendered  
12 specifically for, or which are properly chargeable to the  
13 account of any bonds or certificates issued for and on behalf  
14 of any district school board under the above cited provisions  
15 of the State Constitution shall be paid from the funds  
16 distributable to each county under the provisions of s. 18(a),  
17 Art. XII of the State Constitution of 1885 as adopted by s.  
18 9(d), Art. XII, 1968 revised constitution; but general  
19 expenses of the State Board of Administration for services  
20 rendered all the districts alike shall be prorated among them  
21 and paid from the funds distributable to each district on the  
22 same basis as such funds are distributable under the  
23 provisions of s. 18(a), Art. XII of the State Constitution of  
24 1885 as adopted by s. 9(d), Art. XII, 1968 revised  
25 constitution.

26 (7) The provisions of this section contemplate that it  
27 will aid the State Board of Education and better serve the  
28 purposes contemplated by s. 18, Art. XII of the State  
29 Constitution of 1885 as adopted by s. 9(d), Art. XII, 1968  
30 revised constitution, and the additional provisions of s. 9(d)  
31 and not be inconsistent therewith.

1           Section 566. Section 1010.57, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1010.57 Bonds payable from motor vehicle license tax  
4 funds; instruction units computed.--

5           (1) For the purpose of administering the provisions of  
6 s. 9(d), Art. XII of the State Constitution as amended in  
7 1972, the number of current instruction units in districts  
8 shall be computed annually by the Department of Education by  
9 multiplying the number of full-time equivalent students in  
10 programs under s. 1011.62(1)(c) in each district by the cost  
11 factors established in the General Appropriations Act and  
12 dividing by 23, except that all basic program cost factors  
13 shall be one, and the special program cost factors for  
14 hospital and homebound I and for community service shall be  
15 zero. Full-time equivalent membership for students residing in  
16 Department of Children and Family Services residential care  
17 facilities or identified as Department of Juvenile Justice  
18 students shall not be included in this computation. Any  
19 portion of the fund not expended during any fiscal year may be  
20 carried forward in ensuing budgets and shall be temporarily  
21 invested as prescribed by law or rules of the State Board of  
22 Education.

23           (2) Whenever the State Board of Education issues bonds  
24 or certificates for and on behalf of any district school  
25 board, or whenever any district school board issues bonds or  
26 certificates repayable from motor vehicle license tax funds,  
27 the aggregate number of instruction units in the district in  
28 any future school fiscal year, as authorized under the  
29 amendment contained in s. 18, Art. XII of the State  
30 Constitution of 1885 as amended and adopted by reference in s.  
31 9(d), Art. XII of the Constitution of 1968, to the full extent

1 necessary to pay all principal of and interest on, and  
2 reserves for, bonds or certificates issued for and on behalf  
3 of the district or by the district school board in any school  
4 fiscal year, as they become due and payable, shall be not less  
5 than the aggregate number of instruction units in the district  
6 for the school fiscal year preceding the school fiscal year in  
7 which the bonds or certificates are issued, computed in  
8 accordance with the statutes in force in the school fiscal  
9 year preceding the school fiscal year in which the bonds or  
10 certificates are issued.

11 (3) The provisions of this section are not intended  
12 to, and shall not, be applicable to, or confer any rights on,  
13 any district to payments from said motor vehicle license taxes  
14 except to the full extent necessary to pay all principal of  
15 and interest on, and reserves for, bonds or certificates so  
16 issued by the district school board and by the State Board of  
17 Education for and on behalf of the school districts, in each  
18 future school fiscal year as they mature and become due; and  
19 except for such purpose, all payments of the amounts of the  
20 motor vehicle license taxes distributable under the provisions  
21 of s. 18, Art. XII of the State Constitution of 1885 as  
22 amended and adopted by reference in s. 9(d), Art. XII of the  
23 Constitution of 1968 shall continue to be made and distributed  
24 to the districts in the manner provided by the amendment and  
25 the general laws of Florida in force and effect at the time of  
26 the distributions.

27 Section 567. Section 1010.58, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1010.58 Procedure for determining number of  
30 instruction units for community colleges.--The number of  
31 instruction units for community colleges shall be determined

1 from the full-time equivalent students in the community  
2 college, provided that full-time equivalent students may not  
3 be counted more than once in determining instruction units.  
4 Instruction units for community colleges shall be computed as  
5 follows:

6 (1) One unit for each 12 full-time equivalent students  
7 at a community college for the first 420 students and one unit  
8 for each 15 full-time equivalent students for all over 420  
9 students, in other than career and technical education  
10 programs as defined by rules of the State Board of Education,  
11 and one unit for each 10 full-time equivalent students in  
12 career and technical education programs and compensatory  
13 education programs as defined by rules of the State Board of  
14 Education. Full-time equivalent students enrolled in a  
15 community college shall be defined by rules of the State Board  
16 of Education.

17 (2) For each 8 instruction units in a community  
18 college, 1 instruction unit or proportionate fraction of a  
19 unit shall be allowed for administrative and special  
20 instructional services, and for each 20 instruction units, 1  
21 instruction unit or proportionate fraction of a unit shall be  
22 allowed for student personnel services.

23 Section 568. Section 1010.59, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25 1010.59 Interest rates.--All bonds issued by the State  
26 Board of Education pursuant to the provisions of s. 9(a), Art.  
27 XII of the State Constitution, as amended, may bear interest  
28 at such rate or rates as may be determined by the State Board  
29 of Education. However, the maximum rate of interest shall not  
30 exceed the rates authorized under the provisions of s. 215.84.  
31

1 Section 569. Section 1010.60, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1010.60 State Board of Education; issuance of bonds  
4 pursuant to s. 11(f), Art. VII, State Constitution.--

5 (1) Pursuant to s. 11(f), Art. VII of the State  
6 Constitution, the State Board of Education, supported by the  
7 building fee, the capital improvement fee, or any other  
8 revenue approved by the Legislature for facilities  
9 construction, is authorized to request the issuance of bonds  
10 or other forms of indebtedness pursuant to the State Bond Act  
11 to finance or refinance capital projects authorized by the  
12 Legislature. In order to take advantage of economic  
13 conditions, the Division of Bond Finance shall process  
14 requests by the State Board of Education to refinance capital  
15 projects under this section on a priority basis.

16 (2) The State Board of Education may approve the  
17 issuance of revenue bonds or other forms of indebtedness by a  
18 direct-support organization when such revenue bonds or other  
19 forms of indebtedness are used to finance or refinance capital  
20 projects which are to provide facilities necessary and  
21 desirable to serve the needs and purposes of the university,  
22 as determined by the systemwide strategic plan adopted by the  
23 State Board of Education, and when the project has been  
24 approved by the Legislature.

25 Section 570. Section 1010.61, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 1010.61 Powers.--The State Board of Education shall  
28 have all the powers necessary or advisable to carry out and  
29 effectuate the purposes and provisions of s. 1010.60 and this  
30 part and is hereby authorized:

31

1           (1) Pursuant to the State Bond Act, to borrow money  
2 and issue interest-bearing revenue certificates or other forms  
3 of indebtedness to acquire any projects approved by the  
4 Legislature and to provide for the payment of the same and for  
5 the rights of the holders thereof as herein provided.

6           (2) To pledge any trust funds which are available, and  
7 not otherwise obligated, for purposes of securing the revenue  
8 certificates and to combine such funds as the board may deem  
9 appropriate.

10           (3) To adopt such rules as may be necessary for  
11 carrying out the requirements of this part and to perform all  
12 acts and do all things necessary or convenient to carry out  
13 the powers granted herein.

14           Section 571. Section 1010.611, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16           1010.611 Resolution for issuance of revenue  
17 certificates.--The issuance of revenue certificates under the  
18 provisions of this part and the State Bond Act shall be  
19 requested by resolution of the State Board of Education. Said  
20 revenue certificates shall bear interest at such rate or rates  
21 not exceeding the interest rate limitations set forth in s.  
22 215.84(3), provided that certificates may be sold at a  
23 reasonable discount to par not to exceed 3 percent, except  
24 that this limitation on discount does not apply to the portion  
25 of the discount that constitutes original issue discount. The  
26 revenue certificates may be issued in one or more series, may  
27 bear such date or dates, may be in such denomination or  
28 denominations, may mature at such time or times, not exceeding  
29 30 years from their respective dates, may be in such form,  
30 either coupon or registered, may carry such registration  
31 privileges, may be executed in such manner, may be payable in

1 such medium of payment and at such place or places, may be  
2 subject to such terms of redemption, with or without premium,  
3 may contain such terms, covenants, and conditions, and may be  
4 declared or become due before the maturity date thereof as  
5 such resolution or other resolutions may provide. The revenue  
6 certificate may be sold at public sale by competitive bid or  
7 negotiated sale. Pending the preparation of the definitive  
8 certificates, interim receipts or certificates in such form  
9 and with such provisions as the board may determine may be  
10 issued to the purchaser or purchasers of certificates sold  
11 pursuant to this part. The certificates and interim receipts  
12 shall be fully negotiable within the meaning and for all the  
13 purposes of the negotiable instruments law.

14 Section 572. Section 1010.612, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 1010.612 Powers to secure revenue certificates.--The  
17 State Board of Education, in connection with the issuance of  
18 revenue certificates to acquire any projects for an  
19 institution or in order to secure the payment of such revenue  
20 certificates and interest thereon, shall have power by  
21 resolution:

22 (1) To fix and maintain fees, rentals, and other  
23 charges from students and others using or being served by, or  
24 having the right to use, or having the right to be served by,  
25 such projects.

26 (2) To provide that such revenue certificates shall be  
27 secured by a first, exclusive, and closed lien on the income  
28 and revenue (but not the real property of such institution)  
29 derived from, and shall be payable from, fees, rentals, and  
30 other charges from students and others using or being served  
31

1 by, or having the right to use, or having the right to be  
2 served by, such project.

3 (3) To pledge and assign to, or in trust for the  
4 benefit of, the holder or holders of such revenue certificates  
5 an amount of the income and revenue derived from fees,  
6 rentals, and other charges from students and others using or  
7 being served by, or having the right to use, or having the  
8 right to be served by, such project.

9 (4) To covenant with or for the benefit of the holder  
10 or holders of such revenue certificates that so long as any of  
11 such revenue certificates shall remain outstanding and unpaid,  
12 such institution will fix, maintain, and collect in such  
13 installments as may be agreed upon an amount of the fees,  
14 rentals, and other charges from students and others using or  
15 being served by, or having the right to use, or having the  
16 right to be served by, such project, which shall be sufficient  
17 to pay when due such revenue certificates and interest  
18 thereon, and to create and maintain reasonable reserves  
19 therefor, and to pay the cost of operation and maintenance of  
20 such project, which costs of operation and maintenance shall  
21 be determined by the board in its absolute discretion.

22 (5) To make and enforce and agree to make and enforce  
23 parietal rules that shall ensure the use of such project by  
24 all students in attendance at such institutions to the maximum  
25 extent to which such project is capable of serving such  
26 students.

27 (6) To covenant that so long as any of such revenue  
28 certificates shall remain outstanding and unpaid, it will not,  
29 except upon such terms and conditions as may be determined:

30 (a) Voluntarily create or cause to be created any  
31 debt, lien, pledge, assignment, encumbrance or other charge

1 having priority to the lien of such revenue certificates upon  
2 any of the income and revenues derived from fees, rentals, and  
3 other charges from students and others using or being served  
4 by, or having the right to use, or having the right to be  
5 served by, such project, or

6 (b) Convey or otherwise alienate such project or the  
7 real estate upon which such project shall be located, except  
8 at a price sufficient to pay all such revenue certificates  
9 then outstanding and interest accrued thereon, and then only  
10 in accordance with any agreements with the holder or holders  
11 of such revenue certificates.

12 (7) To covenant as to the procedure by which the terms  
13 of any contract with a holder or holders of such revenue  
14 certificates may be amended or abrogated, the amount of  
15 percentage of revenue certificates the holder or holders of  
16 which must consent thereto, and the manner in which such  
17 consent may be given.

18 (8) To vest in a trustee or trustees the right to  
19 receive all or any part of the income and revenue pledged and  
20 assigned to, or for the benefit of, the holder or holders of  
21 such revenue certificates and to hold, apply and dispose of  
22 the same and the right to enforce any covenant made to secure  
23 or pay or in relation to such revenue certificates; to execute  
24 and deliver a trust agreement or trust agreements which may  
25 set forth the powers and duties and the remedies available to  
26 such trustee or trustees and limiting the liabilities thereof  
27 and describing what occurrences shall constitute events of  
28 default and prescribing the terms and conditions upon which  
29 such trustee or trustees or the holder or holders of revenue  
30 certificates of any specified amount or percentage of such  
31 revenue certificate may exercise such rights and enforce any

1 and all such covenants and resort to such remedies as may be  
2 appropriate.

3 (9) To vest in a trustee or trustees or the holder or  
4 holders of any specified amount or percentage of revenue  
5 certificates the right to apply to any court of competent  
6 jurisdiction for and have granted the appointment of a  
7 receiver or receivers of the income and revenue pledged and  
8 assigned to or for the benefit of the holder or holders of  
9 such revenue certificates, which receiver or receivers may  
10 have and be granted such powers and duties as such court may  
11 order or decree for the protection of the revenue certificate  
12 holders.

13 (10) To make covenants with the holders of any bonds  
14 and to perform any other duties and responsibilities which are  
15 deemed necessary or advisable to enhance the security of such  
16 bonds, and the marketability thereof, and which are customary  
17 in accordance with the market requirements for the sale of  
18 such bonds.

19 Section 573. Section 1010.613, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21 1010.613 Remedies of any holder of revenue  
22 certificates.--Any holder or holders of revenue certificates,  
23 including a trustee, or trustees for holders of such revenue  
24 certificates, shall have the right, in addition to all other  
25 rights, by mandamus or other suit, action, or proceeding in  
26 any court of competent jurisdiction to enforce his or her or  
27 their rights against the State Board of Education to fix and  
28 collect such rentals and other charges adequate to carry out  
29 any agreement as to or pledge of such fees, rentals, or other  
30 charges, and require the State Board of Education to carry out  
31

1 any other covenants and agreements and to perform its duties  
2 under this part.

3 Section 574. Section 1010.614, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1010.614 Validity of revenue certificates.--The  
6 revenue certificates bearing the signatures of officers in  
7 office on the date of the signing thereof shall be valid and  
8 binding obligations, notwithstanding that before the delivery  
9 thereof and payment therefor any or all of the persons whose  
10 signatures appear thereon shall have ceased to be officers of  
11 the State Board of Education. The validity of the revenue  
12 certificates shall not be dependent on nor affected by the  
13 validity or regularity of any proceedings to acquire the  
14 project financed by the revenue certificates or taken in  
15 connection therewith.

16 Section 575. Section 1010.615, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18 1010.615 Prohibitions against obligating  
19 state.--Nothing in this part shall be construed to authorize  
20 the State Board of Education to contract a debt on behalf of,  
21 or in any way to obligate, the state, or to pledge, assign, or  
22 encumber in any way, or to permit the pledging, assigning, or  
23 encumbering in any way of, appropriations made by the  
24 Legislature.

25 Section 576. Section 1010.616, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 1010.616 Revenue certificate obligations of State  
28 Board of Education.--All revenue certificates issued pursuant  
29 to this part shall be obligations of the State Board of  
30 Education, payable only in accordance with the terms thereof  
31 and shall not be obligations general, special, or otherwise of

1 the state. Such revenue certificates shall not be a bond or  
2 debt of the state, and shall not be enforceable against the  
3 state, nor shall payment thereof be enforceable out of any  
4 funds of the board other than the income and revenue pledged  
5 and assigned to, or in trust for the benefit of, the holder or  
6 holders of such revenue certificates.

7 Section 577. Section 1010.617, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9 1010.617 Tax exemption and eligibility as legal  
10 investments.--

11 (1) The exercise of the powers granted by this part in  
12 all respects constitutes the performance of essential public  
13 functions for the benefit of the people of the state. All  
14 properties, revenues, or other assets of the State Board of  
15 Education for which revenue certificates are issued under this  
16 part, and all revenue certificates issued hereunder and the  
17 interest thereon, shall be exempt from all taxation by any  
18 agency or instrumentality of a county, municipality, or the  
19 state. The exemption granted by this section is not applicable  
20 to any tax imposed by chapter 220 on interest, income, or  
21 profits on debt obligations owned by corporations.

22 (2) All obligations issued pursuant to this part shall  
23 be and constitute legal investments without limitation for all  
24 public bodies and for all banks, savings banks, guardians,  
25 insurance funds, trustees, or other fiduciaries and shall be  
26 and constitute eligible securities to be deposited as  
27 collateral for security of any state, county, municipal, or  
28 other public funds.

29 Section 578. Section 1010.618, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31

1           1010.618 Supplemental nature of part; construction and  
2 purpose.--The powers conferred by this part shall be in  
3 addition to and supplemental to, and the limitations imposed  
4 by this part shall not affect, the powers conferred by any  
5 other law, general or special, and revenue certificates may be  
6 issued hereunder without any referendum, notwithstanding the  
7 provisions of any other such law and without regard to the  
8 procedure required by any other such law. Insofar as the  
9 provisions of this part are inconsistent with the provisions  
10 of any other law, general or special, the provisions of this  
11 part shall be controlling.

12           Section 579. Section 1010.619, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14           1010.619 Board of Administration to act as fiscal  
15 agent.--Prior to the issuance of any revenue certificates, the  
16 State Board of Education may request the State Board of  
17 Administration to advise the State Board of Education as to  
18 the fiscal sufficiency of the proposed issue. Upon sale and  
19 delivery of any revenue certificates and disbursement of the  
20 proceeds thereof pursuant to this part, the State Board of  
21 Administration may upon request of the State Board of  
22 Education take over the management, control, administration,  
23 custody, and payment of any or all debt services or funds or  
24 assets now or hereafter available for any revenue certificates  
25 issued pursuant to this part. The State Board of  
26 Administration shall upon request of the State Board of  
27 Education invest all funds, including reserve funds, available  
28 for any revenue certificates issued pursuant to this part in  
29 the manner provided in s. 215.47. The State Board of Education  
30 may from time to time provide by its duly adopted resolution  
31 the duties the State Board of Administration shall perform,

1 and such duties may be changed, modified, or repealed by  
2 subsequent resolution as the State Board of Education may deem  
3 appropriate.

4 Section 580. Part V of chapter 1010, Florida Statutes,  
5 shall be entitled "Trust Funds" and shall consist of ss.  
6 1010.70-1010.86.

7 Section 581. Section 1010.70, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9 1010.70 Educational Enhancement Trust Fund.--Each  
10 fiscal year, at least 38 percent of the gross revenue from the  
11 sale of lottery tickets and other earned revenue, excluding  
12 application processing fees, shall be deposited in the  
13 Educational Enhancement Trust Fund as provided in s. 24.121.

14 Section 582. Section 1010.71, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 1010.71 State School Trust Fund.--

17 (1) The State School Trust Fund shall be derived from  
18 the following sources:

19 (a) The proceeds of all lands that have been or may  
20 hereafter be granted to the state by the United States for  
21 public school purposes;

22 (b) Donations to the state when the purpose is not  
23 specified;

24 (c) Appropriations by the state;

25 (d) The proceeds of escheated property or forfeitures;

26 and

27 (e) Twenty-five percent of the sales of public lands  
28 which are now or may hereafter be owned by the state.

29 (2) The land comprising part of the State School Trust  
30 Fund shall not be subject to taxes of any kind whatsoever, but  
31 shall enjoy constitutional immunity therefrom, nor shall taxes

1 of any kind be imposed thereon; nor, since not subject to tax,  
 2 shall the state or any state agency be liable for taxes or the  
 3 equivalent thereof sought to be imposed upon said land. All  
 4 outstanding tax sale certificates against land of the State  
 5 School Trust Fund are hereby canceled.

6 Section 583. Section 1010.72, Florida Statutes, is  
 7 created to read:

8 1010.72 Excellent Teaching Program Trust Fund.--The  
 9 Excellent Teaching Program Trust Fund is created to be  
 10 administered by the Department of Education. Funds must be  
 11 credited to the trust fund as provided in chapter 98-309, Laws  
 12 of Florida, to be used for the purposes set forth therein.

13 Section 584. Section 1010.73, Florida Statutes, is  
 14 created to read:

15 1010.73 State Student Financial Assistance Trust  
 16 Fund.--

17 (1) The State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund  
 18 is hereby created, to be administered by the Department of  
 19 Education. Funds shall be credited to the trust fund as  
 20 provided in the General Appropriations Act or similar  
 21 legislation, to be used for the purposes set forth therein.

22 (2) The department may transfer into this trust fund  
 23 general revenue, private donations for the purpose of matching  
 24 state funds, and federal receipts for scholarships and grant  
 25 programs. An individual account code shall be established for  
 26 each funded scholarship and grant program for accountability  
 27 purposes.

28 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301, and  
 29 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the  
 30 end of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund and  
 31

1 shall be available for carrying out the purposes of the trust  
2 fund.

3 Section 585. Section 1010.731, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1010.731 Student Loan Guaranty Reserve Trust  
6 Fund.--Chapter 99-35, Laws of Florida, re-created the Student  
7 Loan Guaranty Reserve Trust Fund to be used by the Department  
8 of Education for the administration of the guaranteed student  
9 loan program as provided in s. 1009.92.

10 Section 586. Section 1010.74, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1010.74 Educational Certification and Services Trust  
13 Fund.--The proceeds from the collection of certification fees,  
14 finances, penalties, and costs levied pursuant to s. 1012.59  
15 shall be remitted by the Department of Education to the  
16 Treasurer for deposit into and disbursed from the "Educational  
17 Certification and Services Trust Fund" as re-created by  
18 chapter 99-31, Laws of Florida.

19 Section 587. Section 1010.75, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21 1010.75 Teacher Certification Examination Trust  
22 Fund.--The proceeds for the certification examination fee  
23 levied pursuant to s. 1012.59 shall be remitted by the  
24 Department of Education to the Treasurer for deposit into and  
25 disbursed for the "Teacher Certification Examination Trust  
26 Fund" as re-created by chapter 99-28, Laws of Florida.

27 Section 588. Section 1010.76, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1010.76 Educational Aids Trust Fund.--Chapter 99-27,  
30 Laws of Florida, re-created the Educational Aids Trust Fund to  
31

1 administer receipts and disbursements for federal grants  
2 received by the Department of Education.

3 Section 589. Section 1010.77, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1010.77 Food and Nutrition Services Trust  
6 Fund.--Chapter 99-34, Laws of Florida, re-created the Food and  
7 Nutrition Services Trust Fund to record revenue and  
8 disbursements of Federal Food and Nutrition funds received by  
9 the Department of Education as authorized in s. 1006.06.

10 Section 590. Section 1010.78, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1010.78 Projects, Contracts, and Grants Trust  
13 Fund.--There is created in the Department of Education the  
14 Projects, Contracts, and Grants Trust Fund. The personnel  
15 employed to plan and administer grants or contracts for  
16 specific projects shall be considered in time-limited  
17 employment not to exceed the duration of the grant or until  
18 completion of the project, whichever first occurs. Such  
19 employees shall not acquire retention rights under the Career  
20 Service System. Any employee holding permanent career service  
21 status in a Department of Education position who is appointed  
22 to a position under the Projects, Contracts, and Grants Trust  
23 Fund shall retain such permanent status in the career service  
24 position.

25 Section 591. Section 1010.79, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 1010.79 Sophomore Level Test Trust Fund.--Chapter  
28 99-26, Laws of Florida, re-created the Sophomore Level Test  
29 Trust Fund to record revenue and disbursements of examination  
30 fees received by the Department of Education as authorized in  
31 s. 1008.29.

1 Section 592. Section 1010.80, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1010.80 Educational Media and Technology Trust  
4 Fund.--Chapter 99-25, Laws of Florida, re-created the  
5 Educational Media and Technology Trust Fund to record revenue  
6 and disbursements by the Department of Education for the cost  
7 of producing and disseminating educational materials and  
8 products as authorized in s. 1006.39.

9 Section 593. Section 1010.81, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11 1010.81 Knott Data Center Working Capital Trust  
12 Fund.--Chapter 99-29, Laws of Florida, re-created the Knott  
13 Data Center Working Capital Trust Fund to record the revenue  
14 from fees paid for services provided by the Department of  
15 Education's data center and disbursements to pay the costs of  
16 operating the data center as authorized in s. 216.272.

17 Section 594. Section 1010.82, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1010.82 Textbook Bid Trust Fund.--Chapter 99-36, Laws  
20 of Florida, re-created the Textbook Bid Trust Fund to record  
21 the revenue and disbursements of textbook bid performance  
22 deposits submitted to the Department of Education as required  
23 in s. 1006.32.

24 Section 595. Section 1010.83, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26 1010.83 Institutional Assessment Trust Fund.--  
27 (1) Chapter 99-32, Laws of Florida, re-created the  
28 Institutional Assessment Trust Fund to be administered by the  
29 Department of Education pursuant to this section and rules of  
30 the State Board of Education. The trust fund shall consist of  
31 all fees and fines imposed upon nonpublic colleges and schools

1 pursuant to this chapter, including all fees collected from  
2 nonpublic colleges for participation in the common course  
3 designation and numbering system. The department shall  
4 maintain separate revenue accounts for independent colleges  
5 and universities; nonpublic career education; and the  
6 Department of Education.

7 (2) Funds from the trust fund shall be used for  
8 purposes including, but not limited to, the following:

9 (a) Authorized expenses of the respective boards in  
10 carrying out their required duties.

11 (b) Financial assistance programs for students who  
12 attend nonpublic institutions licensed by the board.

13 (c) Educational programs for the benefit of current  
14 and prospective owners, administrators, agents, authorized  
15 groups of individuals, and faculty of institutions receiving a  
16 license, a certificate of exemption, or an authorization by  
17 the board.

18 (d) Authorized expenses of the Department of Education  
19 incurred as a result of the inclusion of nonpublic colleges in  
20 the statewide course numbering system.

21 (3) The board may utilize other individuals or  
22 entities to administer the programs authorized in subsection  
23 (2).

24 Section 596. Section 1010.84, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26 1010.84 Displaced Homemaker Trust Fund.--Chapter  
27 99-33, Laws of Florida, re-created the Displaced Homemaker  
28 Trust Fund to record revenue and disbursements from fees as  
29 authorized in s. 446.50.

30 Section 597. Section 1010.85, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1010.85 Phosphate Research Trust Fund.--Chapter 99-45,  
2 Laws of Florida, re-created the Phosphate Research Trust Fund  
3 to record the revenue and disbursements from tax on severance  
4 of phosphate rock as provided in s. 211.3103.

5           Section 598. Section 1010.86, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7           1010.86 Administration of capital improvement and  
8 building fees trust funds.--The State Board of Education shall  
9 administer the Capital Improvement Fee Trust Fund and the  
10 Building Fee Trust Fund which include receipts from capital  
11 improvement and building student fee assessments, interest  
12 earnings, and subsidy grants. All funds, except those to be  
13 used for debt service payments, reserve requirements, and  
14 educational research centers for child development, pursuant  
15 to s. 1011.48, shall be used to fund projects appropriated by  
16 the Legislature. Projects funded pursuant to this section may  
17 be expanded by the use of supplemental funds such as grants,  
18 auxiliary enterprises, private donations, and other nonstate  
19 sources.

20           Section 599. Chapter 1011, Florida Statutes, shall be  
21 entitled "Planning and Budgeting" and shall consist of ss.  
22 1011.01-1011.93.

23           Section 600. Part I of chapter 1011, Florida Statutes,  
24 shall be entitled "Preparation, Adoption, and Implementation  
25 of Budgets" and shall consist of ss. 1011.01-1011.57.

26           Section 601. Section 1011.01, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28           1011.01 Budget system established.--

29           (1) The State Board of Education shall prepare and  
30 submit a coordinated K-20 education annual legislative budget  
31 request to the Governor and the Legislature on or before the

1 date provided by the Governor and the Legislature. The board's  
2 legislative budget request must clearly define the needs of  
3 school districts, community colleges, universities, other  
4 institutions, organizations, programs, and activities under  
5 the supervision of the board and that are assigned by law or  
6 the General Appropriations Act to the Department of Education.

7 (2) There shall be established in each school  
8 district, community college, and university a budget system as  
9 prescribed by law and rules of the State Board of Education.

10 (3) Each district school board, each community college  
11 board of trustees, and each state university board of trustees  
12 shall prepare, adopt, and submit to the Commissioner of  
13 Education for review an annual operating budget. Operating  
14 budgets shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the  
15 provisions of law, rules of the State Board of Education, the  
16 General Appropriations Act, and for district school boards in  
17 accordance with the provisions of ss. 200.065 and 1011.64.

18 Section 602. Section 1011.011, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1011.011 Legislative capital outlay budget  
21 request.--The State Board of Education shall submit an  
22 integrated, comprehensive budget request for educational  
23 facilities construction and fixed capital outlay needs for  
24 school districts, community colleges, and universities  
25 pursuant to this section and 1013.46 and applicable provisions  
26 of chapter 216.

27 Section 603. Section 1011.012, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1011.012 Annual capital outlay budget.--

30 (1) Each district school board, community college  
31 board of trustees, and university board of trustees shall,

1 each year, adopt a capital outlay budget for the ensuing year  
2 in order that the capital outlay needs of the board for the  
3 entire year may be well understood by the public. This capital  
4 outlay budget shall be a part of the annual budget and shall  
5 be based upon and in harmony with the educational plant and  
6 ancillary facilities plan. This budget shall designate the  
7 proposed capital outlay expenditures by project for the year  
8 from all fund sources. The board may not expend any funds on  
9 any project not included in the budget, as amended.

10 (2) Each district school board must prepare its  
11 tentative district facilities work program as required by s.  
12 1013.35 before adopting the capital outlay budget.

13 Section 604. Part I.a. of chapter 1011, Florida  
14 Statutes, shall be entitled "District School Boards:  
15 Preparation, Adoption, and Implementation of Budgets" and  
16 shall consist of ss. 1011.02-1011.24.

17 Section 605. Section 1011.02, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1011.02 District school boards to adopt tentative  
20 budget.--

21 (1) On or before the date prescribed in rules of the  
22 State Board of Education, each district school board shall  
23 receive and examine the tentative budget submitted by the  
24 district school superintendent, and shall require such changes  
25 to be made, in keeping with the purposes of the school code,  
26 as may be to the best interest of the school program in the  
27 district.

28 (2) The district school board shall determine, within  
29 prescribed limits, the reserves to be allotted for  
30 contingencies, and the cash balance to be carried forward at  
31 the end of the year. If the district school board shall

1 require any changes to be made in receipts, in the reserves  
2 for contingencies, or in the cash balance to be carried  
3 forward at the end of the year, it shall also require  
4 necessary changes to be made in the appropriations for  
5 expenditures so that the budget, as changed, will not contain  
6 appropriations for expenditures and reserves in excess of, or  
7 less than, estimated receipts and balances.

8 (3) The proposed budget shall include an amount for  
9 local required effort for current operation, in accordance  
10 with the requirements of s. 1011.62(4).

11 (4) When a tentative budget has been prepared in  
12 accordance with rules of the State Board of Education, the  
13 proposed expenditures, plus transfers, and balances shall not  
14 exceed the estimated income, transfers, and balances. The  
15 budget and each of the parts thereof shall balance.

16 (5) The district school board shall adopt a tentative  
17 budget.

18 Section 606. Section 1011.03, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1011.03 Public hearings; budget to be submitted to  
21 Department of Education.--

22 (1) Each district school board must cause a summary of  
23 its tentative budget, including the proposed millage levies as  
24 provided for by law, and graphs illustrating a historical  
25 summary of financial and demographic data, to be advertised at  
26 least one time as a full-page advertisement in the newspaper  
27 with the largest circulation published in the district or to  
28 be posted at the courthouse door if there be no such  
29 newspaper.

30 (2)(a) The advertisement must include a graph  
31 illustrating the historical summary of financial and

1 demographic data for each of the following data values which  
2 shall be plotted along the vertical axis of each graph:  
3       1. Total revenue provided to the school district from  
4 all sources for the corresponding fiscal year, including all  
5 federal, state, and local revenue.  
6       2. Total revenue provided to the school district for  
7 the corresponding fiscal year for current operations.  
8       3. Total revenue provided to the school district for  
9 the corresponding fiscal year for fixed capital outlay  
10 projects.  
11       4. Total revenue provided to the school district for  
12 the corresponding fiscal year for debt service.  
13       5. Total number of unweighted full-time equivalent  
14 students, inclusive of all programs listed in s. 1011.62.  
15       6. Total revenue provided to the school district for  
16 current operations divided by the number of unweighted  
17 full-time equivalent students for the corresponding fiscal  
18 year.  
19       7. Total number of employees of the school district  
20 for the corresponding fiscal year.  
21       8. Total number of employees of the school district  
22 classified as instructional personnel under s. 1012.01 for the  
23 corresponding fiscal year.  
24       (b) Each graph must include a separate histogram  
25 corresponding to the financial and demographic data for each  
26 of the following fiscal years, which shall be plotted along  
27 the horizontal axis of each graph:  
28           1. Current fiscal year.  
29           2. Fiscal year that is 5 years before the current  
30 fiscal year.  
31

1           3. Fiscal year that is 10 years before the current  
2 fiscal year.

3           (c) The numeric value of the financial and demographic  
4 data corresponding to each histogram must be included in each  
5 graph.

6           (3) The advertisement of a district that has been  
7 required by the Legislature to increase classroom expenditures  
8 pursuant to s. 1011.64 must include the following statement:

9  
10 "This proposed budget reflects an increase in classroom  
11 expenditures as a percent of total current operating  
12 expenditures of XX percent over the (previous fiscal year)  
13 fiscal year. This increase in classroom expenditures is  
14 required by the Legislature because the district has performed  
15 below the required performance standard on XX of XX student  
16 performance standards for the (previous school year) school  
17 year. In order to achieve the legislatively required level of  
18 classroom expenditures as a percentage of total operating  
19 expenditures, the proposed budget includes an increase in  
20 overall classroom expenditures of \$XX,XXX,XXX above the amount  
21 spent for this same purpose during the (previous fiscal year)  
22 fiscal year. In order to achieve improved student academic  
23 performance, this proposed increase is being budgeted for the  
24 following activities: (list activities and amount budgeted)."

25           (4) The advertisement shall appear adjacent to the  
26 advertisement required pursuant to s. 200.065. The State Board  
27 of Education may adopt rules necessary to provide specific  
28 requirements for the format of the advertisement.

29           (5) The board shall hold public hearings to adopt  
30 tentative and final budgets pursuant to s. 200.065. The  
31 hearings shall be primarily for the purpose of hearing

1 requests and complaints from the public regarding the budgets  
2 and the proposed tax levies and for explaining the budget and  
3 proposed or adopted amendments thereto, if any. The district  
4 school board shall then require the superintendent to transmit  
5 forthwith two copies of the adopted budget to the Department  
6 of Education for approval as prescribed by law and rules of  
7 the State Board of Education.

8       Section 607. Section 1011.04, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10       1011.04 Levying of taxes.--

11       (1) Upon receipt of the certificate of the property  
12 appraiser giving the assessed valuation of the county and of  
13 each of the special tax school districts pursuant to s.  
14 200.065, the district school board shall determine by  
15 resolution the amounts necessary to be raised for current  
16 operating purposes and for each district bond interest and  
17 sinking fund and the millage necessary to be levied for each  
18 such fund, including the voted millage. A certified copy of  
19 the resolution shall thereupon be filed with the county  
20 property appraiser, and the district school board shall also  
21 order the property appraiser to assess the several millages  
22 certified by the school board against the appropriate taxable  
23 property in the school district.

24       (2) The property appraiser shall then assess the taxes  
25 as ordered by the district school board. Tax millages so  
26 assessed shall be clearly designated and separately identified  
27 as to source on the tax bill for other county taxes.

28       (3) The collector shall collect said taxes and pay  
29 over the same promptly as collected to the district school  
30 depository or depositories to be used as provided by law;  
31 provided, that all taxes authorized herein shall be assessed

1 and collected on railroad, street railroad, sleeping car,  
2 parlor car, and telegraph company property in the manner now  
3 provided by law.

4 Section 608. Section 1011.05, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1011.05 Implementation of the official budget.--The  
7 official budget shall give the appropriations and reserves  
8 therein the force and effect of fixed appropriations and  
9 reserves, and the same shall not be altered, amended, or  
10 exceeded except as authorized. However, if the actual  
11 receipts during any year are less than budgeted receipts, and  
12 any obligations are thereby incurred which cannot be met  
13 before the close of the year, such obligations shall be paid  
14 and accounted for in the ensuing fiscal year in the manner  
15 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education and shall  
16 be payable out of the first funds available for that purpose.

17 Section 609. Section 1011.06, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1011.06 Expenditures.--

20 (1) Expenditures shall be limited to the amount  
21 budgeted under the classification of accounts provided for  
22 each fund and to the total amount of the budget after the same  
23 have been amended as prescribed by law and rules of the State  
24 Board of Education. The school board shall endeavor to obtain  
25 maximum value for all expenditures.

26 (2) EXPENDITURES FROM DISTRICT AND OTHER  
27 FUNDS.--Expenditures from district and all other funds  
28 available for the public school program of any district shall  
29 be authorized by law and must be in accordance with procedures  
30 prescribed by the district school board. A district school  
31 board may establish policies that allow expenditures to exceed

1 the amount budgeted by function and object, provided that the  
2 district school board approves the expenditure and amends the  
3 budget within timelines established by school board policies.

4 Section 610. Section 1011.07, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1011.07 Internal funds.--

7 (1) The district school board shall be responsible for  
8 the administration and control of all local school funds  
9 derived by any public school from all activities or sources,  
10 and shall prescribe the principles and procedures to be  
11 followed in administering these funds consistent with  
12 regulations adopted by the State Board of Education.

13 (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
14 governing the procedures for the recording of the receipts,  
15 expenditures, deposits, and disbursements of internal funds.

16 Section 611. Section 1011.08, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18 1011.08 Expenditures between July 1 and date budget  
19 becomes official.--During the period from July 1 to the date  
20 the tentative budget becomes official, district school boards  
21 are authorized to approve ordinary expenditures, including  
22 salary payments, which are necessary for the approved school  
23 program.

24 Section 612. Section 1011.09, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26 1011.09 Expenditure of funds by district school  
27 board.--All state funds apportioned to the credit of any  
28 district constitute a part of the district school fund of that  
29 district and must be budgeted and expended under authority of  
30 the district school board subject to the provisions of law and  
31 rules of the State Board of Education.

1       (1) A district school board shall credit interest or  
2 profits on investments to the specific budgeted fund, as  
3 defined by the accounting system required by s. 1010.01, that  
4 produced the earnings unless otherwise authorized by law or  
5 rules of the State Board of Education.

6       (2) A district school board may temporarily advance  
7 moneys from one fund, as defined by the accounting system  
8 required by s. 1010.01, to another fund when insufficient  
9 moneys are available to meet current obligations if the  
10 temporary advancement is repaid within 13 months, appropriate  
11 accounting records are maintained, and the temporary  
12 advancement does not restrict, impede, or limit implementation  
13 or fulfillment of the original purposes for which the moneys  
14 were received in the fund providing the advancement.

15       (3) Funds expended from school nonrecurring incentives  
16 or bonus type state or federal funded programs based on  
17 performance outcomes may not be used for measuring compliance  
18 with state or federal maintenance of effort, supplanting, or  
19 comparability standards.

20       Section 613. Section 1011.10, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22       1011.10 Penalty.--

23       (1) Any member of a district school board or any  
24 district school superintendent who violates the provisions of  
25 this section commits malfeasance and misfeasance in office and  
26 shall be subject to removal from office by the Governor, and  
27 any contract or attempted contract entered into by any school  
28 officer or subordinate school officer that is not within the  
29 purview or in violation of the provisions of this section  
30 shall be void, and no such contract or attempted contract  
31 shall be enforceable in any court.

1           (2) Each member of any district school board voting to  
2 incur an indebtedness against the district school funds in  
3 excess of the expenditure allowed by law, or in excess of any  
4 appropriation as adopted in the original official budget or  
5 amendments thereto, or to approve or pay any illegal charge  
6 against the funds, and any chair of a district school board or  
7 district school superintendent who signs a warrant for payment  
8 of any such claim or bill of indebtedness against any of the  
9 funds shall be personally liable for the amount, and shall be  
10 guilty of malfeasance in office and subject to removal by the  
11 Governor. It shall be the duty of the Auditor General, other  
12 state officials, or independent certified public accountants  
13 charged by law with the responsibility for auditing school  
14 accounts, upon discovering any such illegal expenditure or  
15 expenditures in excess of the appropriations in the budget as  
16 officially amended, to certify such fact to the Department of  
17 Banking and Finance, which thereupon shall verify such fact  
18 and it shall be the duty of the Department of Banking and  
19 Finance to advise the Department of Legal Affairs thereof, and  
20 it shall be the duty of the Department of Legal Affairs to  
21 cause to be instituted and prosecuted, either through its  
22 office or through any state attorney, proceedings at law or in  
23 equity against such member or members of a district school  
24 board or district school superintendent. If either of the  
25 officers does not institute proceedings within 90 days after  
26 the audit has been certified to them by the Department of  
27 Banking and Finance, any taxpayer may institute suit in his or  
28 her own name on behalf of the district.

29           Section 614. Section 1011.11, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:  
31

1           1011.11 Certain provisions to be directory.--No  
2 irregularities of form or manner in the preparation or  
3 adoption of any budget under the provisions of this chapter  
4 shall invalidate either the budget adopted or the taxes levied  
5 therefor. However, the budget and the taxes levied must  
6 conform substantially to the principles and provisions of law  
7 and rules of the State Board of Education.

8           Section 615. Section 1011.12, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10           1011.12 Purposes of and procedures in incurring school  
11 indebtedness.--Indebtedness for school purposes may be  
12 incurred only as follows:

13           (1) School districts may issue bonds creating a  
14 long-term indebtedness as prescribed by law.

15           (2) Notes may be issued for money borrowed in  
16 anticipation of the receipt of current school funds, included  
17 in the budget from the state, county, or districts, as  
18 authorized under s. 1011.13.

19           (3) Indebtedness may be incurred for certain purposes  
20 as authorized under s. 1011.14, s. 1011.15, or s. 1011.16.

21           (4) Bonds or revenue certificates issued on behalf of  
22 the district by the State Board of Education as authorized by  
23 s. 18, Art. XII of the State Constitution of 1885 as adopted  
24 by s. 9(d), Art. XII, 1968 revised constitution, and the  
25 additional provisions of s. 9(d), Art. XII of said revision.

26           Section 616. Section 1011.13, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28           1011.13 Current loans authorized under certain  
29 conditions.--Except as provided in subsection (2), for any  
30 fiscal year in which school funds are estimated to be  
31 insufficient at any time during that fiscal year to pay

1 obligations created by the district school board in accordance  
2 with the official budget of the district, or a budget approved  
3 by the district school board which is prepared preliminarily  
4 to the tentative budget required by this chapter, the school  
5 board is authorized to negotiate a current loan to pay these  
6 obligations, providing for the repayment of that loan from the  
7 proceeds of revenues reasonably to be anticipated during the  
8 fiscal year in which the loan is made as prescribed below.  
9 However, the district school board shall, whenever possible,  
10 so arrange its expenditures as to make the incurring of  
11 current loans unnecessary. When it is deemed necessary for the  
12 benefit of the schools of the district for a current loan to  
13 be negotiated, the school board shall arrange for a loan in an  
14 amount not violative of federal arbitrage regulations and for  
15 the repayment of the loan, in accord with the other provisions  
16 of this section.

17 (1) CURRENT LOANS AGAINST DISTRICT FUND, DISTRICT  
18 CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS, AND DISTRICT INTEREST AND SINKING  
19 FUNDS.--

20 (a) District school boards are authorized and  
21 empowered to borrow money, to be retired from the district tax  
22 receipts anticipated in the operating budget, the district  
23 capital projects budget, and the debt service budget, at a  
24 rate of interest not to exceed the rate authorized under the  
25 provisions of s. 215.84, for the purpose of paying all  
26 outstanding obligations and for the further purpose of paying  
27 any and all lawful expenses incurred in operating the schools  
28 of the district. However, it is unlawful for any district  
29 school board to borrow any sum of money in any one year in  
30 excess of 80 percent of the amount as estimated by it in the  
31 official budget for the current fiscal year for the district

1 to be available from the district tax. The sum so borrowed  
2 shall be paid in full before the school board is authorized to  
3 borrow money in any succeeding year.

4 (b) Nothing in paragraph (a) shall be construed to  
5 invalidate any outstanding debt of any district as now  
6 existing and now due, or to become due, or as requiring any  
7 school board to pay the same in full before being permitted to  
8 borrow 80 percent on the estimate for the next ensuing year.

9 (c) In the event that the county tax roll is subjected  
10 to litigation and the tax collector is prevented from  
11 collecting taxes on that roll, the following provisions shall  
12 apply:

13 1. The restriction of 80 percent in paragraph (b)  
14 shall not apply if the collection of taxes is delayed beyond  
15 May 1.

16 2. District school boards are authorized and empowered  
17 to borrow money, to be repaid from the district school fund  
18 for operating purposes, the district capital projects funds,  
19 and the district interest and sinking funds, at a rate not to  
20 exceed the rate authorized under the provisions of s. 215.84,  
21 for the purposes of paying any and all lawful operating  
22 expense, capital expense, and required debt service necessary  
23 for the outstanding bond issues of such districts at the times  
24 that the funds are needed to prevent the bonds or interest  
25 payments from being in default. However, the amount of money  
26 so borrowed shall be limited to the amount of the district  
27 school fund and district interest and sinking fund tax  
28 receipts included in the official school budget for that year  
29 or the amount necessary to be borrowed to meet such  
30 obligations, whichever amount is the lesser. Any funds  
31 borrowed pursuant to the authority of this subsection shall,

1 insofar as possible, be repaid during the fiscal year in which  
2 the loan was made. However, any such loan unpaid at the end  
3 of the fiscal year shall be repaid from the first available  
4 revenue in the next succeeding year.

5 (2) CURRENT LOANS PAYABLE FROM REVENUE PROCEEDS.--

6 (a) A district school board is also authorized to  
7 negotiate a current loan before the end of the fiscal year,  
8 the note or notes from which loan shall be issued no earlier  
9 than 60 days before the beginning of the subsequent fiscal  
10 year, to be repaid during the subsequent fiscal year from the  
11 proceeds of revenue reasonably anticipated to be received  
12 during that year. The proceeds of any loan obtained pursuant  
13 to this subsection shall be limited, and the district school  
14 board shall take any and all action necessary, to assure that  
15 the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations promulgated  
16 thereunder are not violated.

17 (b) Loans arranged pursuant to this subsection shall  
18 be negotiated in accordance with a budget approved by the  
19 district school board which is prepared preliminarily to the  
20 tentative budget required by this chapter. Such loans shall  
21 be at a rate of interest not to exceed the rate of interest  
22 authorized under the provisions of s. 215.84 and shall not be  
23 in excess of amounts authorized under the Internal Revenue  
24 Code for arbitrage.

25 (c) The proceeds of any loan obtained pursuant to this  
26 subsection, or any interest earnings thereon, shall not be  
27 used to pay any expenses incurred in the fiscal year in which  
28 the loan is made; nor shall the proceeds of the loan or  
29 interest earnings thereon be in any way encumbered to pay  
30 expenses incurred in the fiscal year in which the loan is  
31 made, but shall be held in escrow until the subsequent fiscal

1 year. Any outstanding loan issued pursuant to subsection (1)  
2 must be defeased not less than 5 business days prior to the  
3 issuance of any obligation pursuant to this subsection. All  
4 proceeds of any loan obtained pursuant to this subsection, and  
5 any interest earnings thereon, shall be placed at closing in  
6 an irrevocable escrow account and held until the beginning of  
7 the subsequent fiscal year. The district school board shall  
8 maintain the integrity of such loan proceeds and related  
9 interest in its accounting records so as to be able to  
10 validate compliance with the provisions of this paragraph.

11 Section 617. Section 1011.14, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13 1011.14 Obligations for a period of 1 year.--District  
14 school boards are authorized only under the following  
15 conditions to create obligations by way of anticipation of  
16 budgeted revenues accruing on a current basis without pledging  
17 the credit of the district or requiring future levy of taxes  
18 for certain purposes for a period of 1 year; however, such  
19 obligations may be extended from year to year with the consent  
20 of the lender for a period not to exceed 4 years, or for a  
21 total of 5 years including the initial year of the loan:

22 (1) PURPOSES.--The purposes for which such obligations  
23 may be incurred within the intent of this section shall  
24 include only the purchase of school buses, land, and equipment  
25 for educational purposes; the erection of, alteration to, or  
26 addition to educational facilities; and the adjustment of  
27 insurance on educational property on a 5-year plan, as  
28 provided by rules of the State Board of Education.

29 (2) OBLIGATIONS MAY NOT EXCEED ONE-FOURTH OF DISTRICT  
30 AD VALOREM TAX REVENUE FOR OPERATIONS FOR THE PRECEDING  
31 YEAR.--No obligation of the nature prescribed herein may be

1 incurred by any district school board when such proposed  
2 obligations exceed one-fourth of the revenue received during  
3 the preceding year for the district school fund for operating  
4 expense of the district.

5 (3) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TO ADOPT PROPOSAL.--When the  
6 district school board proposes to incur obligations of the  
7 nature authorized in this section, it shall adopt and spread  
8 upon its minutes a resolution giving the nature of the  
9 obligations to be incurred, stating the plan of payment, and  
10 providing that such funds will be budgeted during the period  
11 of the loan from the current revenue to retire the obligations  
12 maturing during the year. This plan of payment shall not  
13 extend over a period longer than 1 year.

14 (4) INTEREST-BEARING NOTES AUTHORIZED.--Each district  
15 school board which has authorized the incurring of the  
16 obligations as provided in this section shall issue  
17 interest-bearing notes for the obligations. The notes shall  
18 provide the terms of payment and shall not bear interest in  
19 excess of the rate authorized under the provisions of s.  
20 215.84. No additional obligations of a similar nature may be  
21 incurred against the funds of any school district when notes  
22 authorized under this subsection are still outstanding and  
23 unpaid when such proposed obligations together with the unpaid  
24 notes outstanding exceed one-fourth of the revenue of the  
25 preceding year, as defined in subsection (2).

26 Section 618. Section 1011.15, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1011.15 Obligations to eliminate major emergency  
29 conditions.--The district school board of any district  
30 experiencing a major emergency condition in an existing school  
31 plant that demands immediate correction in order to prevent

1 further damage to the building or equipment or to eliminate a  
2 safety hazard that constitutes an immediate danger to the  
3 students and other occupants is authorized to create an  
4 obligation for a period of 1 year by way of anticipation of  
5 revenues for capital outlay purposes accruing on a current  
6 basis without pledging the credit of the district. Such  
7 obligation may be extended from year to year with the consent  
8 of the lender for a period not to exceed 4 years, or for a  
9 total of 5 years including the initial year of the loan.  
10 Obligations occurring under this section may be repaid from  
11 funds to be received from taxes authorized by s. 1011.71(2)  
12 and from any other funds available to the district school  
13 board for the purpose under the following conditions:  
14 (1) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TO ADOPT PROPOSAL.--When the  
15 district school board proposes to incur obligations of the  
16 nature authorized in this section, it shall adopt and spread  
17 upon its minutes a resolution fully describing the emergency  
18 condition outlined above, giving the nature of the obligations  
19 to be incurred, stating the plan of payment, and providing  
20 that such funds will be budgeted during the period of the loan  
21 from the current revenue to retire the obligations maturing  
22 during the year. This plan of payment shall not extend over a  
23 period longer than 1 year.  
24 (2) INTEREST-BEARING NOTES AUTHORIZED.--Each district  
25 school board which has authorized the incurring of the  
26 obligations as provided in this section shall issue  
27 interest-bearing notes for the obligations. The notes shall  
28 provide the terms of payment and shall not bear interest in  
29 excess of the rate authorized in s. 1010.59.  
30 Section 619. Section 1011.16, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1011.16 Provisions for retirement of existing  
2 indebtedness which is unfunded or in default.--In any district  
3 in which there is any indebtedness outstanding against the  
4 district school fund which has not yet been funded, or at any  
5 time any such indebtedness is in default as to principal or  
6 interest, the district school board shall proceed as follows:  
7           (1) PLAN FOR RETIRING INDEBTEDNESS TO BE  
8 PROPOSED.--The district school board shall prepare and propose  
9 a plan for retiring any unfunded indebtedness or any such  
10 indebtedness which is in default so that no creditor having a  
11 valid claim will be given a preferred status. This plan shall  
12 be so prepared as to show the funds needed for operating the  
13 schools on the most economical basis practicable, the amount  
14 of any other obligations which must be met each year, the  
15 total funds available each year for the entire school program,  
16 and the funds that can reasonably be spared for retirement of  
17 indebtedness without needlessly handicapping the school  
18 program and which can be budgeted each year for the retirement  
19 of such indebtedness.  
20           (2) PROPOSAL TO BE SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT OF  
21 EDUCATION.--The proposal for funding and retiring all such  
22 indebtedness, when approved by the district school board,  
23 shall be submitted to the Department of Education for  
24 consideration. The district school board shall not attempt to  
25 retire any such indebtedness until this procedure has been  
26 followed and until it has had the benefit of the  
27 recommendations of the department. Upon receiving the  
28 proposal, the department shall determine the minimum funds  
29 which are, in its opinion, necessary for the operation of the  
30 school program in the district; shall determine what funds  
31 remain for retirement of indebtedness each year; shall

1 determine whether the proposed plan is in accordance with  
2 these facts, and, if it is not, shall propose modifications in  
3 the plan in accordance with the facts. The recommendations of  
4 the department shall then be submitted to the district school  
5 board for consideration.

6 (3) WHEN PLAN TO BE EFFECTIVE.--The plan for retiring  
7 indebtedness, herein prescribed, shall become effective when  
8 the district school board and the Department of Education  
9 jointly agree upon the amount of funds necessary for operating  
10 the schools and the amount which can be budgeted each year for  
11 retiring indebtedness. When this plan has been agreed upon, it  
12 shall become the duty of the district school board to see that  
13 the amount approved for retiring indebtedness is incorporated  
14 in the budget each year, and the department shall see that  
15 this amount has been incorporated before the budget is  
16 approved, or, if such an amount can not reasonably be  
17 incorporated in the budget, as shown by evidence submitted by  
18 the district school board, determine the respects in which the  
19 plan should be modified, and to see that the budget includes  
20 the amount for retiring indebtedness which can reasonably be  
21 included.

22 (4) FUNDING OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS.--

23 (a) Each district school board having an outstanding  
24 indebtedness legally incurred and constituting an obligation  
25 or obligations payable from the district school fund is  
26 authorized to issue and sell interest-bearing coupon warrants  
27 in a sum or sums not to exceed the total amount of such  
28 indebtedness. Such coupon warrants shall bear interest at a  
29 rate not to exceed the rates authorized under the provisions  
30 of s. 215.84, shall be payable either annually or  
31 semiannually, and shall be in such form and denomination as

1 the district school board issuing the same shall prescribe.  
2 None of such warrants shall be issued to run for a longer  
3 period of time than 10 years from the date of issue. Such  
4 warrants shall be numbered consecutively, beginning with  
5 number one, and each warrant shall have attached thereto  
6 interest coupons, each coupon bearing the number of its  
7 warrant and representing or calling for an annual or  
8 semiannual, as the case may be, payment of interest on its  
9 warrant.

10 (b) Each such warrant shall be signed by the chair and  
11 attested by the secretary of the district school board issuing  
12 the same, and shall have the seal of the district school board  
13 affixed thereto, and the interest coupons attached thereto  
14 shall be signed by, or bear the printed or lithographed  
15 facsimile signature of the chair and secretary. Each warrant  
16 and interest coupon shall be dated and shall bear the due  
17 date. Such warrants and interest coupons shall be issued upon,  
18 and payable from, the fund designated on the face thereof. The  
19 fund so designated shall be the district school fund. All  
20 funds derived from the sale of interest-bearing coupon  
21 warrants, as herein provided, shall be used for the purpose of  
22 retiring the indebtedness for payment of which the warrants  
23 were issued, and for no other purpose, and any funds remaining  
24 from the sale of such warrants shall be applied to retiring  
25 the interest-bearing coupon warrants from which such funds  
26 were derived.

27 (5) FUNDING OR REFUNDING OTHER TYPES OF  
28 INDEBTEDNESS.--Any proposed plan for refunding any type of  
29 outstanding and legally incurred school indebtedness, not  
30 covered by this section, shall be submitted to the Department  
31 of Education for approval under rules of the State Board of

1 Education. No such indebtedness may be refunded and no plan  
2 for refunding such indebtedness may be approved, unless the  
3 plan provides for retiring the indebtedness in reasonably  
4 equal annual installments over the period of years covered,  
5 unless other obligations to be retired during any of these  
6 years make adjustments necessary. No indebtedness of any type  
7 may be refunded on a sinking fund basis. The district school  
8 board shall provide that all refunding warrants, notes, or  
9 bonds shall be callable, upon proper notice, beginning not  
10 more than 10 years following the date of refunding. If any  
11 indebtedness outstanding against the county or district  
12 current school funds cannot be retired over a period of 10  
13 years as prescribed in this section, or cannot be funded or  
14 refunded by issuing interest-bearing coupon warrants, the  
15 Department of Education is authorized to cooperate with the  
16 school officials of the district in developing a practicable  
17 plan for refunding such indebtedness and, when such a plan has  
18 been developed, may approve an agreement with the district  
19 school officials for refunding such indebtedness to be retired  
20 over a period of time which shall not exceed a maximum of 20  
21 years; and, if necessary, for refunding the indebtedness by  
22 issuing interest-bearing notes. Any funding or refunding  
23 obligations issued, as prescribed herein, are not and shall  
24 not be deemed to be additional bonds within the meaning of the  
25 Constitution and laws of Florida, and it shall not be  
26 necessary for such obligations to be submitted to, or approved  
27 by, a vote of the people of the district. In preparing and  
28 carrying out such a plan for funding or refunding the school  
29 indebtedness, the district school board and the district  
30 school superintendent shall follow the procedures prescribed  
31 in this section, supplemented by rules of the State Board of

1 Education, except for the modifications which are herein  
2 authorized.

3 Section 620. Section 1011.17, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1011.17 School funds to be paid to Treasurer or into  
6 depository.--

7 (1) Every tax collector, or other person having moneys  
8 which by law go to any district school fund shall at least  
9 once each month pay the same over to the depository or  
10 depositories designated by the district school board for such  
11 purpose, and shall provide said board with confirmation of the  
12 deposit. Every officer having moneys which by law go to any  
13 state school fund, shall pay the same to the Treasurer of the  
14 state, and the Treasurer shall see that these moneys are  
15 deposited to the credit of the proper state school fund.

16 (2) The district school board shall have the authority  
17 to designate that funds due it be placed for investment for  
18 its account with the State Board of Administration rather than  
19 be deposited, and said board may direct those persons having  
20 moneys due it or due any state school fund to pay out such  
21 funds to the State Board of Administration to make authorized  
22 investments for its account.

23 Section 621. Section 1011.18, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25 1011.18 School depositories; payments into and  
26 withdrawals from depositories.--

27 (1) SCHOOL FUNDS TO BE PAID INTO DEPOSITORIES.--The  
28 tax collector, the clerk of the circuit court, the  
29 superintendent, and all other persons having, receiving, or  
30 collecting any money payable to the school district shall  
31 promptly pay the same to the bank or banks selected by the

1 district school board to receive funds for that purpose. No  
2 bank shall be so selected unless it is qualified as an  
3 approved depository as provided by law. Each bank receiving  
4 any school money as provided herein shall make a receipt for  
5 same.

6 (2) INVESTMENT OF FUNDS DUE.--The district school  
7 board shall have the authority to designate that funds due it  
8 be placed for investment for its account with the State Board  
9 of Administration rather than be deposited, and the district  
10 school board may direct those persons having moneys due it or  
11 due any state school fund to pay out such funds to the State  
12 Board of Administration to make authorized investments for its  
13 account.

14 (3) FUNDS ON DEPOSIT WITH EACH DEPOSITORY; OVERDRAWING  
15 ACCOUNTS PROHIBITED.--The district school board shall require  
16 an accurate and complete set of accounts to be maintained in  
17 the books and records for each fund on deposit in each  
18 district school depository. Each such account shall show the  
19 amount subject to withdrawal, the amount deposited, the amount  
20 expended, and the balance of the account. In compliance with  
21 the provisions of this subsection, a district school board may  
22 maintain a separate checking account for each such fund or may  
23 utilize a single checking account for the deposit and  
24 withdrawal of moneys from all funds and segregate the various  
25 funds on the books and records only. No check or warrant shall  
26 be drawn in excess of the balance to the credit of the  
27 appropriate fund. The funds awaiting clearing may be invested  
28 in an approved county depository in instruments earning  
29 interest, such as repurchase agreements, savings accounts,  
30 etc. If repurchase agreements are involved, United States  
31 Treasury securities or GNMA's must be pledged as collateral

1 for an amount to exceed the principal, interest, and a  
2 reasonable safety margin for protection against date-to-date  
3 price fluctuation.

4 (4) HOW FUNDS DRAWN FROM DEPOSITORIES.--All money  
5 drawn from any district school depository holding same as  
6 prescribed herein shall be upon a check or warrant drawn on  
7 authority of the district school board as prescribed by law.  
8 Each check or warrant shall be signed by the chair or, in his  
9 or her absence, the vice chair of the district school board  
10 and countersigned by the district school superintendent, with  
11 corporate seal of the school board affixed. However, as a  
12 matter of convenience, the corporate seal of the district  
13 school board may be printed upon the warrant and a proper  
14 record of such warrant shall be maintained. The district  
15 school board may by resolution, a copy of which must be  
16 delivered to the depository, provide for internal funds to be  
17 withdrawn from any district depository by a check duly signed  
18 by at least two bonded school employees designated by the  
19 board to be responsible for administering such funds. However,  
20 the district school superintendent or his or her designee,  
21 after having been by resolution specifically authorized by the  
22 district school board, may transfer funds from one depository  
23 to another, within a depository, to another institution, or  
24 from another institution to a depository for investment  
25 purposes and may transfer funds in a similar manner when the  
26 transfer does not represent an expenditure, advance, or  
27 reduction of cash assets. Such transfer may be made by  
28 electronic, telephonic, or other medium; and each transfer  
29 shall be confirmed in writing and signed by the district  
30 school superintendent or his or her designee.

31

1           (5) FORM OF WARRANTS; DIRECT DEPOSIT OF FUNDS.--The  
2 district school board is authorized to establish the form or  
3 forms of warrants, which are to be signed by the chair or, in  
4 his or her absence, the vice chair of the district school  
5 board and countersigned by the district school superintendent,  
6 for payment or disbursement of moneys out of the school  
7 depository and to change the form thereof from time to time as  
8 the district school board deems appropriate. If authorized in  
9 writing by the payee, such district school board warrants may  
10 provide for the direct deposit of funds to the account of the  
11 payee in any financial institution that is designated in  
12 writing by the payee and that has lawful authority to accept  
13 such deposits. The written authorization of the payee must be  
14 filed with the district school board. Direct deposit of funds  
15 may be by any electronic or other medium approved by the  
16 district school board for such purpose. The State Board of  
17 Education shall adopt rules prescribing minimum security  
18 measures that must be implemented by any district school board  
19 before establishing the system authorized in this subsection.

20           (6) EXEMPTION FOR SELF-INSURANCE PROGRAMS AND  
21 THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTERED EMPLOYEES' FRINGE BENEFIT PROGRAMS.--

22           (a) Each district school board is authorized to  
23 contract with an approved service organization to provide  
24 self-insurance services, including, but not limited to, the  
25 evaluation, settlement, and payment of self-insurance claims  
26 on behalf of the district school board. Pursuant to such  
27 contract, the district school board may advance money to the  
28 service organization to be deposited in a special checking  
29 account for paying claims against the district school board  
30 under its self-insurance program. The special checking  
31 account shall be maintained in a designated district school

1 depository. The district school board may replenish such  
2 account as often as necessary upon the presentation by the  
3 service organization of documentation for claims paid equal to  
4 the amount of the requested reimbursement. Such replenishment  
5 shall be made by a warrant signed by the chair of the district  
6 school board and countersigned by the district school  
7 superintendent. Such replenishment may be made by electronic,  
8 telephonic, or other medium, and each transfer shall be  
9 confirmed in writing and signed by the superintendent or his  
10 or her designee.

11 (b) The district school board may contract with an  
12 insurance company or professional administrator who holds a  
13 valid certificate of authority issued by the Department of  
14 Insurance to provide any or all services that a third-party  
15 administrator is authorized by law to perform. Pursuant to  
16 such contract, the district school board may advance or remit  
17 money to the administrator to be deposited in a designated  
18 special checking account for paying claims against the  
19 district school board under its self-insurance programs, and  
20 remitting premiums to the providers of insured benefits on  
21 behalf of the district school board and the participants in  
22 such programs, and otherwise fulfilling the obligations  
23 imposed upon the administrator by law and the contractual  
24 agreements between the district school board and the  
25 administrator. The special checking account shall be  
26 maintained in a designated district school depository. The  
27 district school board may replenish such account as often as  
28 necessary upon the presentation by the service organization of  
29 documentation for claims or premiums due paid equal to the  
30 amount of the requested reimbursement. Such replenishment  
31 shall be made by a warrant signed by the chair of the district

1 school board and countersigned by the district school  
2 superintendent. Such replenishment may be made by electronic,  
3 telephonic, or other medium, and each transfer shall be  
4 confirmed in writing and signed by the district school  
5 superintendent or his or her designee. The provisions of  
6 strict accountability of all funds and an annual audit by an  
7 independent certified public accountant as provided in s.  
8 1001.42(10)(k) shall apply to this subsection.

9           Section 622. Section 1011.19, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11           1011.19 Sources of district school fund.--The district  
12 school fund shall consist of funds derived from the district  
13 school tax levy; state appropriations; appropriations by  
14 county commissioners; local, state, and federal school food  
15 service funds; any and all other sources for school purposes;  
16 national forest trust funds and other federal sources; and  
17 gifts and other sources.

18           Section 623. Section 1011.20, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20           1011.20 Apportionment and use of district school  
21 fund.--The district school fund shall be apportioned, expended  
22 and disbursed in the district solely for the support of the  
23 public schools of the district as prescribed by law; provided,  
24 however, that the district school fund shall also be used to  
25 pay the principal and interest on bonds legally issued and  
26 payable from said fund, together with other proper items of  
27 debt service against such fund, including any necessary  
28 refunding expense as prescribed by rules of the State Board of  
29 Education. The district school board shall, before the  
30 maturity of such bonds or other indebtedness and before  
31 interest due dates, deposit with the paying agent or make

1 available, as designated in the resolution authorizing the  
2 issuance of the bonds or other legal evidences of  
3 indebtedness, sufficient funds with which to pay all principal  
4 and interest when due; provided, that when such funds have  
5 been so deposited with the paying agent or made available, all  
6 interest on the indebtedness represented by the maturing  
7 bonds, coupons or other evidences of indebtedness shall cease  
8 as of their maturity dates; and provided, further, that if any  
9 such bonds, coupons or other evidences of indebtedness are not  
10 presented for payment within 6 months after the date on which  
11 they mature, the funds shall be returned to the district  
12 school board and shall be placed by said board in the district  
13 school fund and the district school board shall pay said  
14 bonds, coupons or other evidences of indebtedness from said  
15 fund when presented for payment. Any holder of bonds, coupons  
16 or other indebtedness claiming interest after maturity on  
17 account of the fact that funds were not deposited with the  
18 paying agent or made available to pay such bonds, coupons or  
19 other indebtedness at maturity, shall be required to produce  
20 evidence in the form of a letter from the paying agent or the  
21 district school board, respectively, acknowledging that the  
22 bonds, coupons and other evidences of indebtedness upon which  
23 interest is claimed were presented for payment, that no funds  
24 were available for the payment thereof, that such bonds,  
25 coupons and other evidences of indebtedness were presented for  
26 payment at least annually thereafter and that no funds were  
27 available to pay such indebtedness. The paying agent or the  
28 district school board, whichever has the duty of holding the  
29 funds, shall, upon request of the holder of defaulted bonds,  
30 coupons or other evidences of indebtedness, furnish to such  
31 holder the letter required herein. When such evidence is

1 presented the district school fund shall be liable for the  
2 payment of principal and interest on the bonds, coupons or  
3 other evidences of indebtedness from maturity until paid at  
4 the rate prescribed on the face thereof. If at any time any  
5 bonds, coupons or other evidences of indebtedness are reduced  
6 to judgment, the district school fund shall be responsible for  
7 past due interest only at the rate prescribed by the bonds or  
8 other evidences of indebtedness and any rate of interest in  
9 excess of that amount shall be illegal and invalid. Such  
10 judgments shall bear interest at the rate of 5 percent per  
11 annum until paid. When any proposal for refunding the  
12 indebtedness against said district school fund has been  
13 prepared and approved by the State Board of Education, as  
14 required by law, and when the holders of at least 80 percent  
15 of the outstanding indebtedness against said fund have agreed  
16 in writing to the refunding plan, the district school board  
17 shall be authorized to pay, out of the district school fund,  
18 from and after that date, on the original and refunding bonds  
19 or other evidences of indebtedness only the rate of interest  
20 which has been agreed upon for the refunding bonds or other  
21 evidences of indebtedness and no owner or holder of a bond,  
22 coupon or other evidence of indebtedness shall be entitled to  
23 a higher rate of interest after that date; provided, that such  
24 owner or holder shall be given the option by the district  
25 school board of receiving payment in cash for all principal  
26 and interest due on the bonds and coupons or other evidence of  
27 indebtedness he or she holds at the same rate at which the  
28 remaining indebtedness has been refunded.

29           Section 624. Section 1011.21, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:  
31

1           1011.21 Source and use of district interest and  
2 sinking fund.--The district interest and sinking fund of any  
3 school district shall comprise the proceeds of the tax levied  
4 for the purpose of paying the principal and interest of bonds  
5 outstanding against the district as provided in this chapter  
6 and in addition such funds as may accrue to the credit of the  
7 district interest and sinking fund from interest on deposits,  
8 investments or other sources. The district interest and  
9 sinking fund in each district shall be used to pay the  
10 principal and interest on bonds legally issued against the  
11 district and other proper items of debt service against such  
12 district, including any necessary refunding expense as  
13 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education. The  
14 district school board shall, before the maturity of bonds and  
15 before interest due dates, deposit with the paying agent or  
16 make available, as designated in the resolution authorizing  
17 the issuance of bonds, sufficient money of the district  
18 interest and sinking fund with which to pay all principal and  
19 interest when due; provided, that when such money has been so  
20 deposited with the paying agent or made available, all  
21 interest on the indebtedness represented by the maturing bonds  
22 or coupons shall cease as of their maturity dates; and  
23 provided, further, that if any such bonds or coupons are not  
24 presented for payment within 6 months after the date on which  
25 they mature, the money shall be returned to the district  
26 school board and shall be held by the board as a reserve fund  
27 in the account of the district interest and sinking fund until  
28 the bonds and coupons are presented for payment. Any holder  
29 of bonds or coupons claiming interest after maturity shall be  
30 required to produce evidence in the form of a letter from the  
31 paying agent or the district school board of the district,

1 respectively, acknowledging that the bonds or coupons upon  
2 which interest is claimed were presented for payment upon  
3 maturity, that no funds were available for the payment  
4 thereof, that such bonds or coupons were presented for payment  
5 at least annually thereafter and that no funds were available  
6 to pay such bonds or coupons. The paying agent or the  
7 district school board, whichever has the duty of holding the  
8 money shall, upon request of the holder of defaulted bonds or  
9 coupons, furnish to such holder the letter required herein.  
10 When such evidence is presented, the district interest and  
11 sinking fund shall be liable for the payment of principal and  
12 interest on the bonds and coupons from maturity until paid at  
13 the rate prescribed on the face of the bonds. If at any time  
14 any bonds or coupons are reduced to judgment, the district  
15 interest and sinking fund shall be responsible for past due  
16 interest only at the rate prescribed by the bonds and any rate  
17 of interest in excess of that amount shall be illegal and  
18 invalid. Such judgments shall bear interest at the rate of 5  
19 percent per annum until paid. When any proposal for refunding  
20 the indebtedness against any district has been prepared and  
21 approved by the Department of Education, as required by law,  
22 and when the holders of at least 80 percent of the outstanding  
23 indebtedness represented by the bond issue have agreed in  
24 writing to the refunding plan, the district school board shall  
25 be authorized to pay, from and after that date on the original  
26 and refunding bonds from the district interest and sinking  
27 fund, only the rate of interest which has been agreed upon for  
28 the refunding bonds and no owner or holder of a bond or coupon  
29 shall be entitled to a higher rate of interest after that  
30 date; provided, that such owner or holder shall be given the  
31 option by the school board of receiving payment in cash for

1 all principal and interest due on the bonds and coupons he or  
2 she holds at the same rate at which the remaining bonds and  
3 coupons have been refunded.

4 Section 625. Section 1011.22, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1011.22 Interest and sinking funds may be invested in  
7 certain bonds, warrants, and notes.--Each district school  
8 board shall have the power at all times to invest the interest  
9 and sinking funds collected for the retirement of any bonds of  
10 the school district in any investment as authorized in s.  
11 1010.53(2). The district school board shall have authority at  
12 any time to use the interest and sinking fund of any district  
13 for purchasing, for the purpose of canceling and retiring,  
14 bonds outstanding against the interest and sinking fund of  
15 said district at any price which will result in a net saving  
16 to the taxpayers of the district; provided, always, that the  
17 district school board shall have the right to keep the  
18 interest and sinking fund on deposit earning the rate of  
19 interest agreed upon until such time as within its judgment it  
20 may be able to invest it in bonds, warrants, or notes to  
21 better advantage as provided herein.

22 Section 626. Section 1011.23, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1011.23 Disposition of balance in interest and sinking  
25 fund.--If all principal and interest outstanding against any  
26 school district shall have been paid, and there shall still  
27 remain a balance in the interest and sinking fund to the  
28 credit of that district, the district school board shall, by  
29 resolution, authorize this balance to be transferred to the  
30 credit of the district school fund.

31

1           Section 627. Section 1011.24, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1011.24 Special district units.--For the purposes of  
4 funding through chapters 1011 and 1013, developmental research  
5 schools shall be designated as special school districts. Such  
6 districts shall be accountable to the Department of Education  
7 for budget requests and reports on expenditures.

8           Section 628. Part I.b. of chapter 1011, Florida  
9 Statutes, shall be entitled "Community Colleges: Preparation,  
10 Adoption, and Implementation of Budgets" and shall consist of  
11 ss. 1011.30-1011.32.

12           Section 629. Section 1011.30, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14           1011.30 Budgets for community colleges.--Each  
15 community college president shall recommend to the community  
16 college board of trustees a budget of income and expenditures  
17 at such time and in such form as the State Board of Education  
18 may prescribe. Upon approval of a budget by the community  
19 college board of trustees, such budget shall be transmitted to  
20 the Department of Education for review and approval. Rules of  
21 the State Board of Education shall prescribe procedures for  
22 effecting budget amendments subsequent to the final approval  
23 of a budget for a given year.

24           Section 630. Section 1011.31, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26           1011.31 Current loans to community college boards of  
27 trustees.--

28           (1) At any time the current funds on hand are  
29 insufficient to pay obligations created by a community college  
30 board of trustees in accordance with the approved budget of  
31 the community college, the community college board of trustees

1 may request approval by the Commissioner of Education of a  
2 proposal to negotiate a current loan, with provisions for the  
3 repayment of such loan during the fiscal year in which the  
4 loan is made, in order to meet these obligations.

5 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall approve such  
6 proposal when, in his opinion, the proposal is reasonable and  
7 just, the expenditure is necessary, and revenues sufficient to  
8 meet the requirements of the loan can reasonably be  
9 anticipated.

10 Section 631. Section 1011.32, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1011.32 Community College Facility Enhancement  
13 Challenge Grant Program.--

14 (1) The Legislature recognizes that the community  
15 colleges do not have sufficient physical facilities to meet  
16 the current demands of their instructional and community  
17 programs. It further recognizes that, to strengthen and  
18 enhance community colleges, it is necessary to provide  
19 facilities in addition to those currently available from  
20 existing revenue sources. It further recognizes that there are  
21 sources of private support that, if matched with state  
22 support, can assist in constructing much needed facilities and  
23 strengthen the commitment of citizens and organizations in  
24 promoting excellence at each community college. Therefore, it  
25 is the intent of the Legislature to establish a program to  
26 provide the opportunity for each community college through its  
27 direct-support organization to receive and match challenge  
28 grants for instructional and community-related capital  
29 facilities within the community college.

30 (2) There is established the Community College  
31 Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program for the purpose

1 of assisting the community colleges in building high priority  
2 instructional and community-related capital facilities  
3 consistent with s. 1004.65, including common areas connecting  
4 such facilities. The direct-support organizations that serve  
5 the community colleges shall solicit gifts from private  
6 sources to provide matching funds for capital facilities. For  
7 the purposes of this section, private sources of funds shall  
8 not include any federal or state government funds that a  
9 community college may receive.

10 (3) The Community College Capital Facilities Matching  
11 Program shall provide funds to match private contributions for  
12 the development of high priority instructional and  
13 community-related capital facilities, including common areas  
14 connecting such facilities, within the community colleges.

15 (4) Within the direct-support organization of each  
16 community college there must be established a separate capital  
17 facilities matching account for the purpose of providing  
18 matching funds from the direct-support organization's  
19 unrestricted donations or other private contributions for the  
20 development of high priority instructional and  
21 community-related capital facilities, including common areas  
22 connecting such facilities. The Legislature shall appropriate  
23 funds for distribution to a community college after matching  
24 funds are certified by the direct-support organization and  
25 community college. The Public Education Capital Outlay and  
26 Debt Service Trust Fund shall not be used as the source of the  
27 state match for private contributions.

28 (5) A project may not be initiated unless all private  
29 funds for planning, construction, and equipping the facility  
30 have been received and deposited in the direct-support  
31 organization's matching account and the state's share for the

1 minimum amount of funds needed to begin the project has been  
2 appropriated by the Legislature. The Legislature may  
3 appropriate the state's matching funds in one or more fiscal  
4 years for the planning, construction, and equipping of an  
5 eligible facility. However, these requirements shall not  
6 preclude the community college or direct-support organization  
7 from expending available funds from private sources to develop  
8 a prospectus, including preliminary architectural schematics  
9 and/or models, for use in its efforts to raise private funds  
10 for a facility. Additionally, any private sources of funds  
11 expended for this purpose are eligible for state matching  
12 funds should the project materialize as provided for in this  
13 section.

14 (6) To be eligible to participate in the Community  
15 College Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program, a  
16 community college, through its direct-support organization,  
17 shall raise a contribution equal to one-half of the total cost  
18 of a facilities construction project from private sources  
19 which shall be matched by a state appropriation equal to the  
20 amount raised for a facilities construction project, subject  
21 to the General Appropriations Act.

22 (7) If the state's share of the required match is  
23 insufficient to meet the requirements of subsection (6), the  
24 community college shall renegotiate the terms of the  
25 contribution with the donors. If the project is terminated,  
26 each private donation, plus accrued interest, reverts to the  
27 direct-support organization for remittance to the donor.

28 (8) By September 1 of each year, the State Board of  
29 Education shall transmit to the Legislature a list of projects  
30 which meet all eligibility requirements to participate in the  
31 Community College Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program

1 and a budget request which includes the recommended schedule  
2 necessary to complete each project.

3 (9) In order for a project to be eligible under this  
4 program, it must be survey recommended under the provisions of  
5 s. 1013.31 and included in the community colleges 5-year  
6 capital improvement plan, and it must receive prior approval  
7 from the State Board of Education.

8 (10) A community college project may not be removed  
9 from the approved 3-year PECO priority list because of its  
10 successful participation in this program until approved by the  
11 Legislature and provided for in the General Appropriations  
12 Act. When such a project is completed and removed from the  
13 list, all other projects shall move up on the 3-year PECO  
14 priority list.

15 (11) Any project funds that are unexpended after a  
16 project is completed shall revert to the community college's  
17 direct-support organization capital facilities matching  
18 account. Fifty percent of such unexpended funds shall be  
19 reserved for the community college which originally received  
20 the private contribution for the purpose of providing private  
21 matching funds for future facility construction projects as  
22 provided in this section. The balance of such unexpended funds  
23 shall be returned to the General Revenue Fund.

24 (12) The surveys, architectural plans, facility, and  
25 equipment shall be the property of the participating community  
26 college. A facility constructed under this section may be  
27 named in honor of a donor at the option of the community  
28 college district board of trustees. A facility may not be  
29 named after a living person without prior approval by the  
30 State Board of Education.

31

1           Section 632. Part I.c. of chapter 1011, Florida  
2 Statutes, shall be entitled "Universities: Preparation,  
3 Adoption, and Implementation of Budgets" and shall consist of  
4 ss. 1011.40-1011.52.

5           Section 633. Section 1011.40, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7           1011.40 Budgets for universities.--

8           (1) LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REQUEST.--The State Board of  
9 Education shall provide instructions, guidelines, and standard  
10 formats to be used by each university that will provide to the  
11 State Board of Education and the Legislature adequate  
12 information to support and justify the legislative budget  
13 requests submitted pursuant to ss. 216.023, 1013.60, and  
14 1011.90 for each university.

15           (2) OPERATING BUDGET.--Each university board of  
16 trustees shall adopt an operating budget for the operation of  
17 the university as prescribed by law and rules of the State  
18 Board of Education. Each university president shall prepare  
19 and implement the operating budget of the university as  
20 prescribed by law, rules of the State Board of Education,  
21 policies of the university board of trustees, and provisions  
22 of the General Appropriations Act. The proposed expenditures,  
23 plus transfers, and balances shall not exceed the estimated  
24 income, transfers, and balances. The budget and each part  
25 thereof shall balance. If at any time the unencumbered balance  
26 in the education and general fund of the university board of  
27 trustees approved operating budget goes below five percent,  
28 the president shall provide written notification to the State  
29 Board of Education.

30           (3) EXPENDITURES.--Expenditures from any source of  
31 funds by any university shall not exceed the funds available.

1 Expenditures shall not exceed the amount budgeted under each  
2 classification of accounts for each fund and the total amount  
3 of the budget, as amended as prescribed by rules of the State  
4 Board of Education. No expenditure of funds, contract, or  
5 agreement of any nature shall be made that requires additional  
6 appropriation of funds by the Legislature unless specifically  
7 authorized in advance by law or the General Appropriations  
8 Act.

9       (4) DISTRIBUTION OF APPROPRIATION.--Funds appropriated  
10 in the General Appropriations Act for the operation of state  
11 universities shall be distributed by the State Board of  
12 Education to the universities twice monthly. The Executive  
13 Office of the Governor may modify this schedule if required to  
14 meet specific needs of a university.

15       Section 634. Section 1011.41, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17       1011.41 University appropriations.--Funds for the  
18 general operations of universities shall be requested and  
19 appropriated as Aid to Local Governments Grants and Aids,  
20 subject to provisions of the General Appropriations Act.

21       Section 635. Section 1011.4105, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23       1011.4105 Transition from state accounting system  
24 (FLAIR) to university accounting system.--

25       (1) Universities and colleges under the supervision of  
26 the State Board of Education shall use the state accounting  
27 system (FLAIR) for fiscal year 2002-2003. The universities  
28 shall not be required to provide funds to the Department of  
29 Banking and Finance for the utilization of FLAIR.

30  
31

1           (2) Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year any  
2 university may transition from FLAIR to the university's  
3 accounting system.

4           (3) To accomplish the transition from FLAIR to a  
5 university's accounting system the university board of  
6 trustees must submit to the State Board of Education a plan  
7 developed in cooperation with the State Comptroller (Chief  
8 Financial Officer.) The plan must contain the actions the  
9 university will take, or has taken, to implement this  
10 transition. The plan must provide time lines for completion of  
11 actions and the target date the university will have  
12 implemented and tested parallel systems with appropriate audit  
13 and internal controls in place that will enable the university  
14 to satisfactorily and timely perform all accounting and  
15 reporting functions required by State and Federal law and  
16 rules of the State Board of Education.

17           (4) When a university is ready to transition from  
18 FLAIR to its own system, the State Board of Education shall  
19 verify that the system the university has implemented and  
20 tested is adequate for the university, the university has  
21 appropriate audit and internal controls in place, the  
22 university has the resources required to operate and maintain  
23 the system, and that the university and the State Comptroller  
24 (Chief Financial Officer) are prepared to implement the  
25 transition. The State Board of Education shall submit to the  
26 Executive Office of the Governor and the Chairs of the  
27 Appropriations Committees of the Senate and House of  
28 Representatives confirmation of this verification and the date  
29 the transition will be effective. Transition for any  
30 university shall not take place until after the State Board of  
31 Education has submitted this confirmation.

1           (5) The State Board of Education in cooperation with  
2 each university and the Department of Banking and Finance  
3 shall develop a plan and establish the deadline for all  
4 universities to have completed the transition from FLAIR. The  
5 Board shall submit a copy of this plan to the Executive Office  
6 of the Governor and the Chairs of the Appropriations  
7 Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives.

8           Section 636. Section 1011.4106, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10           1011.4106 Trust fund dissolution.--Notwithstanding the  
11 provisions of ss. 215.3206(2) and 215.3208(2), and pursuant to  
12 s. 216.351, all unexpended balances as of June 30, 2002 in the  
13 following state university system trust funds are hereby  
14 appropriated to the appropriate accounts of each university  
15 based upon the original source of the trust fund revenue and  
16 any accrued interest: the Education/General Student and Other  
17 Fees Trust Fund, the Experiment Station Federal Grant Trust  
18 Fund, the Experiment Station Incidental Trust Fund, the  
19 Extension Service Federal Grant Trust Fund, the Extension  
20 Service Incidental Trust Fund, the Incidental Trust Fund, the  
21 UF Health Center Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund, the  
22 Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund, and all other trust  
23 funds in the State Treasury for universities. Expenditure of  
24 these funds by each university must be based on the laws,  
25 rules, grant agreements, or other legal controlling factors  
26 associated with all trust fund balances which are appropriated  
27 to local accounts pursuant to this section, and included in  
28 each university board of trustees' approved operating budget.  
29 Each university shall be responsible for the payment of  
30 outstanding debts or obligations associated with these funds.  
31

1           Section 637. Section 1011.411, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1011.411 Budgets for sponsored research at  
4 universities.--Funds for sponsored research at each university  
5 shall be budgeted and expended pursuant to ss. 1010.30 and  
6 1011.42.

7           Section 638. Section 1011.42, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9           1011.42 University depositories; deposits into and  
10 withdrawals from depositories.--

11           (1) The board of trustees of each university shall  
12 designate the depositories in which any university funds may  
13 be deposited. No bank shall be designated unless it is a  
14 qualified depository as provided by Florida Statutes.

15           (2) All funds received by a university, from whatever  
16 source and for whatever purpose, shall promptly be deposited  
17 in a board of trustees approved qualified depository.

18           (3) The board of trustees shall require an accurate  
19 and complete set of accounts to be maintained in the books and  
20 records for each fund on deposit in each university  
21 depository. Each account shall show the amount subject to  
22 withdrawal, the amount deposited, the amount expended, and the  
23 balance of the account.

24           (4) The university may maintain a separate checking  
25 account for each fund or may utilize a single checking account  
26 for the deposit and withdrawal of moneys from all funds and  
27 segregate the various funds on the books and records only. No  
28 check or withdrawal shall be drawn in excess of the balance to  
29 the credit of the appropriate fund.

30           (5) Funds awaiting clearing may be invested in  
31 investments earning interest in a qualified depository, in the

1 State Treasury, and in the State Board of Administration.  
2 Investments of university funds shall comply with the  
3 requirements of Florida Statutes for the investment of public  
4 funds by local government. Due diligence shall be exercised to  
5 assure that the highest available amount of earnings is  
6 obtained on investments.

7 (6) The university president or his designee, after  
8 having been specifically authorized by the university board of  
9 trustees, may transfer funds from one depository to another,  
10 within a depository, to another institution, or from another  
11 institution to a depository for investment purposes and may  
12 transfer funds in a similar manner when the transfer does not  
13 represent an expenditure, advance, or reduction of cash  
14 assets.

15 (7) The university board of trustees shall  
16 specifically designate and spread upon the minutes of the  
17 board the legal name and position title of any university  
18 employee authorized to sign checks to pay legal obligations of  
19 the university.

20 Section 639. Section 1011.43, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22 1011.43 Investment of university agency and activity  
23 funds; earnings used for scholarships.--Each university is  
24 authorized to invest available agency and activity funds and  
25 to use the earnings from such investments for student  
26 scholarships and loans. The university board of trustees shall  
27 provide procedures for the administration of these  
28 scholarships and loans by rules.

29 Section 640. Section 1011.45, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31

1           1011.45 End of year balance of funds.--Unexpended  
2 amounts in any fund in a university current year operating  
3 budget shall be carried forward and included as the balance  
4 forward for that fund in the approved operating budget for the  
5 following year.

6           Section 641. Section 1011.47, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8           1011.47 Auxiliary enterprises; contracts, grants, and  
9 donations.--As used in s. 19(f)(3), Art. III of the State  
10 Constitution, the term:

11           (1) "Auxiliary enterprises" includes activities that  
12 directly or indirectly provide a product or a service, or  
13 both, to a university or its students, faculty, or staff and  
14 for which a charge is made. These auxiliary enterprises are  
15 business activities of a university which require no support  
16 from the General Revenue Fund, and include activities such as  
17 housing, bookstores, student health services, continuing  
18 education programs, food services, college stores, operation  
19 of vending machines, specialty shops, day care centers, golf  
20 courses, student activities programs, data center operations,  
21 and intercollegiate athletics programs.

22           (2) "Contracts, grants, and donations" includes  
23 noneducational and general funding sources in support of  
24 research, public services, and training. The term includes  
25 grants and donations, sponsored-research contracts, and  
26 Department of Education funding for developmental research  
27 schools and other activities for which the funds are deposited  
28 outside the State Treasury.

29           Section 642. Section 1011.48, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31

1           1011.48 Establishment of educational research centers  
2 for child development.--

3           (1) Upon approval of the university president, the  
4 student government association of any state university may  
5 establish an educational research center for child development  
6 in accordance with the provisions of this section. Each such  
7 center shall be a child day care center established to provide  
8 care for the children of students, both graduate and  
9 undergraduate, faculty, and other staff and employees of the  
10 university and to provide an opportunity for interested  
11 schools or departments of the university to conduct  
12 educational research programs and establish internship  
13 programs within such centers. Whenever possible, such center  
14 shall be located on the campus of the university. There shall  
15 be a director of each center, selected by the board of  
16 directors of the center.

17           (2) There shall be a board of directors for each  
18 educational research center for child development, consisting  
19 of the president of the university or his or her designee, the  
20 student government president or his or her designee, the chair  
21 of each department participating in the center or his or her  
22 designee, and one parent for each 50 children enrolled in the  
23 center, elected by the parents of children enrolled in the  
24 center. The director of the center shall be an ex officio,  
25 nonvoting member of the board. The board shall establish local  
26 policies and perform local oversight and operational guidance  
27 for the center.

28           (3) Each center is authorized to charge fees for the  
29 care and services it provides. Such fees must be approved by  
30 the State Board of Education and may be imposed on a sliding  
31

1 scale based on ability to pay or any other factors deemed  
2 relevant by the board.

3 (4) The State Board of Education is authorized and  
4 directed to promulgate rules for the establishment, operation,  
5 and supervision of educational research centers for child  
6 development. Such rules shall include, but need not be limited  
7 to: a defined method of establishment of and participation in  
8 the operation of centers by the appropriate student government  
9 associations; guidelines for the establishment of an intern  
10 program in each center; and guidelines for the receipt and  
11 monitoring of funds from grants and other sources of funds  
12 consistent with existing laws.

13 (5) Each educational research center for child  
14 development shall be funded by a portion of the Capital  
15 Improvement Trust Fund fee established by the State Board of  
16 Education pursuant to s. 1009.24(7). Each university that  
17 establishes a center shall receive a portion of such fees  
18 collected from the students enrolled at that university,  
19 usable only at that university, equal to 22.5 cents per  
20 student per credit hour taken per term, based on the summer  
21 term and fall and spring semesters. This allocation shall be  
22 used by the university only for the establishment and  
23 operation of a center as provided by this section and rules  
24 promulgated hereunder. Said allocation may be made only after  
25 all bond obligations required to be paid from such fees have  
26 been met.

27 Section 643. Section 1011.49, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1011.49 Assent to Smith-Lever Act; university board of  
30 trustees authorized to receive grants.--The Legislature, in  
31 behalf of and for the state, assents to, and gives its assent

1 to, the provisions and requirements of the Act of Congress  
2 commonly known as the "Smith-Lever Act," and all acts  
3 supplemental thereto, and the University of Florida Board of  
4 Trustees, having supervision over and control of the  
5 University of Florida, located at Gainesville, may receive the  
6 grants of money appropriated under said Act of Congress and  
7 organize and conduct agricultural and home economics extension  
8 work, which shall be carried on in connection with the  
9 University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural  
10 Sciences, in accordance with the terms and conditions  
11 expressed in said Act of Congress.

12           Section 644. Section 1011.50, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14           1011.50 Agricultural experiment stations; assent to  
15 Act of Congress; federal appropriation.--The objects and  
16 purposes contained in the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to  
17 provide for an increased annual appropriation for agricultural  
18 experiment stations and regulating the expenditure thereof"  
19 are assented to; and the Board of Trustees of the University  
20 of Florida is authorized to accept and receive the annual  
21 appropriations for the use and benefit of the agricultural  
22 experiment station fund of the Institute of Food and  
23 Agricultural Sciences of the University of Florida, located at  
24 Gainesville, upon the terms and conditions contained in said  
25 Act of Congress.

26           Section 645. Section 1011.501, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28           1011.501 Assent to ss. 1444 and 1445 of the Food and  
29 Agriculture Act of 1977; board of trustees authorized to  
30 receive grants, etc.--The assent of Legislature is given to  
31 the provisions and requirements of ss. 1444 and 1445 of the

1 Act of Congress commonly known as the "Food and Agriculture  
2 Act of 1977" and all acts supplemental thereto. The Board of  
3 Trustees of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University  
4 may receive grants of money appropriated under said sections  
5 of said act and may organize and conduct agricultural  
6 extension work and conduct agricultural research, which shall  
7 be carried on in connection with the College of Engineering  
8 Sciences, Technology and Agriculture of said Florida  
9 Agricultural and Mechanical University, in accordance with the  
10 terms and conditions expressed in the Act of Congress  
11 aforesaid.

12 Section 646. Section 1011.51, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14 1011.51 Independent postsecondary endowment grants.--

15 (1) The Legislature finds and declares that accredited  
16 baccalaureate-degree-granting independent nonprofit colleges  
17 and universities are an integral part of the higher education  
18 system in this state; that significant numbers of persons  
19 choose to utilize these institutions for obtaining higher  
20 education; that the burdens on public colleges and  
21 universities are lessened because of the students that choose  
22 to utilize these institutions for their higher education; that  
23 having a strong system of baccalaureate-degree-granting  
24 independent nonprofit colleges and universities will improve  
25 the educational, economic, and social well-being of the state;  
26 and that creation of a state program to provide matching  
27 endowment grants will improve the academic excellence of these  
28 institutions and enhance educational opportunities for Florida  
29 citizens, furthering the improvement of the overall  
30 educational system in the state.

31

1           (2) There is established the Florida Postsecondary  
2 Endowment Grants Program to be administered by the Department  
3 of Education. The program shall provide matching endowment  
4 grants to independent nonprofit colleges and universities in  
5 Florida that meet the requirements of this section. The  
6 Legislature shall designate funds for the program to be  
7 transferred to the Grants and Donations Trust Fund from  
8 available sources. All funds transferred to the trust fund,  
9 or retained in the trust fund, shall be invested in accordance  
10 with the provisions of chapter 215. Notwithstanding the  
11 provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any  
12 undisbursed balance remaining in the trust fund for the  
13 program and income from investments and interest related  
14 thereto shall remain in the trust fund and shall increase the  
15 total funds available for such matching endowment grants.

16           (3) The matching endowment grants made available under  
17 this section shall be made available to any independent  
18 nonprofit college or university which:

19           (a) Is located in and chartered by the state.

20           (b) Is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the  
21 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

22           (c) Grants baccalaureate degrees.

23           (d) Is not a state university or community college.

24           (e) Has a secular purpose, so long as the receipt of  
25 state aid by students at the institution would not have the  
26 primary effect of advancing or impeding religion or result in  
27 an excessive entanglement between the state and any religious  
28 sect.

29           (4)(a) The amounts appropriated for the program shall  
30 be allocated by the Department of Education to each  
31

1 independent nonprofit college or university that meets the  
2 criteria of subsection (3) in the following manner:

3 1. Each such college or university that raises an  
4 endowment contribution of at least \$50,000, but no more than  
5 \$75,000, from private sources shall receive a matching  
6 endowment grant equal to 70 percent of the private  
7 contribution.

8 2. Each such college or university that raises an  
9 endowment contribution in excess of \$75,000, but no more than  
10 \$100,000, from private sources shall receive a matching  
11 endowment grant equal to 75 percent of the private  
12 contribution.

13 3. Each such college or university that raises an  
14 endowment contribution in excess of \$100,000, but no more than  
15 \$125,000, from private sources shall receive a matching  
16 endowment grant equal to 80 percent of the private  
17 contribution.

18 4. Each such college or university that raises an  
19 endowment contribution in excess of \$125,000 from private  
20 sources shall receive a matching endowment grant equal to 100  
21 percent of the private contribution.

22 (b) The private sources may include combined  
23 contributions for a common purpose, but shall not include  
24 separate unrelated contributions. The state endowment  
25 matching grant shall be disbursed to the independent nonprofit  
26 college or university upon certification by the college or  
27 university that it has received and deposited the  
28 proportionate amount specified in this subsection.

29 (c) Contributions may also be eligible for matching if  
30 there is a commitment to make a donation of \$125,000, and an  
31 initial payment of \$25,000 is accompanied by a written pledge

1 to provide the balance within 4 years after the date of such  
2 initial payment. Payments on the balance must be at least  
3 \$25,000 per year and shall be made on or before the  
4 anniversary date of the initial payment. No matching  
5 endowment grant shall be disbursed prior to collection of the  
6 total pledged contribution from the private source, but a  
7 pledged contribution shall encumber the matching endowment  
8 grant for that independent nonprofit college or university.  
9       (5)(a) By July 1 of each year, each independent  
10 nonprofit college or university that desires to participate in  
11 the program shall certify to the department its eligibility.  
12 The department, upon receipt and acceptance of such  
13 certifications, shall reserve an equal amount of the  
14 additional funds for the program transferred to the Grants and  
15 Donations Trust Fund for that fiscal year for each independent  
16 nonprofit college or university that is eligible to  
17 participate. An eligible independent nonprofit college or  
18 university shall have 3 fiscal years within which to encumber  
19 its share of trust funds reserved during the first 3 fiscal  
20 years. After the third fiscal year, if any independent  
21 nonprofit college or university does not fully utilize or  
22 encumber its share of reserved trust funds for any single  
23 fiscal year, such reserved funds shall be available in  
24 subsequent fiscal years for the purposes of this program.  
25       (b) Each eligible institution shall certify to the  
26 department its contributions for the year ending June 30,  
27 1989. Only the qualified new contributions above the certified  
28 base shall be calculated for the purpose of allocating grants  
29 during the first 3 years of the program. In subsequent years,  
30 only the qualified new contributions above the certified prior  
31

1 year base shall be calculated for the purpose of allocating  
2 such grants.

3 (6) Matching endowment grants made pursuant to this  
4 section to a qualified independent nonprofit college or  
5 university shall be placed in a separate restricted endowment  
6 by such institution. The interest or other income accruing  
7 from the endowment shall be expended exclusively for  
8 professorships, library resources, scientific and technical  
9 equipment, and nonathletic scholarships. Moreover, the funds  
10 in the endowment shall not be used for pervasively sectarian  
11 instruction, religious worship, or theology or divinity  
12 programs or resources. The records of the endowment shall be  
13 subject to review by the department and audit or examination  
14 by the Auditor General and the Office of Program Policy  
15 Analysis and Government Accountability. If any institution  
16 receiving a matching endowment grant pursuant to this section  
17 ceases operations and undergoes dissolution proceedings, then  
18 all funds received pursuant to this section from the state  
19 shall be returned.

20 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
21 necessary to implement this section.

22 (8) This section shall be implemented to the extent  
23 specifically funded and authorized by law.

24 Section 647. Section 1011.52, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26 1011.52 Appropriation to first accredited medical  
27 school.--

28 (1) Subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth,  
29 the Legislature shall provide an annual appropriation to the  
30 first accredited medical school. Payments of moneys from such  
31

1 appropriation shall be made semiannually at the beginning of  
2 the first and third quarters.

3 (2) In order for a medical school to qualify under the  
4 provisions of this section and to be entitled to the benefits  
5 herein, such medical school:

6 (a) Must be primarily operated and established to  
7 offer, afford, and render a medical education to residents of  
8 the state qualifying for admission to such institution;

9 (b) Must be operated by a municipality or county of  
10 this state, or by a nonprofit organization heretofore or  
11 hereafter established exclusively for educational purposes;

12 (c) Must, upon the formation and establishment of an  
13 accredited medical school, transmit and file with the  
14 Department of Education documentary proof evidencing the facts  
15 that such institution has been certified and approved by the  
16 council on medical education and hospitals of the American  
17 Medical Association and has adequately met the requirements of  
18 that council in regard to its administrative facilities,  
19 administrative plant, clinical facilities, curriculum, and all  
20 other such requirements as may be necessary to qualify with  
21 the council as a recognized, approved, and accredited medical  
22 school;

23 (d) Must certify to the Department of Education the  
24 name, address, and educational history of each student  
25 approved and accepted for enrollment in such institution for  
26 the ensuing school year.

27 (3) The Department of Education shall, within 60 days  
28 of the receipt of the student enrollment of the medical  
29 school, pay to the school, each year, the amount appropriated  
30 for students accepted and approved for enrollment in such  
31 medical institution, provided each medical student is a legal

1 resident of the state or, if the student is not of legal age,  
2 his or her parents or legal guardian are residents of the  
3 state at the time of the student's acceptance and approval as  
4 a medical student. In the event a student resigns or is  
5 dismissed from such medical institution for any reason  
6 whatsoever before the end of a school year, then the medical  
7 institution shall, within 30 days from such dismissal or  
8 resignation, remit to the state, through the Department of  
9 Education, a pro rata amount of the sum before paid by the  
10 state to the medical institution, which amount is to be  
11 computed by dividing the total number of days in the school  
12 year into the sum paid for that student and multiplying the  
13 result by the total number of days remaining in such school  
14 year after such resignation or dismissal.

15 (4) Such institution is prohibited from expending any  
16 of the sums received under the terms of this section for any  
17 purposes whatsoever, except for the operation and maintenance  
18 of a medical school and for medical research. The institution  
19 is further prohibited from expending any sums received under  
20 the terms of this section for the construction or erection of  
21 any buildings of any kind, nature, or description or for the  
22 maintenance and operation of a hospital in any form or manner  
23 whatsoever.

24 Section 648. Part I.d. of chapter 1011, Florida  
25 Statutes, shall be entitled "Florida School for the Deaf and  
26 the Blind: Preparation, Adoption, and Implementation of  
27 Budgets" and shall consist of ss. 1011.55-1011.57.

28 Section 649. Section 1011.55, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30 1011.55 Procedure for legislative budget requests for  
31 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.--

1           (1) The legislative budget request of the Florida  
2 School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be prepared using the  
3 same format, procedures, and timelines required for the  
4 submission of the legislative budget of the Department of  
5 Education. The Commissioner of Education shall include the  
6 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind in the department's  
7 legislative budget request to the State Board of Education,  
8 the Governor, and the Legislature. The legislative budget  
9 request and the appropriation for the Florida School for the  
10 Deaf and the Blind shall be a separate identifiable sum in the  
11 public schools budget entity of the Department of Education.  
12 The annual appropriation for the school shall be distributed  
13 monthly in payments as nearly equal as possible.  
14 Appropriations for textbooks, instructional technology, and  
15 school buses may be released and distributed as necessary to  
16 serve the instructional program for the students.

17           (2) Fixed capital outlay needs of the school shall  
18 continue to be requested in the public education capital  
19 outlay legislative budget request of the Department of  
20 Education.

21           Section 650. Section 1011.56, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23           1011.56 Operating budget for the Florida School for  
24 the Deaf and the Blind.--The president of the school shall  
25 recommend to the board of trustees a budget of income and  
26 expenditures at such time and in such form as the board of  
27 trustees may prescribe. The board of trustees shall adopt  
28 procedures for the approval of budget amendments. If at any  
29 time the unencumbered balance of approved operating budget  
30 goes below 5 percent, the president shall provide written  
31 notification to the State Board of Education.

1           Section 651. Section 1011.57, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1011.57 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind;  
4 board of trustees; management flexibility.--

5           (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 216.031,  
6 216.181, and 216.262 to the contrary and pursuant to the  
7 provisions of s. 216.351, but subject to any guidelines  
8 imposed in the General Appropriations Act, funds for the  
9 operation of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind  
10 shall be requested and appropriated within budget entities,  
11 program components, program categories, lump sums, or special  
12 categories. Funds appropriated to the Florida School for the  
13 Deaf and the Blind for each program category, lump sum, or  
14 special category may be transferred to traditional categories  
15 for expenditure by the board of trustees of the school. The  
16 board of trustees shall develop an annual operating budget  
17 that allocates funds by program component and traditional  
18 expenditure category.

19           (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.181 and  
20 pursuant to the provisions of s. 216.351, but subject to any  
21 requirements imposed in the General Appropriations Act, no  
22 lump-sum plan is required to implement the special categories,  
23 program categories, or lump-sum appropriations. Upon release  
24 of the special categories, program categories, or lump-sum  
25 appropriations to the board of trustees, the Comptroller, upon  
26 the request of the board of trustees, shall transfer or  
27 reallocate funds to or among accounts established for  
28 disbursement purposes. The board of trustees shall maintain  
29 records to account for the original appropriation.

30           (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 216.031,  
31 216.181, 216.251, and 216.262 to the contrary and pursuant to

1 the provisions of s. 216.351, but subject to any requirements  
2 imposed in the General Appropriations Act, the board of  
3 trustees shall establish the authorized positions and may  
4 amend such positions, within the total funds authorized  
5 annually in the appropriations act.

6 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 to  
7 the contrary, the Executive Office of the Governor shall, on  
8 July 1 of each year, certify forward all unexpended funds  
9 appropriated for the Florida School for the Deaf and the  
10 Blind. The unexpended amounts in any fund shall be carried  
11 forward and included as the balance forward for that fund in  
12 the approved operating budget for the following year.

13 Section 652. Part II of chapter 1011, Florida  
14 Statutes, shall be entitled "Funding for School Districts" and  
15 shall consist of ss. 1011.60-1011.77.

16 Section 653. Section 1011.60, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18 1011.60 Minimum requirements of the Florida Education  
19 Finance Program.--Each district which participates in the  
20 state appropriations for the Florida Education Finance Program  
21 shall provide evidence of its effort to maintain an adequate  
22 school program throughout the district and shall meet at least  
23 the following requirements:

24 (1) ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS.--Maintain adequate and  
25 accurate records, including a system of internal accounts for  
26 individual schools, and file with the Department of Education,  
27 in correct and proper form on or before the date due as fixed  
28 by law or rule, each annual or periodic report that is  
29 required by rules of the State Board of Education.

30 (2) MINIMUM TERM.--Operate all schools for a term of  
31 at least 180 actual teaching days as prescribed in s.

1 1003.01(14) or the equivalent on an hourly basis as specified  
2 by rules of the State Board of Education each school year. The  
3 State Board of Education may prescribe procedures for  
4 altering, and, upon written application, may alter, this  
5 requirement during a national, state, or local emergency as it  
6 may apply to an individual school or schools in any district  
7 or districts if, in the opinion of the board, it is not  
8 feasible to make up lost days, and the apportionment may, at  
9 the discretion of the Commissioner of Education and if the  
10 board determines that the reduction of school days is caused  
11 by the existence of a bona fide emergency, be reduced for such  
12 district or districts in proportion to the decrease in the  
13 length of term in any such school or schools. A strike, as  
14 defined in s. 447.203(6), by employees of the school district  
15 may not be considered an emergency.

16 (3) EMPLOYMENT POLICIES.--Adopt rules relating to the  
17 appointment, promotion, transfer, suspension, and dismissal of  
18 personnel.

19 (a) Such rules must conform to applicable law and  
20 rules of the State Board of Education and must include the  
21 duties and responsibilities of the district school  
22 superintendent and school board pertaining to these and other  
23 personnel matters.

24 (b) All personnel shall be paid in accordance with  
25 payroll period schedules adopted by the school board and  
26 included in the official salary schedule.

27 (c) No salary payment shall be paid to any employee in  
28 advance of service being rendered.

29 (d) District school boards may authorize a maximum of  
30 six paid legal holidays which shall apply to the 196 days of  
31 service.

1       (e) Such rules may include reasonable time for  
2 vacation and absences for further professional studies for  
3 personnel employed on a 12-month basis.

4       (f) Such rules must require 12 calendar months of  
5 service for such principals as prescribed by rules of the  
6 State Board of Education and must require 10 months to include  
7 not less than 196 days of service, excluding Sundays and other  
8 holidays, for all members of the instructional staff, with any  
9 such service on a 12-month basis to include reasonable  
10 allowance for vacation or further study as prescribed by the  
11 school board in accordance with rules of the State Board of  
12 Education.

13       (4) SALARY SCHEDULES.--Expend funds for salaries in  
14 accordance with a salary schedule or schedules adopted by the  
15 school board in accordance with the provisions of law and  
16 rules of the State Board of Education. Expenditures for  
17 salaries of instructional personnel must include compensation  
18 based on employee performance demonstrated under s. 1012.34.

19       (5) BUDGETS.--Observe fully at all times all  
20 requirements of law and rules of the State Board of Education  
21 relating to the preparation, adoption, and execution of  
22 budgets for district school boards.

23       (6) MINIMUM FINANCIAL EFFORT REQUIRED.--Make the  
24 minimum financial effort required for the support of the  
25 Florida Education Finance Program as prescribed in the current  
26 year's General Appropriations Act.

27       (7) DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL PLANNING.--Maintain a system  
28 of planning and evaluation as required by law.

29       (8) MINIMUM CLASSROOM EXPENDITURE  
30 REQUIREMENTS.--Comply with the minimum classroom expenditure  
31 requirements and associated reporting pursuant to s. 1011.64.

1 Section 654. Section 1011.61, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1011.61 Definitions.--Notwithstanding the provisions  
4 of s. 1000.21, the following terms are defined as follows for  
5 the purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program:

6 (1) A "full-time equivalent student" in each program  
7 of the district is defined in terms of full-time students and  
8 part-time students as follows:

9 (a) A "full-time student" is one student on the  
10 membership roll of one school program or a combination of  
11 school programs listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c) for the school year  
12 or the equivalent for:

13 1. Instruction in a standard school, comprising not  
14 less than 900 net hours for a student in or at the grade level  
15 of 4 through 12, or not less than 720 net hours for a student  
16 in or at the grade level of kindergarten through grade 3 or in  
17 an authorized prekindergarten exceptional program;

18 2. Instruction in a double-session school or a school  
19 utilizing an experimental school calendar approved by the  
20 Department of Education, comprising not less than the  
21 equivalent of 810 net hours in grades 4 through 12 or not less  
22 than 630 net hours in kindergarten through grade 3; or

23 3. Instruction comprising the appropriate number of  
24 net hours set forth in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. for  
25 students who, within the past year, have moved with their  
26 parents for the purpose of engaging in the farm labor or fish  
27 industries, if a plan furnishing such an extended school day  
28 or week, or a combination thereof, has been approved by the  
29 commissioner. Such plan may be approved to accommodate the  
30 needs of migrant students only or may serve all students in  
31 schools having a high percentage of migrant students. The plan

1 described in this subparagraph is optional for any school  
2 district and is not mandated by the state.

3 (b) A "part-time student" is a student on the active  
4 membership roll of a school program or combination of school  
5 programs listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c) who is less than a  
6 full-time student.

7 (c)1. A "full-time equivalent student" is:

8 a. A full-time student in any one of the programs  
9 listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c); or  
10 b. A combination of full-time or part-time students in  
11 any one of the programs listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c) which is  
12 the equivalent of one full-time student based on the following  
13 calculations:

14 (I) A full-time student, except a postsecondary or  
15 adult student or a senior high school student enrolled in  
16 adult education when such courses are required for high school  
17 graduation, in a combination of programs listed in s.  
18 1011.62(1)(c) shall be a fraction of a full-time equivalent  
19 membership in each special program equal to the number of net  
20 hours per school year for which he or she is a member, divided  
21 by the appropriate number of hours set forth in subparagraph  
22 (a)1. or subparagraph (a)2. The difference between that  
23 fraction or sum of fractions and the maximum value as set  
24 forth in subsection (4) for each full-time student is presumed  
25 to be the balance of the student's time not spent in such  
26 special education programs and shall be recorded as time in  
27 the appropriate basic program.

28 (II) A prekindergarten handicapped student shall meet  
29 the requirements specified for kindergarten students.

30 2. A student in membership in a program scheduled for  
31 more or less than 180 school days is a fraction of a full-time

1 equivalent membership equal to the number of instructional  
2 hours in membership divided by the appropriate number of hours  
3 set forth in subparagraph (a)1.; however, for the purposes of  
4 this subparagraph, membership in programs scheduled for more  
5 than 180 days is limited to students enrolled in juvenile  
6 justice education programs.

7  
8 The department shall determine and implement an equitable  
9 method of equivalent funding for experimental schools and for  
10 schools operating under emergency conditions, which schools  
11 have been approved by the department to operate for less than  
12 the minimum school day.

13 (2) A "full-time equivalent student" is a student in  
14 grades 4 through 8 who is participating in a student-teacher  
15 adviser program conducted during homeroom period, who is a  
16 fraction of a full-time equivalent membership based on net  
17 hours in the program, with a maximum of 36 net hours in any  
18 fiscal year. Each district program shall be approved by the  
19 Department of Education.

20 (3) For the purpose of calculating the "current  
21 operation program," a student is in membership until he or she  
22 withdraws or until the close of the 11th consecutive school  
23 day of his or her absence, whichever comes first.

24 (4) The maximum value for funding a student in  
25 kindergarten through grade 12 or in a prekindergarten program  
26 for exceptional children as provided in s. 1003.21(1)(e),  
27 except for a student as set forth in sub-sub-subparagraph  
28 (1)(c)1.b.(I), is one full-time equivalent student membership  
29 for a school year or equivalent.

30 (5) The "Florida Education Finance Program" includes  
31 all programs and costs as provided in s. 1011.62.

1           (6) "Basic programs" include, but are not limited to,  
2 language arts, mathematics, art, music, physical education,  
3 science, and social studies.

4           Section 655. Effective upon this act becoming a law,  
5 section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

6           1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.--If the annual  
7 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
8 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
9 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
10 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
11 follows:

12           (1) COMPUTATION OF THE BASIC AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR  
13 OPERATION.--The following procedure shall be followed in  
14 determining the annual allocation to each district for  
15 operation:

16           (a) Determination of full-time equivalent  
17 membership.--During each of several school weeks, including  
18 scheduled intersessions of a year-round school program during  
19 the fiscal year, a program membership survey of each school  
20 shall be made by each district by aggregating the full-time  
21 equivalent student membership of each program by school and by  
22 district. The department shall establish the number and  
23 interval of membership calculations, except that for basic and  
24 special programs such calculations shall not exceed nine for  
25 any fiscal year. The district's full-time equivalent  
26 membership shall be computed and currently maintained in  
27 accordance with regulations of the commissioner.

28           (b) Determination of base student allocation.--The  
29 base student allocation for the Florida Education Finance  
30 Program for kindergarten through grade 12 shall be determined  
31

1 annually by the Legislature and shall be that amount  
2 prescribed in the current year's General Appropriations Act.  
3 (c) Determination of programs.--Cost factors based on  
4 desired relative cost differences between the following  
5 programs shall be established in the annual General  
6 Appropriations Act. The Commissioner of Education shall  
7 specify a matrix of services and intensity levels to be used  
8 by districts in the determination of the two weighted cost  
9 factors for exceptional students with the highest levels of  
10 need. For these students, the funding support level shall fund  
11 the exceptional students' education program, with the  
12 exception of extended school year services for students with  
13 disabilities.  
14 1. Basic programs.--  
15 a. Kindergarten and grades 1, 2, and 3.  
16 b. Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.  
17 c. Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.  
18 2. Programs for exceptional students.--  
19 a. Support Level IV.  
20 b. Support Level V.  
21 3. Secondary career and technical education  
22 programs.--  
23 4. English for Speakers of Other Languages.--  
24 (d) Annual allocation calculation.--  
25 1. The Department of Education is authorized and  
26 directed to review all district programs and enrollment  
27 projections and calculate a maximum total weighted full-time  
28 equivalent student enrollment for each district for the K-12  
29 FEFP.  
30 2. Maximum enrollments calculated by the department  
31 shall be derived from enrollment estimates used by the

1 Legislature to calculate the FEFP. If two or more districts  
2 enter into an agreement under the provisions of s.  
3 1001.42(4)(d), after the final enrollment estimate is agreed  
4 upon, the amount of FTE specified in the agreement, not to  
5 exceed the estimate for the specific program as identified in  
6 paragraph (c), may be transferred from the participating  
7 districts to the district providing the program.

8       3. As part of its calculation of each district's  
9 maximum total weighted full-time equivalent student  
10 enrollment, the department shall establish separate enrollment  
11 ceilings for each of two program groups. Group 1 shall be  
12 composed of basic programs for grades K-3, grades 4-8, and  
13 grades 9-12. Group 2 shall be composed of students in  
14 exceptional student education programs, English for Speakers  
15 of Other Languages programs, and all career and technical  
16 programs in grades 7-12.

17       a. The weighted enrollment ceiling for group 2  
18 programs shall be calculated by multiplying the final  
19 enrollment conference estimate for each program by the  
20 appropriate program weight. The weighted enrollment ceiling  
21 for program group 2 shall be the sum of the weighted  
22 enrollment ceilings for each program in the program group,  
23 plus the increase in weighted full-time equivalent student  
24 membership from the prior year for clients of the Department  
25 of Children and Family Services and the Department of Juvenile  
26 Justice.

27       b. If, for any calculation of the FEFP, the weighted  
28 enrollment for program group 2, derived by multiplying actual  
29 enrollments by appropriate program weights, exceeds the  
30 enrollment ceiling for that group, the following procedure  
31

1 shall be followed to reduce the weighted enrollment for that  
2 group to equal the enrollment ceiling:

3 (I) The weighted enrollment ceiling for each program  
4 in the program group shall be subtracted from the weighted  
5 enrollment for that program derived from actual enrollments.

6 (II) If the difference calculated under  
7 sub-sub-subparagraph (I) is greater than zero for any program,  
8 a reduction proportion shall be computed for the program by  
9 dividing the absolute value of the difference by the total  
10 amount by which the weighted enrollment for the program group  
11 exceeds the weighted enrollment ceiling for the program group.

12 (III) The reduction proportion calculated under  
13 sub-sub-subparagraph (II) shall be multiplied by the total  
14 amount of the program group's enrollment over the ceiling as  
15 calculated under sub-sub-subparagraph (I).

16 (IV) The prorated reduction amount calculated under  
17 sub-sub-subparagraph (III) shall be subtracted from the  
18 program's weighted enrollment. For any calculation of the  
19 FEFP, the enrollment ceiling for group 1 shall be calculated  
20 by multiplying the actual enrollment for each program in the  
21 program group by its appropriate program weight.

22 c. For program group 2, the weighted enrollment  
23 ceiling shall be a number not less than the sum obtained by:

24 (I) Multiplying the sum of reported FTE for all  
25 programs in the program group that have a cost factor of 1.0  
26 or more by 1.0, and

27 (II) By adding this number to the sum obtained by  
28 multiplying the projected FTE for all programs with a cost  
29 factor less than 1.0 by the actual cost factor.

30 4. Following completion of the weighted enrollment  
31 ceiling calculation as provided in subparagraph 3., a

1 supplemental capping calculation shall be employed for those  
2 districts that are over their weighted enrollment ceiling. For  
3 each such district, the total reported unweighted FTE  
4 enrollment for group 2 programs shall be compared with the  
5 total appropriated unweighted FTE enrollment for group 2  
6 programs. If the total reported unweighted FTE for group 2 is  
7 greater than the appropriated unweighted FTE, then the excess  
8 unweighted FTE up to the unweighted FTE transferred from group  
9 2 to group 1 for each district by the Public School FTE  
10 Estimating Conference shall be funded at a weight of 1.0 and  
11 added to the funded weighted FTE computed in subparagraph 3.

12 (e) Funding model for exceptional student education  
13 programs.--

14 1.a. The funding model uses basic, at-risk, support  
15 levels IV and V for exceptional students and career and  
16 technical Florida Education Finance Program cost factors, and  
17 a guaranteed allocation for exceptional student education  
18 programs. Exceptional education cost factors are determined by  
19 using a matrix of services to document the services that each  
20 exceptional student will receive. The nature and intensity of  
21 the services indicated on the matrix shall be consistent with  
22 the services described in each exceptional student's  
23 individual educational plan.

24 b. In order to generate funds using one of the two  
25 weighted cost factors, a matrix of services must be completed  
26 at the time of the student's initial placement into an  
27 exceptional student education program and at least once every  
28 3 years by personnel who have received approved training.  
29 Nothing listed in the matrix shall be construed as limiting  
30 the services a school district must provide in order to ensure  
31

1 that exceptional students are provided a free, appropriate  
2 public education.

3 c. Students identified as exceptional, in accordance  
4 with chapter 6A-6, Florida Administrative Code, who do not  
5 have a matrix of services as specified in sub-subparagraph b.  
6 shall generate funds on the basis of full-time-equivalent  
7 student membership in the Florida Education Finance Program at  
8 the same funding level per student as provided for basic  
9 students. Additional funds for these exceptional students will  
10 be provided through the guaranteed allocation designated in  
11 subparagraph 2.

12 2. For students identified as exceptional who do not  
13 have a matrix of services, there is created a guaranteed  
14 allocation to provide these students with a free appropriate  
15 public education, in accordance with s. 1001.42(4)(m) and  
16 rules of the State Board of Education, which shall be  
17 allocated annually to each school district in the amount  
18 provided in the General Appropriations Act. These funds shall  
19 be in addition to the funds appropriated on the basis of FTE  
20 student membership in the Florida Education Finance Program,  
21 and the amount allocated for each school district shall not be  
22 recalculated during the year. These funds shall be used to  
23 provide special education and related services for exceptional  
24 students.

25 (f) Supplemental academic instruction; categorical  
26 fund.--

27 1. There is created a categorical fund to provide  
28 supplemental academic instruction to students in kindergarten  
29 through grade 12. This paragraph may be cited as the  
30 "Supplemental Academic Instruction Categorical Fund."  
31

1           2. Categorical funds for supplemental academic  
2 instruction shall be allocated annually to each school  
3 district in the amount provided in the General Appropriations  
4 Act. These funds shall be in addition to the funds  
5 appropriated on the basis of FTE student membership in the  
6 Florida Education Finance Program and shall be included in the  
7 total potential funds of each district. These funds shall be  
8 used to provide supplemental academic instruction to students  
9 enrolled in the K-12 program. Supplemental instruction  
10 strategies may include, but are not limited to: modified  
11 curriculum, reading instruction, after-school instruction,  
12 tutoring, mentoring, class size reduction, extended school  
13 year, intensive skills development in summer school, and other  
14 methods for improving student achievement. Supplemental  
15 instruction may be provided to a student in any manner and at  
16 any time during or beyond the regular 180-day term identified  
17 by the school as being the most effective and efficient way to  
18 best help that student progress from grade to grade and to  
19 graduate.

20           3. Effective with the 1999-2000 fiscal year, funding  
21 on the basis of FTE membership beyond the 180-day regular term  
22 shall be provided in the FEFP only for students enrolled in  
23 juvenile justice education programs. Funding for instruction  
24 beyond the regular 180-day school year for all other K-12  
25 students shall be provided through the supplemental academic  
26 instruction categorical fund and other state, federal, and  
27 local fund sources with ample flexibility for schools to  
28 provide supplemental instruction to assist students in  
29 progressing from grade to grade and graduating.

30           4. The Florida State University School, as a  
31 developmental research school, is authorized to expend from

1 its FEFP or Lottery Enhancement Trust Fund allocation the cost  
2 to the student of remediation in reading, writing, or  
3 mathematics for any graduate who requires remediation at a  
4 postsecondary educational institution.

5 5. Beginning in the 1999-2000 school year, dropout  
6 prevention programs as defined in ss. 1003.52, 1003.53(1)(a),  
7 (b), and (c), and 1003.54 shall be included in Group 1  
8 programs under subparagraph (1)(d)3.

9 (g) Education for speakers of other languages.--A  
10 school district shall be eligible to report full-time  
11 equivalent student membership in the ESOL program in the  
12 Florida Education Finance Program provided the following  
13 conditions are met:

14 1. The school district has a plan approved by the  
15 Department of Education.

16 2. The eligible student is identified and assessed as  
17 limited English proficient based on assessment criteria.

18 3.a. An eligible student may be reported for funding  
19 in the ESOL program for a base period of 3 years. However, a  
20 student whose English competency does not meet the criteria  
21 for proficiency after 3 years in the ESOL program may be  
22 reported for a fourth, fifth, and sixth year of funding,  
23 provided his or her limited English proficiency is assessed  
24 and properly documented prior to his or her enrollment in each  
25 additional year beyond the 3-year base period.

26 b. If a student exits the program and is later  
27 reclassified as limited English proficient, the student may be  
28 reported in the ESOL program for funding for an additional  
29 year, or extended annually for a period not to exceed a total  
30 of 6 years pursuant to this paragraph, based on an annual  
31 evaluation of the student's status.

1           4. An eligible student may be reported for funding in  
2 the ESOL program for membership in ESOL instruction in English  
3 and ESOL instruction or home language instruction in the basic  
4 subject areas of mathematics, science, social studies, and  
5 computer literacy.

6           (h) Small, isolated high schools.--Districts which  
7 levy the maximum nonvoted discretionary millage, exclusive of  
8 millage for capital outlay purposes levied pursuant to s.  
9 1011.71(2), may calculate full-time equivalent students for  
10 small, isolated high schools by multiplying the number of  
11 unweighted full-time equivalent students times 2.75; provided  
12 the percentage of students at such school passing both parts  
13 of the high school competency test, as defined by law and  
14 rule, has been equal to or higher than such percentage for the  
15 state or district, whichever is greater. For the purpose of  
16 this section, the term "small, isolated high school" means any  
17 high school which is located no less than 28 miles by the  
18 shortest route from another high school; which has been  
19 servng students primarily in basic studies provided by  
20 sub-subparagraphs (c)1.b. and c. and may include subparagraph  
21 (c)4.; and which has a membership of no more than 100  
22 students, but no fewer than 28 students, in grades 9 through  
23 12.

24           (i) Calculation of full-time equivalent membership  
25 with respect to instruction from community colleges or state  
26 universities.--Students enrolled in community college or  
27 university dual enrollment instruction pursuant to s. 1007.271  
28 may be included in calculations of full-time equivalent  
29 student memberships for basic programs for grades 9 through 12  
30 by a district school board. Such students may also be  
31 calculated as the proportional shares of full-time equivalent

1 enrollments they generate for the community college or  
2 university conducting the dual enrollment instruction. Early  
3 admission students shall be considered dual enrollments for  
4 funding purposes. Students may be enrolled in dual enrollment  
5 instruction provided by an eligible independent college or  
6 university and may be included in calculations of full-time  
7 equivalent student memberships for basic programs for grades 9  
8 through 12 by a district school board. However, those  
9 provisions of law which exempt dual enrolled and early  
10 admission students from payment of instructional materials and  
11 tuition and fees, including laboratory fees, shall not apply  
12 to students who select the option of enrolling in an eligible  
13 independent institution. An independent college or university  
14 which is located and chartered in Florida, is not for profit,  
15 is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern  
16 Association of Colleges and Schools or the Accrediting  
17 Commission of the Association of Independent Colleges and  
18 Schools, and which confers degrees as defined in s. 1005.02  
19 shall be eligible for inclusion in the dual enrollment or  
20 early admission program. Students enrolled in dual enrollment  
21 instruction shall be exempt from the payment of tuition and  
22 fees, including laboratory fees. No student enrolled in  
23 college credit mathematics or English dual enrollment  
24 instruction shall be funded as a dual enrollment unless the  
25 student has successfully completed the relevant section of the  
26 entry-level examination required pursuant to s. 1008.30.

27 (j) Coenrollment.--If a high school student wishes to  
28 earn high school credits from a community college and enrolls  
29 in one or more adult secondary education courses at the  
30 community college, the community college shall be reimbursed  
31

1 for the costs incurred because of the high school student's  
2 coenrollment as provided in the General Appropriations Act.

3 (k) Instruction in exploratory career  
4 education.--Students in grades 7 through 12 who are enrolled  
5 for more than four semesters in exploratory career education  
6 may not be counted as full-time equivalent students for this  
7 instruction.

8 (l) Calculation of additional full-time equivalent  
9 membership based on international baccalaureate examination  
10 scores of students.--A value of 0.24 full-time equivalent  
11 student membership shall be calculated for each student  
12 enrolled in an international baccalaureate course who receives  
13 a score of 4 or higher on a subject examination. A value of  
14 0.3 full-time equivalent student membership shall be  
15 calculated for each student who receives an international  
16 baccalaureate diploma. Such value shall be added to the total  
17 full-time equivalent student membership in basic programs for  
18 grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent fiscal year. The school  
19 district shall distribute to each classroom teacher who  
20 provided international baccalaureate instruction:

21 1. A bonus in the amount of \$50 for each student  
22 taught by the International Baccalaureate teacher in each  
23 international baccalaureate course who receives a score of 4  
24 or higher on the international baccalaureate examination.

25 2. An additional bonus of \$500 to each International  
26 Baccalaureate teacher in a school designated performance grade  
27 category "D" or "F" who has at least one student scoring 4 or  
28 higher on the international baccalaureate examination,  
29 regardless of the number of classes taught or of the number of  
30 students scoring a 4 or higher on the international  
31 baccalaureate examination.

1  
2 Bonuses awarded to a teacher according to this paragraph shall  
3 not exceed \$2,000 in any given school year and shall be in  
4 addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher  
5 received or is scheduled to receive.

6 (m) Calculation of additional full-time equivalent  
7 membership based on Advanced International Certificate of  
8 Education examination scores of students.--A value of 0.24  
9 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated  
10 for each student enrolled in a full-credit Advanced  
11 International Certificate of Education course who receives a  
12 score of 2 or higher on a subject examination. A value of 0.12  
13 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated  
14 for each student enrolled in a half-credit Advanced  
15 International Certificate of Education course who receives a  
16 score of 1 or higher on a subject examination. A value of 0.3  
17 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated  
18 for each student who received an Advanced International  
19 Certificate of Education diploma. Such value shall be added to  
20 the total full-time equivalent student membership in basic  
21 programs for grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent fiscal  
22 year. The school district shall distribute to each classroom  
23 teacher who provided Advanced International Certificate of  
24 Education instruction:

25 1. A bonus in the amount of \$50 for each student  
26 taught by the Advanced International Certificate of Education  
27 teacher in each full-credit Advanced International Certificate  
28 of Education course who receives a score of 2 or higher on the  
29 Advanced International Certificate of Education examination. A  
30 bonus in the amount of \$25 for each student taught by the  
31 Advanced International Certificate of Education teacher in

1 each half-credit Advanced International Certificate of  
2 Education course who receives a score of 1 or higher on the  
3 Advanced International Certificate of Education examination.  
4 2. An additional bonus of \$500 to each Advanced  
5 International Certificate of Education teacher in a school  
6 designated performance grade category "D" or "F" who has at  
7 least one student scoring 2 or higher on the full-credit  
8 Advanced International Certificate of Education examination,  
9 regardless of the number of classes taught or of the number of  
10 students scoring a 2 or higher on the full-credit Advanced  
11 International Certificate of Education examination.  
12 3. Additional bonuses of \$250 each to teachers of  
13 half-credit Advanced International Certificate of Education  
14 classes in a school designated performance grade category "D"  
15 or "F" which has at least one student scoring a 1 or higher on  
16 the half-credit Advanced International Certificate of  
17 Education examination in that class. The maximum additional  
18 bonus for a teacher awarded in accordance with this  
19 subparagraph shall not exceed \$500 in any given school year.  
20 Teachers receiving an award under subparagraph 2. are not  
21 eligible for a bonus under this subparagraph.  
22  
23 Bonuses awarded to a teacher according to this paragraph shall  
24 not exceed \$2,000 in any given school year and shall be in  
25 addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher  
26 received or is scheduled to receive.  
27 (n) Calculation of additional full-time equivalent  
28 membership based on college board advanced placement scores of  
29 students.--A value of 0.24 full-time equivalent student  
30 membership shall be calculated for each student in each  
31 advanced placement course who receives a score of 3 or higher

1 on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination for the  
2 prior year and added to the total full-time equivalent student  
3 membership in basic programs for grades 9 through 12 in the  
4 subsequent fiscal year. Each district must allocate at least  
5 80 percent of the funds provided to the district for advanced  
6 placement instruction, in accordance with this paragraph, to  
7 the high school that generates the funds. The school district  
8 shall distribute to each classroom teacher who provided  
9 advanced placement instruction:

10 1. A bonus in the amount of \$50 for each student  
11 taught by the Advanced Placement teacher in each advanced  
12 placement course who receives a score of 3 or higher on the  
13 College Board Advanced Placement Examination.

14 2. An additional bonus of \$500 to each Advanced  
15 Placement teacher in a school designated performance grade  
16 category "D" or "F" who has at least one student scoring 3 or  
17 higher on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination,  
18 regardless of the number of classes taught or of the number of  
19 students scoring a 3 or higher on the College Board Advanced  
20 Placement Examination.

21

22 Bonuses awarded to a teacher according to this paragraph shall  
23 not exceed \$2,000 in any given school year and shall be in  
24 addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher  
25 received or is scheduled to receive.

26 (o) Year-round-school programs.--The Commissioner of  
27 Education is authorized to adjust student eligibility  
28 definitions, funding criteria, and reporting requirements of  
29 statutes and rules in order that year-round-school programs  
30 may achieve equivalent application of funding requirements  
31 with non-year-round-school programs.

1        (p) Extended-school-year program.--It is the intent of  
 2 the Legislature that students be provided additional  
 3 instruction by extending the school year to 210 days or more.  
 4 Districts may apply to the Commissioner of Education for funds  
 5 to be used in planning and implementing an  
 6 extended-school-year program. The Department of Education  
 7 shall recommend to the Legislature the policies necessary for  
 8 full implementation of an extended school year.

9        (q) Determination of the basic amount for current  
 10 operation.--The basic amount for current operation to be  
 11 included in the Florida Education Finance Program for  
 12 kindergarten through grade 12 for each district shall be the  
 13 product of the following:

14            1. The full-time equivalent student membership in each  
 15 program, multiplied by

16            2. The cost factor for each program, adjusted for the  
 17 maximum as provided by paragraph (c), multiplied by

18            3. The base student allocation.

19        (r) Computation for funding through the Florida  
 20 Education Finance Program.--The State Board of Education may  
 21 adopt rules establishing programs and courses for which the  
 22 student may earn credit toward high school graduation.

23        (2) DETERMINATION OF DISTRICT COST DIFFERENTIALS.--The  
 24 Commissioner of Education shall annually compute for each  
 25 district the current year's district cost differential. The  
 26 district cost differential shall be calculated by adding each  
 27 district's price level index as published in the Florida Price  
 28 Level Index for the most recent 3 years and dividing the  
 29 resulting sum by 3. The result for each district shall be  
 30 multiplied by 0.008 and to the resulting product shall be  
 31

1 added 0.200; the sum thus obtained shall be the cost  
2 differential for that district for that year.

3 (3) INSERVICE EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL TRAINING  
4 EXPENDITURE.--Of the amount computed in subsections (1) and  
5 (2), a percentage of the base student allocation per full-time  
6 equivalent student or other funds shall be expended for  
7 educational training programs as determined by the district  
8 school board as provided in s. 1012.98.

9 (4) COMPUTATION OF DISTRICT REQUIRED LOCAL  
10 EFFORT.--The Legislature shall prescribe the aggregate  
11 required local effort for all school districts collectively as  
12 an item in the General Appropriations Act for each fiscal  
13 year. The amount that each district shall provide annually  
14 toward the cost of the Florida Education Finance Program for  
15 kindergarten through grade 12 programs shall be calculated as  
16 follows:

17 (a) Estimated taxable value calculations.--

18 1.a. Not later than 2 working days prior to July 19,  
19 the Department of Revenue shall certify to the Commissioner of  
20 Education its most recent estimate of the taxable value for  
21 school purposes in each school district and the total for all  
22 school districts in the state for the current calendar year  
23 based on the latest available data obtained from the local  
24 property appraisers. Not later than July 19, the Commissioner  
25 of Education shall compute a millage rate, rounded to the next  
26 highest one one-thousandth of a mill, which, when applied to  
27 95 percent of the estimated state total taxable value for  
28 school purposes, would generate the prescribed aggregate  
29 required local effort for that year for all districts. The  
30 Commissioner of Education shall certify to each district  
31 school board the millage rate, computed as prescribed in this

1 subparagraph, as the minimum millage rate necessary to provide  
2 the district required local effort for that year.

3 b. The General Appropriations Act shall direct the  
4 computation of the statewide adjusted aggregate amount for  
5 required local effort for all school districts collectively  
6 from ad valorem taxes to ensure that no school district's  
7 revenue from required local effort millage will produce more  
8 than 90 percent of the district's total Florida Education  
9 Finance Program calculation, and the adjustment of the  
10 required local effort millage rate of each district that  
11 produces more than 90 percent of its total Florida Education  
12 Finance Program entitlement to a level that will produce only  
13 90 percent of its total Florida Education Finance Program  
14 entitlement in the July calculation.

15 2. As revised data are received from property  
16 appraisers, the Department of Revenue shall amend the  
17 certification of the estimate of the taxable value for school  
18 purposes. The Commissioner of Education, in administering the  
19 provisions of subparagraph (9)(a)2., shall use the most recent  
20 taxable value for the appropriate year.

21 (b) Final calculation.--

22 1. The Department of Revenue shall, upon receipt of  
23 the official final assessed value of property from each of the  
24 property appraisers, certify to the Commissioner of Education  
25 the taxable value total for school purposes in each school  
26 district, subject to the provisions of paragraph (d). The  
27 commissioner shall use the official final taxable value for  
28 school purposes for each school district in the final  
29 calculation of the annual Florida Education Finance Program  
30 allocations.

31

1           2. For the purposes of this paragraph, the official  
2 final taxable value for school purposes shall be the taxable  
3 value for school purposes on which the tax bills are computed  
4 and mailed to the taxpayers, adjusted to reflect final  
5 administrative actions of value adjustment boards and judicial  
6 decisions pursuant to part I of chapter 194. By September 1 of  
7 each year, the Department of Revenue shall certify to the  
8 commissioner the official prior year final taxable value for  
9 school purposes. For each county that has not submitted a  
10 revised tax roll reflecting final value adjustment board  
11 actions and final judicial decisions, the Department of  
12 Revenue shall certify the most recent revision of the official  
13 taxable value for school purposes. The certified value shall  
14 be the final taxable value for school purposes, and no further  
15 adjustments shall be made, except those made pursuant to  
16 subparagraph (9)(a)2.

17           (c) Equalization of required local effort.--

18           1. The Department of Revenue shall include with its  
19 certifications provided pursuant to paragraph (a) its most  
20 recent determination of the assessment level of the prior  
21 year's assessment roll for each county and for the state as a  
22 whole.

23           2. The Commissioner of Education shall adjust the  
24 required local effort millage of each district for the current  
25 year, computed pursuant to paragraph (a), as follows:

26           a. The equalization factor for the prior year's  
27 assessment roll of each district shall be multiplied by 95  
28 percent of the taxable value for school purposes shown on that  
29 roll and by the prior year's required local-effort millage,  
30 exclusive of any equalization adjustment made pursuant to this  
31 paragraph. The dollar amount so computed shall be the

1 additional required local effort for equalization for the  
2 current year.

3 b. Such equalization factor shall be computed as the  
4 quotient of the prior year's assessment level of the state as  
5 a whole divided by the prior year's assessment level of the  
6 county, from which quotient shall be subtracted 1.

7 c. The dollar amount of additional required local  
8 effort for equalization for each district shall be converted  
9 to a millage rate, based on 95 percent of the current year's  
10 taxable value for that district, and added to the required  
11 local effort millage determined pursuant to paragraph (a).

12 3. Notwithstanding the limitations imposed pursuant to  
13 s. 1011.71(1), the total required local-effort millage,  
14 including additional required local effort for equalization,  
15 shall be an amount not to exceed 10 minus the maximum millage  
16 allowed as nonvoted discretionary millage, exclusive of  
17 millage authorized pursuant to s. 1011.71(2). Nothing herein  
18 shall be construed to allow a millage in excess of that  
19 authorized in s. 9, Art. VII of the State Constitution.

20 4. For the purposes of this chapter, the term  
21 "assessment level" means the value-weighted mean assessment  
22 ratio for the county or state as a whole, as determined  
23 pursuant to s. 195.096, or as subsequently adjusted. In the  
24 event a court has adjudicated that the department failed to  
25 establish an accurate estimate of an assessment level of a  
26 county and recomputation resulting in an accurate estimate  
27 based upon the evidence before the court was not possible,  
28 that county shall be presumed to have an assessment level  
29 equal to that of the state as a whole.

30 5. If, in the prior year, taxes were levied against an  
31 interim assessment roll pursuant to s. 193.1145, the

1 assessment level and prior year's nonexempt assessed valuation  
2 used for the purposes of this paragraph shall be those of the  
3 interim assessment roll.

4 (d) Exclusion.--

5 1. In those instances in which:

6 a. There is litigation either attacking the authority  
7 of the property appraiser to include certain property on the  
8 tax assessment roll as taxable property or contesting the  
9 assessed value of certain property on the tax assessment roll,  
10 and

11 b. The assessed value of the property in contest  
12 involves more than 6 percent of the total nonexempt assessment  
13 roll, the plaintiff shall provide to the district school board  
14 of the county in which the property is located and to the  
15 Department of Education a certified copy of the petition and  
16 receipt for the good faith payment at the time they are filed  
17 with the court.

18 2. For purposes of computing the required local effort  
19 for each district affected by such petition, the Department of  
20 Education shall exclude from the district's total nonexempt  
21 assessment roll the assessed value of the property in contest  
22 and shall add the amount of the good faith payment to the  
23 district's required local effort.

24 (e) Recomputation.--Following final adjudication of  
25 any litigation on the basis of which an adjustment in taxable  
26 value was made pursuant to paragraph (d), the department shall  
27 recompute the required local effort for each district for each  
28 year affected by such adjustments, utilizing taxable values  
29 approved by the court, and shall adjust subsequent allocations  
30 to such districts accordingly.

31 (5) CATEGORICAL FUNDS.--

- 1           (a) In addition to the basic amount for current  
2 operations for the FEFP as determined in subsection (1) the  
3 Legislature may appropriate categorical funding for specified  
4 programs, activities, or purposes.
- 5           (b) For fiscal year 2002-2003, if a district school  
6 board finds and declares in a resolution adopted at a regular  
7 meeting of the school board that the funds received for any of  
8 the following categorical appropriations are urgently needed  
9 to maintain school board specified academic classroom  
10 instruction, the school board may consider and approve an  
11 amendment to the school district operating budget transferring  
12 the identified amount of the categorical funds to the  
13 appropriate account for expenditure:
- 14           1. Funds for student transportation.
  - 15           2. Funds for in-service educational personnel  
16 training.
  - 17           3. Funds for safe schools.
  - 18           4. Funds for public school technology.
  - 19           5. Funds for teacher recruitment and retention.
  - 20           6. Funds for supplemental academic instruction.
- 21           (c) Each district school board shall include in its  
22 annual financial report to the Department of Education the  
23 amount of funds the school board transferred from each of the  
24 categorical funds identified in this subsection and the  
25 specific academic classroom instruction for which the  
26 transferred funds were expended. The Department of Education  
27 shall provide instructions and specify the format to be used  
28 in submitting this required information as a part of the  
29 district annual financial report.
- 30           (6) DETERMINATION OF SPARSITY SUPPLEMENT.--  
31

1           (a) Annually, in an amount to be determined by the  
 2 Legislature through the General Appropriations Act, there  
 3 shall be added to the basic amount for current operation of  
 4 the FEFP qualified districts a sparsity supplement which shall  
 5 be computed as follows:

$$\text{Sparsity Factor} = \frac{1101.8918}{2700 + \text{district sparsity index}} - 0.1101$$

6  
 7  
 8  
 9  
 10  
 11  
 12 except that districts with a sparsity index of 1,000 or less  
 13 shall be computed as having a sparsity index of 1,000, and  
 14 districts having a sparsity index of 7,308 and above shall be  
 15 computed as having a sparsity factor of zero. A qualified  
 16 district's full-time equivalent student membership shall equal  
 17 or be less than that prescribed annually by the Legislature in  
 18 the appropriations act. The amount prescribed annually by the  
 19 Legislature shall be no less than 17,000, but no more than  
 20 24,000.

21           (b) The district sparsity index shall be computed by  
 22 dividing the total number of full-time equivalent students in  
 23 all programs in the district by the number of senior high  
 24 school centers in the district, not in excess of three, which  
 25 centers are approved as permanent centers by a survey made by  
 26 the Department of Education.

27           (c) Each district's allocation of sparsity supplement  
 28 funds shall be adjusted in the following manner:

29           1. A maximum discretionary levy per FTE value for each  
 30 district shall be calculated by dividing the value of each  
 31

1 district's maximum discretionary levy by its FTE student  
2 count;

3 2. A state average discretionary levy value per FTE  
4 shall be calculated by dividing the total maximum  
5 discretionary levy value for all districts by the state total  
6 FTE student count;

7 3. For districts that have a levy value per FTE as  
8 calculated in subparagraph 1. higher than the state average  
9 calculated in subparagraph 2., a sparsity wealth adjustment  
10 shall be calculated as the product of the difference between  
11 the state average levy value per FTE calculated in  
12 subparagraph 2. and the district's levy value per FTE  
13 calculated in subparagraph 1. and the district's FTE student  
14 count and -1;

15 4. Each district's sparsity supplement allocation  
16 shall be calculated by adding the amount calculated as  
17 specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) and the wealth adjustment  
18 amount calculated in this paragraph.

19 (7) DECLINE IN FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENTS.--In  
20 those districts where there is a decline between prior year  
21 and current year unweighted FTE students, 50 percent of the  
22 decline in the unweighted FTE students shall be multiplied by  
23 the prior year calculated FEFP per unweighted FTE student and  
24 shall be added to the allocation for that district. For this  
25 purpose, the calculated FEFP shall be computed by multiplying  
26 the weighted FTE students by the base student allocation and  
27 then by the district cost differential. If a district  
28 transfers a program to another institution not under the  
29 authority of the district's school board, including a charter  
30 technical career center, the decline is to be multiplied by a  
31 factor of 0.15.

1           (8) QUALITY ASSURANCE GUARANTEE.--The Legislature may  
2 annually in the General Appropriations Act determine a  
3 percentage increase in funds per K-12 unweighted FTE as a  
4 minimum guarantee to each school district. The guarantee shall  
5 be calculated from prior year base funding per unweighted FTE  
6 student which shall include the adjusted FTE dollars as  
7 provided in subsection (9), quality guarantee funds, and  
8 actual nonvoted discretionary local effort from taxes. From  
9 the base funding per unweighted FTE, the increase shall be  
10 calculated for the current year. The current year funds from  
11 which the guarantee shall be determined shall include the  
12 adjusted FTE dollars as provided in subsection (9) and  
13 potential nonvoted discretionary local effort from taxes. A  
14 comparison of current year funds per unweighted FTE to prior  
15 year funds per unweighted FTE shall be computed. For those  
16 school districts which have less than the legislatively  
17 assigned percentage increase, funds shall be provided to  
18 guarantee the assigned percentage increase in funds per  
19 unweighted FTE student. Should appropriated funds be less than  
20 the sum of this calculated amount for all districts, the  
21 commissioner shall prorate each district's allocation. This  
22 provision shall be implemented to the extent specifically  
23 funded.

24           (9) TOTAL ALLOCATION OF STATE FUNDS TO EACH DISTRICT  
25 FOR CURRENT OPERATION.--The total annual state allocation to  
26 each district for current operation for the FEFP shall be  
27 distributed periodically in the manner prescribed in the  
28 General Appropriations Act.

29           (a) The basic amount for current operation for the  
30 FEFP as determined in subsection (1), multiplied by the  
31 district cost differential factor as determined in subsection

1 (2), plus the amounts provided for categorical components  
2 within the FEFP, plus the amount for the sparsity supplement  
3 as determined in subsection (6), the decline in full-time  
4 equivalent students as determined in subsection (7), and the  
5 quality assurance guarantee as determined in subsection (8),  
6 less the required local effort as determined in subsection  
7 (4). If the funds appropriated for the purpose of funding the  
8 total amount for current operation as provided in this  
9 paragraph are not sufficient to pay the state requirement in  
10 full, the department shall prorate the available state funds  
11 to each district in the following manner:

12 1. Determine the percentage of proration by dividing  
13 the sum of the total amount for current operation, as provided  
14 in this paragraph for all districts collectively, and the  
15 total district required local effort into the sum of the state  
16 funds available for current operation and the total district  
17 required local effort.

18 2. Multiply the percentage so determined by the sum of  
19 the total amount for current operation as provided in this  
20 paragraph and the required local effort for each individual  
21 district.

22 3. From the product of such multiplication, subtract  
23 the required local effort of each district; and the remainder  
24 shall be the amount of state funds allocated to the district  
25 for current operation.

26 (b) The amount thus obtained shall be the net annual  
27 allocation to each school district. However, if it is  
28 determined that any school district received an  
29 underallocation or overallocation for any prior year because  
30 of an arithmetical error, assessment roll change, full-time  
31 equivalent student membership error, or any allocation error

1 revealed in an audit report, the allocation to that district  
2 shall be appropriately adjusted. If the Department of  
3 Education audit adjustment recommendation is based upon  
4 controverted findings of fact, the Commissioner of Education  
5 is authorized to establish the amount of the adjustment based  
6 on the best interests of the state.

7 (c) The amount thus obtained shall represent the net  
8 annual state allocation to each district; however,  
9 notwithstanding any of the provisions herein, each district  
10 shall be guaranteed a minimum level of funding in the amount  
11 and manner prescribed in the General Appropriations Act.

12 Section 656. Section 1011.64, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14 1011.64 School district minimum classroom expenditure  
15 requirements.--

16 (1) The Legislature may require any school district  
17 that fails to meet minimum academic performance standards to  
18 increase emphasis on classroom instruction activities from  
19 operating funds, including, but not limited to, those provided  
20 for the operation of schools pursuant to s. 1011.62.

21 (2) For the purpose of implementing the provisions of  
22 this section, the Legislature shall prescribe minimum academic  
23 performance standards and minimum classroom expenditure  
24 requirements for districts not meeting such minimum academic  
25 performance standards in the General Appropriations Act.

26 (a) Minimum academic performance standards may be  
27 based on, but are not limited to, district performance grades  
28 determined pursuant to s. 1008.34(8).

29 (b) School district minimum classroom expenditure  
30 requirements shall be calculated pursuant to subsection (3).  
31

1           (3)(a) Annually the Department of Education shall  
2 calculate for each school district:

3           1. Total K-12 operating expenditures, which are  
4 defined as the amount of total general fund expenditures for  
5 K-12 programs as reported in accordance with the accounts and  
6 codes prescribed in the most recent issuance of the Department  
7 of Education publication entitled "Financial and Program Cost  
8 Accounting and Reporting for Florida Schools" and as included  
9 in the most recent annual financial report submitted to the  
10 Commissioner of Education, less the student transportation  
11 revenue allocation from the state appropriation for that  
12 purpose, amounts transferred to other funds, and increases to  
13 the amount of the general fund unreserved ending fund balance  
14 when the total unreserved ending fund balance is in excess of  
15 5 percent of the total general fund revenues.

16           2. Expenditures for classroom instruction, which shall  
17 be the sum of the general fund expenditures for K-12  
18 instruction and instructional staff training.

19           (b) The department shall annually calculate for each  
20 district, and for the entire state, the percentage of  
21 classroom expenditures to total operating expenditures as  
22 calculated pursuant to subparagraphs (a)1. and 2.

23           (4) In order for the Department of Education to  
24 monitor the implementation of this section, each school  
25 district which is required to increase emphasis on classroom  
26 activities from operating funds pursuant to subsection (1)  
27 shall submit to the department the following two reports in a  
28 format determined by the department:

29           (a) An initial report, which shall include the  
30 proposed budget actions identified for increased classroom  
31 expenditures, a description of how such actions are designed

1 to improve student achievement, and a copy of the published  
2 statement required by s. 1011.03(3). This report shall be  
3 submitted within 30 days after final budget approval as  
4 provided in s. 200.065.

5 (b) A final report, prepared at the end of each fiscal  
6 year, which shall include, but is not limited to, information  
7 that clearly indicates the degree of each district's  
8 compliance or noncompliance with the requirements of this  
9 section. If not fully compliant, the district shall include a  
10 statement which has been adopted at a public hearing and  
11 signed by the district school superintendent and district  
12 school board members, which explains why the requirements of  
13 this section have not been met.

14 (c) The department shall provide annual summaries of  
15 these two reports to the Governor, the President of the  
16 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

17 Section 657. Section 1011.65, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1011.65 Florida Education Finance Program  
20 Appropriation Allocation Conference.--Prior to the  
21 distribution of any funds appropriated in the General  
22 Appropriations Act for the K-12 Florida Education Finance  
23 Program formula and for the formula-funded categorical  
24 programs, the Commissioner of Education shall conduct an  
25 allocation conference. Conference principals shall include  
26 representatives of the Department of Education, the Executive  
27 Office of the Governor, and the Appropriations Committees of  
28 the Senate and the House of Representatives. Conference  
29 principals shall discuss and agree to all conventions,  
30 including rounding conventions, and methods of computation to  
31 be used to calculate Florida Education Finance Program and

1 categoryal entitlements of the districts for the fiscal year  
2 for which the appropriations are made. These conventions and  
3 calculation methods shall remain in effect until further  
4 agreements are reached in subsequent allocation conferences  
5 called by the commissioner for that purpose. The commissioner  
6 shall also, prior to each recalculation of Florida Education  
7 Finance Program and categoryal allocations of the districts,  
8 provide conference principals with all data necessary to  
9 replicate those allocations precisely. This data shall include  
10 a matrix by district by program of all full-time equivalent  
11 changes made by the department as part of its administration  
12 of state full-time equivalent caps.

13 Section 658. Section 1011.66, Florida Statutes, is  
14 created to read:

15 1011.66 Distribution of funds in first quarter.--Upon  
16 the request of any school district whose net state FEFP  
17 funding is less than 60 percent of its gross state and local  
18 FEFP funding, the Department of Education shall distribute to  
19 that school district in the first quarter of the fiscal year  
20 an amount from the funds appropriated for the FEFP in the  
21 General Appropriations Act up to a maximum of 15 percent of  
22 that school district's gross state and local FEFP funding or  
23 that school district's net state FEFP funding, whichever is  
24 less.

25 Section 659. Section 1011.67, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 1011.67 Funds for instructional materials.--The  
28 department is authorized to allocate and distribute to each  
29 district an amount as prescribed annually by the Legislature  
30 for instructional materials for student membership in basic  
31 and special programs in grades K-12, which will provide for

1 growth and maintenance needs. For purposes of this section,  
2 unweighted full-time equivalent students enrolled in the lab  
3 schools in state universities are to be included as school  
4 district students and reported as such to the department. The  
5 annual allocation shall be determined as follows:  
6       (1) The growth allocation for each school district  
7 shall be calculated as follows:  
8           (a) Subtract from that district's projected full-time  
9 equivalent membership of students in basic and special  
10 programs in grades K-12 used in determining the initial  
11 allocation of the Florida Education Finance Program, the prior  
12 year's full-time equivalent membership of students in basic  
13 and special programs in grades K-12 for that district.  
14           (b) Multiply any such increase in full-time equivalent  
15 student membership by the allocation for a set of  
16 instructional materials, as determined by the department, or  
17 as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.  
18           (c) The amount thus determined shall be that  
19 district's initial allocation for growth for the school year.  
20 However, the department shall recompute and adjust the initial  
21 allocation based on actual full-time equivalent student  
22 membership data for that year.  
23       (2) The maintenance of the instructional materials  
24 allocation for each school district shall be calculated by  
25 multiplying each district's prior year full-time equivalent  
26 membership of students in basic and special programs in grades  
27 K-12 by the allocation for maintenance of a set of  
28 instructional materials as provided for in the General  
29 Appropriations Act. The amount thus determined shall be that  
30 district's initial allocation for maintenance for the school  
31 year; however, the department shall recompute and adjust the

1 initial allocation based on such actual full-time equivalent  
2 student membership data for that year.

3 (3) In the event the funds appropriated are not  
4 sufficient for the purpose of implementing this section in  
5 full, the department shall prorate the funds available for  
6 instructional materials after first funding in full each  
7 district's growth allocation.

8 Section 660. Section 1011.68, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1011.68 Funds for student transportation.--The annual  
11 allocation to each district for transportation to public  
12 school programs, including charter schools as provided in s.  
13 1002.33(18)(b), of students in membership in kindergarten  
14 through grade 12 and in migrant and exceptional student  
15 programs below kindergarten shall be determined as follows:

16 (1) Subject to the rules of the State Board of  
17 Education, each district shall determine the membership of  
18 students who are transported:

19 (a) By reason of living 2 miles or more from school.

20 (b) By reason of being students with disabilities or  
21 enrolled in a teenage parent program, regardless of distance  
22 to school.

23 (c) By reason of being in a state prekindergarten  
24 program, regardless of distance from school.

25 (d) By reason of being career and technical, dual  
26 enrollment, or students with disabilities transported from one  
27 school center to another to participate in an instructional  
28 program or service; or students with disabilities, transported  
29 from one designation to another in the state, provided one  
30 designation is a school center and provided the student's  
31 individual educational plan (IEP) identifies the need for the

1 instructional program or service and transportation to be  
2 provided by the school district. A "school center" is defined  
3 as a public school center, community college, state  
4 university, or other facility rented, leased, or owned and  
5 operated by the school district or another public agency. A  
6 "dual enrollment student" is defined as a public school  
7 student in membership in both a public secondary school  
8 program and a community college or a state university program  
9 under a written agreement to partially fulfill ss. 1003.435  
10 and 1007.23 and earning full-time equivalent membership under  
11 s. 1011.62(1)(i).

12 (e) With respect to elementary school students whose  
13 grade level does not exceed grade 6, by reason of being  
14 subjected to hazardous walking conditions en route to or from  
15 school as provided in s. 1006.23. Such rules shall, when  
16 appropriate, provide for the determination of membership under  
17 this paragraph for less than 1 year to accommodate the needs  
18 of students who require transportation only until such  
19 hazardous conditions are corrected.

20 (f) By reason of being a pregnant student or student  
21 parent, and the child of a student parent as provided in s.  
22 1003.54, regardless of distance from school.

23 (2) The allocation for each district shall be  
24 calculated annually in accordance with the following formula:

25  
26  $T = B + EX$ . The elements of this formula are defined as  
27 follows: T is the total dollar allocation for transportation.  
28 B is the base transportation dollar allocation prorated by an  
29 adjusted student membership count. The adjusted membership  
30 count shall be derived from a multiplicative index function in  
31 which the base student membership is adjusted by multiplying

1 it by index numbers that individually account for the impact  
2 of the price level index, average bus occupancy, and the  
3 extent of rural population in the district. EX is the base  
4 transportation dollar allocation for disabled students  
5 prorated by an adjusted disabled student membership count.  
6 The base transportation dollar allocation for disabled  
7 students is the total state base disabled student membership  
8 count weighted for increased costs associated with  
9 transporting disabled students and multiplying it by the prior  
10 year's average per student cost for transportation. The  
11 adjusted disabled student membership count shall be derived  
12 from a multiplicative index function in which the weighted  
13 base disabled student membership is adjusted by multiplying it  
14 by index numbers that individually account for the impact of  
15 the price level index, average bus occupancy, and the extent  
16 of rural population in the district. Each adjustment factor  
17 shall be designed to affect the base allocation by no more or  
18 less than 10 percent.

19 (3) The total allocation to each district for  
20 transportation of students shall be the sum of the amounts  
21 determined in subsection (2). If the funds appropriated for  
22 the purpose of implementing this section are not sufficient to  
23 pay the base transportation allocation and the base  
24 transportation allocation for disabled students, the  
25 Department of Education shall prorate the available funds on a  
26 percentage basis. If the funds appropriated for the purpose  
27 of implementing this section exceed the sum of the base  
28 transportation allocation and the base transportation  
29 allocation for disabled students, the base transportation  
30 allocation for disabled students shall be limited to the  
31

1 amount calculated in subsection (2), and the remaining balance  
2 shall be added to the base transportation allocation.

3 (4) No district shall use funds to purchase  
4 transportation equipment and supplies at prices which exceed  
5 those determined by the department to be the lowest which can  
6 be obtained, as prescribed in s. 1006.27(1).

7 (5) Funds allocated or apportioned for the payment of  
8 student transportation services may be used to pay for  
9 transportation of students to and from school on local general  
10 purpose transportation systems. Student transportation funds  
11 may also be used to pay for transportation of students to and  
12 from school in private passenger cars and boats when the  
13 transportation is for isolated students, or students with  
14 disabilities as defined by rule. Subject to the rules of the  
15 State Board of Education, each school district shall determine  
16 and report the number of assigned students using general  
17 purpose transportation private passenger cars and boats. The  
18 allocation per student must be equal to the allocation per  
19 student riding a school bus.

20 (6) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section,  
21 in no case shall any student or students be counted for  
22 transportation funding more than once per day. This provision  
23 includes counting students for funding pursuant to trips in  
24 school buses, passenger cars, or boats or general purpose  
25 transportation.

26 (7) Any funds received by a school district under this  
27 section that are not required to transport students may, at  
28 the discretion of the district school board, be transferred to  
29 the district's Florida Education Finance Program.

30 Section 661. Section 1011.69, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1011.69 Equity in School-Level Funding Act.--

2           (1) This section may be cited as the "Equity in  
3 School-Level Funding Act."

4           (2)(a) Beginning in the 2000-2001 fiscal year,  
5 district school boards shall allocate to each school within  
6 the district at least 50 percent of the funds generated by  
7 that school based upon the Florida Education Finance Program  
8 as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act,  
9 including gross state and local funds, discretionary lottery  
10 funds, and funds from the school district's current operating  
11 discretionary millage levy.

12           (b) Beginning in the 2001-2002 fiscal year, district  
13 school boards shall allocate to each school within the  
14 district at least 65 percent of the funds generated by that  
15 school based upon the Florida Education Finance Program as  
16 provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act,  
17 including gross state and local funds, discretionary lottery  
18 funds, and funds from the school district's current operating  
19 discretionary millage levy.

20           (c) Beginning in the 2002-2003 fiscal year, district  
21 school boards shall allocate to each school within the  
22 district at least 80 percent of the funds generated by that  
23 school based upon the Florida Education Finance Program as  
24 provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act,  
25 including gross state and local funds, discretionary lottery  
26 funds, and funds from the school district's current operating  
27 discretionary millage levy.

28           (d) Beginning in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, district  
29 school boards shall allocate to each school within the  
30 district at least 90 percent of the funds generated by that  
31 school based upon the Florida Education Finance Program as

1 provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act,  
2 including gross state and local funds, discretionary lottery  
3 funds, and funds from the school district's current operating  
4 discretionary millage levy.  
5  
6 Total funding for each school shall be recalculated during the  
7 year to reflect the revised calculations under the Florida  
8 Education Finance Program by the state and the actual weighted  
9 full-time equivalent students reported by the school during  
10 the full-time equivalent student survey periods designated by  
11 the Commissioner of Education. If the district school board is  
12 providing programs or services to students funded by federal  
13 funds, any eligible students enrolled in the schools in the  
14 district shall be provided federal funds. Only those districts  
15 that initially applied for charter school district status,  
16 pursuant to s. 1003.62, and have been approved by the State  
17 Board of Education are exempt from the provisions of this  
18 section.  
19       (3) Funds allocated to a school pursuant to this  
20 section that are unused at the end of the fiscal year shall  
21 not revert to the district, but shall remain with the school.  
22 These carryforward funds may be used for any purpose provided  
23 by law at the discretion of the principal of the school.  
24       (4) Recommendations made by the Governor's Equity in  
25 Educational Opportunity Task Force shall be reviewed to  
26 identify potential categorical funds to be included in the  
27 district allocation methodology required in subsection (2).  
28       (5) Funds appropriated in the General Appropriations  
29 Act for supplemental academic instruction to be used for the  
30 purposes described in s. 1011.62(1)(f) are excluded from the  
31 school-level allocation under this section.

1 Section 662. Section 1011.70, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1011.70 Medicaid certified school funding  
4 maximization.--

5 (1) Each school district, subject to the provisions of  
6 ss. 409.9071 and 409.908(21) and this section, is authorized  
7 to certify funds provided for a category of required Medicaid  
8 services termed "school-based services," which are  
9 reimbursable under the federal Medicaid program. Such services  
10 shall include, but not be limited to, physical, occupational,  
11 and speech therapy services, behavioral health services,  
12 mental health services, transportation services, Early  
13 Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT)  
14 administrative outreach for the purpose of determining  
15 eligibility for exceptional student education, and any other  
16 such services, for the purpose of receiving federal Medicaid  
17 financial participation. Certified school funding shall not be  
18 available for the following services:

19 (a) Family planning.

20 (b) Immunizations.

21 (c) Prenatal care.

22 (2) The Department of Education shall monitor  
23 compliance of each participating school district with the  
24 Medicaid provider agreements. In addition, the department  
25 shall develop standardized recordkeeping procedures for the  
26 school districts that meet Medicaid requirements for audit  
27 purposes.

28 (3) Each school district's continued participation in  
29 certifying funds to be reimbursed for Medicaid expenditures is  
30 contingent upon the district providing to the department an  
31

1 annual accounting of how the federal Medicaid reimbursements  
2 are utilized.

3 (4) Funds generated pursuant to this section may be  
4 used for autism therapy services allowed by federal law.

5 (5) Developmental research schools, as authorized  
6 under s. 1002.32, shall be authorized to participate in the  
7 Medicaid certified school match program subject to the  
8 provisions of subsections (1)-(4) and ss. 409.9071 and  
9 409.908(21).

10 Section 663. Section 1011.71, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1011.71 District school tax.--

13 (1) If the district school tax is not provided in the  
14 General Appropriations Act or the substantive bill  
15 implementing the General Appropriations Act, each district  
16 school board desiring to participate in the state allocation  
17 of funds for current operation as prescribed by s. 1011.62(9)  
18 shall levy on the taxable value for school purposes of the  
19 district, exclusive of millage voted under the provisions of  
20 s. 9(b) or s. 12, Art. VII of the State Constitution, a  
21 millage rate not to exceed the amount certified by the  
22 commissioner as the minimum millage rate necessary to provide  
23 the district required local effort for the current year,  
24 pursuant to s. 1011.62(4)(a)1. In addition to the required  
25 local effort millage levy, each district school board may levy  
26 a nonvoted current operating discretionary millage. The  
27 Legislature shall prescribe annually in the appropriations act  
28 the maximum amount of millage a district may levy. The millage  
29 rate prescribed shall exceed zero mills but shall not exceed  
30 the lesser of 1.6 mills or 25 percent of the millage which is  
31

1 required pursuant to s. 1011.62(4), exclusive of millage  
2 levied pursuant to subsection (2).

3 (2) In addition to the maximum millage levy as  
4 provided in subsection (1), each school board may levy not  
5 more than 2 mills against the taxable value for school  
6 purposes to fund:

7 (a) New construction and remodeling projects, as set  
8 forth in s. 1013.64(3)(b) and (6)(b) and included in the  
9 district's educational plant survey pursuant to s. 1013.31,  
10 without regard to prioritization, sites and site improvement  
11 or expansion to new sites, existing sites, auxiliary  
12 facilities, athletic facilities, or ancillary facilities.

13 (b) Maintenance, renovation, and repair of existing  
14 school plants or of leased facilities to correct deficiencies  
15 pursuant to s. 1013.15(2).

16 (c) The purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of school  
17 buses; drivers' education vehicles; motor vehicles used for  
18 the maintenance or operation of plants and equipment; security  
19 vehicles; or vehicles used in storing or distributing  
20 materials and equipment.

21 (d) The purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of new and  
22 replacement equipment.

23 (e) Payments for educational facilities and sites due  
24 under a lease-purchase agreement entered into by a district  
25 school board pursuant to s. 1003.02(1)(f) or s. 1013.15(2),  
26 not exceeding, in the aggregate, an amount equal to  
27 three-fourths of the proceeds from the millage levied by a  
28 district school board pursuant to this subsection.

29 (f) Payment of loans approved pursuant to ss. 1011.14  
30 and 1011.15.

31

1           (g) Payment of costs directly related to complying  
2 with state and federal environmental statutes, rules, and  
3 regulations governing school facilities.

4           (h) Payment of costs of leasing relocatable  
5 educational facilities, of renting or leasing educational  
6 facilities and sites pursuant to s. 1013.15(2), or of renting  
7 or leasing buildings or space within existing buildings  
8 pursuant to s. 1013.15(4).

9  
10 Violations of these expenditure provisions shall result in an  
11 equal dollar reduction in the Florida Education Finance  
12 Program (FEFP) funds for the violating district in the fiscal  
13 year following the audit citation.

14           (3) These taxes shall be certified, assessed, and  
15 collected as prescribed in s. 1011.04 and shall be expended as  
16 provided by law.

17           (4) Nothing in s. 1011.62(4)(a)1. shall in any way be  
18 construed to increase the maximum school millage levies as  
19 provided for in subsection (1).

20           (5)(a) It is the intent of the Legislature that, by  
21 July 1, 2003, revenue generated by the millage levy authorized  
22 by subsection (2) should be used only for the costs of  
23 construction, renovation, remodeling, maintenance, and repair  
24 of the educational plant; for the purchase, lease, or  
25 lease-purchase of equipment, educational plants, and  
26 construction materials directly related to the delivery of  
27 student instruction; for the rental or lease of existing  
28 buildings, or space within existing buildings, originally  
29 constructed or used for purposes other than education, for  
30 conversion to use as educational facilities; for the opening  
31 day collection for the library media center of a new school;

1 for the purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of school buses;  
2 and for servicing of payments related to certificates of  
3 participation issued for any purpose prior to the effective  
4 date of this act. Costs associated with the lease-purchase of  
5 equipment, educational plants, and school buses may include  
6 the issuance of certificates of participation on or after the  
7 effective date of this act and the servicing of payments  
8 related to certificates so issued. For purposes of this  
9 section, "maintenance and repair" is defined in s. 1013.01.

10 (b) For purposes not delineated in paragraph (a) for  
11 which proceeds received from millage levied under subsection  
12 (2) may be legally expended, a district school board may spend  
13 no more than the following percentages of the amount the  
14 district spent for these purposes in fiscal year 1995-1996:

- 15 1. In fiscal year 2000-2001, 40 percent.
- 16 2. In fiscal year 2001-2002, 25 percent.
- 17 3. In fiscal year 2002-2003, 10 percent.

18 (c) Beginning July 1, 2003, revenue generated by the  
19 millage levy authorized by subsection (2) must be used only  
20 for the purposes delineated in paragraph (a).

21 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
22 subsection, if through its adopted facilities work program a  
23 district has clearly identified the need for an ancillary  
24 plant, has provided opportunity for public input as to the  
25 relative value of the ancillary plant versus an educational  
26 plant, and has obtained public approval, the district may use  
27 revenue generated by the millage levy authorized by subsection  
28 (2) for the construction, renovation, remodeling, maintenance,  
29 or repair of an ancillary plant.

30  
31

1 A district that violates these expenditure restrictions shall  
2 have an equal dollar reduction in funds appropriated to the  
3 district under s. 1011.62 in the fiscal year following the  
4 audit citation. The expenditure restrictions do not apply to  
5 any school district that certifies to the Commissioner of  
6 Education that all of the district's instructional space needs  
7 for the next 5 years can be met from capital outlay sources  
8 that the district reasonably expects to receive during the  
9 next 5 years or from alternative scheduling or construction,  
10 leasing, rezoning, or technological methodologies that exhibit  
11 sound management.

12 (6) In addition to the maximum millage levied under  
13 this section and the General Appropriations Act, a school  
14 district may levy, by local referendum or in a general  
15 election, additional millage for school operational purposes  
16 up to an amount that, when combined with nonvoted millage  
17 levied under this section, does not exceed the 10-mill limit  
18 established in s. 9(b), Art. VII of the State Constitution.  
19 Any such levy shall be for a maximum of 4 years and shall be  
20 counted as part of the 10-mill limit established in s. 9(b),  
21 Art. VII of the State Constitution. Millage elections  
22 conducted under the authority granted pursuant to this section  
23 are subject to s. 1011.73. Funds generated by such additional  
24 millage do not become a part of the calculation of the Florida  
25 Education Finance Program total potential funds in 2001-2002  
26 or any subsequent year and must not be incorporated in the  
27 calculation of any hold-harmless or other component of the  
28 Florida Education Finance Program formula in any year. If an  
29 increase in required local effort, when added to existing  
30 millage levied under the 10-mill limit, would result in a  
31 combined millage in excess of the 10-mill limit, any millage

1 levied pursuant to this subsection shall be considered to be  
2 required local effort to the extent that the district millage  
3 would otherwise exceed the 10-mill limit.

4 Section 664. Section 1011.715, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1011.715 Resolution regarding school capital outlay  
7 surcharge.--The resolution of a district school board  
8 providing for the imposition of the school capital outlay  
9 surtax authorized in s. 212.055(6) may include a covenant by  
10 the district school board to decrease the capital local school  
11 property tax levied pursuant to s. 1011.71(2) and to maintain  
12 that tax at the reduced millage as long as the surtax is in  
13 effect. The resolution may also provide that the surtax shall  
14 sunset on December 31 of any year in which the district school  
15 board levies the capital property tax under s. 1011.71(2) at a  
16 millage rate in excess of the reduced millage rate promised in  
17 the resolution. Finally, if the surtax revenues are pledged  
18 to service bonded indebtedness, the district school board may  
19 covenant not to levy the capital property tax under s.  
20 1011.71(2) at a millage rate in excess of the reduced millage  
21 rate promised in the resolution.

22 Section 665. Section 1011.72, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1011.72 Levy based on interim assessment roll;  
25 reimbursement to state for additional taxes collected upon  
26 reconciliation of roll.--In any year in which the base student  
27 allocation has been guaranteed to school districts through the  
28 use of state funds, a school district which levied taxes based  
29 on an interim assessment roll shall be required to reimburse  
30 the state in an amount equal to the additional taxes collected  
31 upon reconciliation of that roll. Beginning with the

1 distribution following the delinquency date of the  
2 supplemental bills, the state shall withhold all funds  
3 otherwise available to that school district from the  
4 appropriation to the Florida Education Finance Program until  
5 such time as the state is completely reimbursed.

6 Section 666. Section 1011.73, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8 1011.73 District millage elections.--

9 (1) MILLAGE AUTHORIZED NOT TO EXCEED TWO YEARS.--The  
10 district school board, pursuant to resolution adopted at a  
11 regular meeting, shall direct the county commissioners to call  
12 an election at which the electors within the school districts  
13 may approve an ad valorem tax millage as authorized in s. 9,  
14 Art. VII of the State Constitution. Such election may be held  
15 at any time, except that not more than one such election shall  
16 be held during any 12-month period. Any millage so authorized  
17 shall be levied for a period not in excess of 2 years or until  
18 changed by another millage election, whichever is the earlier.  
19 In the event any such election is invalidated by a court of  
20 competent jurisdiction, such invalidated election shall be  
21 considered not to have been held.

22 (2) MILLAGE AUTHORIZED NOT TO EXCEED FOUR YEARS.--The  
23 district school board, pursuant to resolution adopted at a  
24 regular meeting, shall direct the county commissioners to call  
25 an election at which the electors within the school district  
26 may approve an ad valorem tax millage as authorized under s.  
27 1011.71(6). Such election may be held at any time, except that  
28 not more than one such election shall be held during any  
29 12-month period. Any millage so authorized shall be levied for  
30 a period not in excess of 4 years or until changed by another  
31 millage election, whichever is earlier. If any such election

1 is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, such  
2 invalidated election shall be considered not to have been  
3 held.

4 (3) HOLDING ELECTIONS.--All school district millage  
5 elections shall be held and conducted in the manner prescribed  
6 by law for holding general elections, except as provided in  
7 this chapter.

8 (4) FORM OF BALLOT.--

9 (a) The district school board may propose a single  
10 millage or two millages, with one for operating expenses and  
11 another for a local capital improvement reserve fund. When two  
12 millage figures are proposed, each millage must be voted on  
13 separately.

14 (b) The district school board shall provide the  
15 wording of the substance of the measure and the ballot title  
16 in the resolution calling for the election. The wording of the  
17 ballot must conform to the provisions of s. 101.161.

18 (5) QUALIFICATION OF ELECTORS.--All qualified electors  
19 of the school district are entitled to vote in the election to  
20 set the school tax district millage levy.

21 (6) RESULTS OF ELECTION.--When the district school  
22 board proposes one tax levy for operating expenses and another  
23 for the local capital improvement reserve fund, the results  
24 shall be considered separately. The tax levy shall be levied  
25 only in case a majority of the electors participating in the  
26 election vote in favor of the proposed special millage.

27 (7) EXPENSES OF ELECTION.--The cost of the publication  
28 of the notice of the election and all expenses of the election  
29 in the school district shall be paid by the district school  
30 board.

31

1           Section 667. Section 1011.74, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1011.74 Source and use of district capital improvement  
4 fund.--The district capital improvement fund shall consist of  
5 funds derived from the sale of school district bonds  
6 authorized in s. 17, Art. XII of the State Constitution of  
7 1885 as amended, together with any other funds directed to be  
8 placed therein by rules of the State Board of Education, and  
9 other similar funds which are to be used for capital outlay  
10 purposes within the district.

11           Section 668. Section 1011.75, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13           1011.75 Gifted education exemplary program grants.--

14           (1) This section shall be known and may be cited as  
15 the "Challenge Grant Program for the Gifted."

16           (2) There is hereby created a grant program for  
17 education for the gifted which shall be administered by the  
18 Commissioner of Education in cooperation and consultation with  
19 appropriate organizations and associations concerned with  
20 education for the gifted and pursuant to rules adopted by the  
21 State Board of Education. The program may be implemented in  
22 any public school.

23           (3) Pursuant to policies and rules to be adopted by  
24 the State Board of Education, each district school board, two  
25 or more district school boards in cooperation, or a public  
26 school principal through the district school board may submit  
27 to the commissioner a proposed program designed to effectuate  
28 an exemplary program for education for the gifted in a school,  
29 district, or group of districts. Consideration for funding  
30 shall be given to proposed programs of district school boards  
31 that are developed with the cooperation of a community college

1 or public or private college or university for the purpose of  
2 providing advanced accelerated instruction for public school  
3 students pursuant to s. 1003.435. In order to be approved, a  
4 program proposal must include:

5 (a) Clearly stated goals and objectives expressed, to  
6 the maximum extent possible, in measurable terms.

7 (b) Information concerning the number of students,  
8 teachers, and other personnel to be involved in the program.

9 (c) The estimated cost of the program and the number  
10 of years for which it is to be funded.

11 (d) Provisions for evaluation of the program and for  
12 its integration into the general curriculum and financial  
13 program of the school district or districts at the end of the  
14 funded period.

15 (e) Such other information and provisions as the  
16 commissioner requires.

17 (4) The commissioner shall review and approve,  
18 disapprove, or resubmit for modification all proposed programs  
19 for education for the gifted submitted. For those programs  
20 approved, the commissioner shall authorize distribution of  
21 funds equal to the cost of the program from funds appropriated  
22 to the Department of Education for exemplary program grants  
23 for education for the gifted as provided for by this section.  
24 These funds shall be in addition to any funds for education  
25 for the gifted provided pursuant to s. 1011.62.

26 Section 669. Section 1011.76, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1011.76 Small School District Stabilization Program.--

29 (1) There is created the Small School District  
30 Stabilization Program to assist school districts in rural  
31 communities that document economic conditions or other

1 significant community influences that negatively impact the  
2 school district. The purpose of the program is to provide  
3 technical assistance and financial support to maintain the  
4 stability of the educational program in the school district. A  
5 rural community means a county with a population of 75,000 or  
6 less; or a county with a population of 100,000 or less that is  
7 contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or less.

8 (2) In order to participate in this program, a school  
9 district must be located in a rural area of critical economic  
10 concern designated by the Executive Office of the Governor,  
11 and the district school board must submit a resolution to the  
12 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development requesting  
13 participation in the program. A rural area of critical  
14 economic concern must be a rural community, or a region  
15 composed of such, that has been adversely affected by an  
16 extraordinary economic event or a natural disaster or that  
17 presents a unique economic development concern or opportunity  
18 of regional impact. The resolution must be accompanied with  
19 documentation of the economic conditions in the community,  
20 provide information indicating the negative impact of these  
21 conditions on the school district's financial stability, and  
22 the school district must participate in a best financial  
23 management practices review to determine potential  
24 efficiencies that could be implemented to reduce program costs  
25 in the district.

26 (3) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
27 Development, in consultation with the Department of Education,  
28 shall review the resolution and other information required by  
29 subsection (2) and determine whether the school district is  
30 eligible to participate in the program. Factors influencing  
31 the office's determination may include, but are not limited

1 to, reductions in the county tax roll resulting from business  
2 closures or other causes, or a reduction in student enrollment  
3 due to business closures or impacts in the local economy.

4 (4) Effective July 1, 2000, and thereafter, when the  
5 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development authorizes  
6 a school district to participate in the program, the  
7 Legislature may give priority to that district for a best  
8 financial management practices review in the school district,  
9 subject to approval pursuant to s. 1008.35(7), to the extent  
10 that funding is provided annually for such purpose in the  
11 General Appropriations Act. The scope of the review shall be  
12 as set forth in s. 1008.35.

13 (5) Effective July 1, 2000, and thereafter, the  
14 Department of Education may award the school district a  
15 stabilization grant intended to protect the district from  
16 continued financial reductions. The amount of the grant will  
17 be determined by the Department of Education and may be  
18 equivalent to the amount of the decline in revenues projected  
19 for the next fiscal year. In addition, the Office of Tourism,  
20 Trade, and Economic Development may implement a rural economic  
21 development initiative to identify the economic factors that  
22 are negatively impacting the community and may consult with  
23 Enterprise Florida, Inc., in developing a plan to assist the  
24 county with its economic transition. The grant will be  
25 available to the school district for a period of up to 5 years  
26 to the extent that funding is provided for such purpose in the  
27 General Appropriations Act.

28 (6) Based on the availability of funds, the Office of  
29 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development or the Department of  
30 Education may enter into contracts or issue grants necessary  
31 to implement the program.

1           Section 670. Section 1011.765, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1011.765 Florida Academic Improvement Trust Fund  
4 matching grants.--

5           (1) MATCHING GRANTS.--The Florida Academic Improvement  
6 Trust Fund shall be utilized to provide matching grants to the  
7 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind Endowment Fund and  
8 to any public school district education foundation that meets  
9 the requirements of this section and is recognized by the  
10 local school district as its designated K-12 education  
11 foundation.

12           (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for  
13 the administration, submission, documentation, evaluation, and  
14 approval of requests for matching funds and for maintaining  
15 accountability for matching funds.

16           (b) Donations, state matching funds, or proceeds from  
17 endowments established pursuant to this section shall be used  
18 at the discretion of the public school district education  
19 foundation or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind  
20 for academic achievement within the school district or school,  
21 and shall not be expended for the construction of facilities  
22 or for the support of interscholastic athletics. No public  
23 school district education foundation or the Florida School for  
24 the Deaf and the Blind shall accept or purchase facilities for  
25 which the state will be asked for operating funds unless the  
26 Legislature has granted prior approval for such acquisition.

27           (2) ALLOCATION OF THE TRUST FUND.--Funds appropriated  
28 to the Florida Academic Improvement Trust Fund shall be  
29 allocated by the Department of Education in the following  
30 manner:

31

1           (a) For every year in which there is a legislative  
2 appropriation to the trust fund, an equal amount of the annual  
3 appropriation, to be determined by dividing the total  
4 legislative appropriation by the number of local education  
5 foundations as well as the Florida School for the Deaf and the  
6 Blind, must be reserved for each public school district  
7 education foundation and the Florida School for the Deaf and  
8 the Blind Endowment Fund to provide each foundation and the  
9 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind with an opportunity  
10 to receive and match appropriated funds. Trust funds that  
11 remain unmatched by contribution on April 1 of any year shall  
12 be made available for matching by any public school district  
13 education foundation and by the Florida School for the Deaf  
14 and the Blind which shall have an opportunity to apply for  
15 excess trust funds prior to the award of such funds.

16           (b) Matching grants shall be proportionately allocated  
17 from the trust fund on the basis of matching each \$4 of state  
18 funds with \$6 of private funds. To be eligible for matching, a  
19 minimum of \$4,500 must be raised from private sources.

20           (c) Funds sufficient to provide the match shall be  
21 transferred from the state trust fund to the public school  
22 education foundation or to the Florida School for the Deaf and  
23 the Blind Endowment Fund upon notification that a  
24 proportionate amount has been received and deposited by the  
25 foundation or school into its own trust fund.

26           (d) If the total of the amounts to be distributed in  
27 any quarter pursuant to this subsection exceeds the amount of  
28 funds remaining from specific appropriations made for the  
29 implementation of this section, all grants shall be  
30 proportionately reduced so that the total of matching grants  
31 distributed does not exceed available appropriations.

1           (3) GRANT ADMINISTRATION.--

2           (a) Each public school district education foundation  
3 and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind  
4 participating in the Florida Academic Improvement Trust Fund  
5 shall separately account for all funds received pursuant to  
6 this section, and may establish its own academic improvement  
7 trust fund as a depository for the private contributions,  
8 state matching funds, and earnings on investments of such  
9 funds. State matching funds shall be transferred to the public  
10 school district education foundation or to the Florida School  
11 for the Deaf and the Blind Endowment Fund upon notification  
12 that the foundation or school has received and deposited  
13 private contributions that meet the criteria for matching as  
14 provided in this section. The public school district education  
15 foundations and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind  
16 are responsible for the maintenance, investment, and  
17 administration of their academic improvement trust funds.

18           (b) The public school district education foundations  
19 and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be  
20 responsible for soliciting and receiving contributions to be  
21 deposited and matched with grants for academic achievement  
22 within the school district or school.

23           (c) Each public school district education foundation  
24 and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be  
25 responsible for proper expenditure of the funds received  
26 pursuant to this section.

27           Section 671. Section 1011.77, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29           1011.77 Special laws and general laws of local  
30 application prohibited.--

31

1           (1) Pursuant to s. 11(a)(21), Art. III of the State  
2 Constitution, the Legislature hereby prohibits special laws  
3 and general laws of local application pertaining to:

4           (a) The assessment or collection of taxes for school  
5 purposes insofar as it may affect the distribution of state  
6 funds, including the determination of millages therefor, the  
7 extension of time therefor, relief of tax officers from due  
8 performance of their duties, and relief of their sureties from  
9 liability.

10           (b) The Florida Education Finance Program as enacted  
11 in 1973 or as subsequently amended.

12           (2) The department shall determine whether any  
13 district has received additional funds subsequent to June 30,  
14 1973, as a result of any special law or general law of local  
15 application described in subsection (1) and shall deduct an  
16 amount equal to any such additional funds from allocations to  
17 that district.

18           Section 672. Part III of chapter 1011, Florida  
19 Statutes, shall be entitled "Funding for Workforce Education"  
20 and shall consist of ss. 1011.80-1011.801.

21           Section 673. Section 1011.80, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23           1011.80 Funds for operation of adult technical  
24 education programs.--

25           (1) As used in this section, the terms "workforce  
26 development education" and "workforce development program"  
27 include:

28           (a) Adult general education programs designed to  
29 improve the employability skills of the state's workforce as  
30 defined in s. 1004.02(5).

31

1           **(b) Career and technical certificate programs, as**  
2 **defined in s. 1004.02(23).**

3           **(c) Applied technology diploma programs.**

4           **(d) Continuing workforce education courses.**

5           **(e) Degree technical education programs.**

6           **(f) Apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs as**  
7 **defined in s. 446.021.**

8           **(2) Any workforce development education program may be**  
9 **conducted by a community college or a school district, except**  
10 **that college credit in an associate in applied science or an**  
11 **associate in science degree may be awarded only by a community**  
12 **college. However, if an associate in applied science or an**  
13 **associate in science degree program contains within it an**  
14 **occupational completion point that confers a certificate or an**  
15 **applied technology diploma, that portion of the program may be**  
16 **conducted by a school district technical center. Any**  
17 **instruction designed to articulate to a degree program is**  
18 **subject to guidelines and standards adopted by the State Board**  
19 **of Education pursuant to s. 1007.25.**

20           **(3) If a program for disabled adults pursuant to s.**  
21 **1004.93 is a workforce development program as defined in law,**  
22 **it must be funded as provided in this section.**

23           **(4) The Florida Workforce Development Education Fund**  
24 **is created to provide performance-based funding for all**  
25 **workforce development programs, whether the programs are**  
26 **offered by a school district or a community college. Funding**  
27 **for all workforce development education programs must be from**  
28 **the Workforce Development Education Fund and must be based on**  
29 **cost categories, performance output measures, and performance**  
30 **outcome measures.**

31

1        (a) The cost categories must be calculated to identify  
2 high-cost programs, medium-cost programs, and low-cost  
3 programs. The cost analysis used to calculate and assign a  
4 program of study to a cost category must include at least both  
5 direct and indirect instructional costs, consumable supplies,  
6 equipment, and standard program length.

7        (b)1. The performance output measure for career and  
8 technical education programs of study is student completion of  
9 a career and technical program of study that leads to an  
10 occupational completion point associated with a certificate;  
11 an apprenticeship program; or a program that leads to an  
12 applied technology diploma or an associate in applied science  
13 or associate in science degree. Performance output measures  
14 for registered apprenticeship programs shall be based on  
15 program lengths that coincide with lengths established  
16 pursuant to the requirements of chapter 446.

17        2. The performance output measure for an adult general  
18 education course of study is measurable improvement in student  
19 skills. This measure shall include improvement in literacy  
20 skills, grade level improvement as measured by an approved  
21 test, or attainment of a State of Florida diploma or an adult  
22 high school diploma.

23        (c) The performance outcome measures for programs  
24 funded through the Workforce Development Education Fund are  
25 associated with placement and retention of students after  
26 reaching a completion point or completing a program of study.  
27 These measures include placement or retention in employment  
28 that is related to the program of study; placement into or  
29 retention in employment in an occupation on the Workforce  
30 Estimating Conference list of high-wage, high-skill  
31 occupations with sufficient openings, or other High Wage/High

1 Skill Program occupations as determined by Workforce Florida,  
2 Inc.; and placement and retention of participants or former  
3 participants in the welfare transition program in employment.  
4 Continuing postsecondary education at a level that will  
5 further enhance employment is a performance outcome for adult  
6 general education programs. Placement and retention must be  
7 reported pursuant to ss. 1008.39 and 1008.43.

8 (5) State funding and student fees for workforce  
9 development instruction funded through the Workforce  
10 Development Education Fund shall be established as follows:

11 (a) For a continuing workforce education course, state  
12 funding shall equal 50 percent of the cost of instruction,  
13 with student fees, business support, quick-response training  
14 funds, or other means making up the remaining 50 percent.

15 (b) For all other workforce development education  
16 funded through the Workforce Development Education Fund, state  
17 funding shall equal 75 percent of the average cost of  
18 instruction with the remaining 25 percent made up from student  
19 fees. Fees for courses within a program shall not vary  
20 according to the cost of the individual program, but instead  
21 shall be based on a uniform fee calculated and set at the  
22 state level, as adopted by the State Board of Education,  
23 unless otherwise specified in the General Appropriations Act.

24 (c) For fee-exempt students pursuant to s. 1009.25,  
25 unless otherwise provided for in law, state funding shall  
26 equal 100 percent of the average cost of instruction.

27 (6)(a) A school district or a community college that  
28 provides workforce development education funded through the  
29 Workforce Development Education Fund shall receive funds in  
30 accordance with distributions for base and performance funding  
31

1 established by the Legislature in the General Appropriations  
2 Act, pursuant to the following conditions:

3 1. Base funding shall not exceed 85 percent of the  
4 current fiscal year total Workforce Development Education Fund  
5 allocation, which shall be distributed by the Legislature in  
6 the General Appropriations Act based on a maximum of 85  
7 percent of the institution's prior year total allocation from  
8 base and performance funds.

9 2. Performance funding shall be at least 15 percent of  
10 the current fiscal year total Workforce Development Education  
11 Fund allocation, which shall be distributed by the Legislature  
12 in the General Appropriations Act based on the previous fiscal  
13 year's achievement of output and outcomes in accordance with  
14 formulas adopted pursuant to subsection (9). Performance  
15 funding must incorporate payments for at least three levels of  
16 placements that reflect wages and workforce demand. Payments  
17 for completions must not exceed 60 percent of the payments for  
18 placement. School districts and community colleges shall be  
19 awarded funds pursuant to this paragraph based on performance  
20 output data and performance outcome data available in that  
21 year.

22 3. If a local educational agency achieves a level of  
23 performance sufficient to generate a full allocation as  
24 authorized by the workforce development funding formula, the  
25 agency may earn performance incentive funds as appropriated  
26 for that purpose in a General Appropriations Act. If  
27 performance incentive funds are funded and awarded, these  
28 funds must be added to the local educational agency's prior  
29 year total allocation from the Workforce Development Education  
30 Fund and shall be used to calculate the following year's base  
31 funding.

1           (b) A program is established to assist school  
2 districts and community colleges in responding to the needs of  
3 new and expanding businesses and thereby strengthening the  
4 state's workforce and economy. The program may be funded in  
5 the General Appropriations Act. A school district or community  
6 college may expend funds under the program without regard to  
7 performance criteria set forth in subparagraph (a)2. The  
8 district or community college shall use the program to provide  
9 customized training for businesses which satisfies the  
10 requirements of s. 288.047. Business firms whose employees  
11 receive the customized training must provide 50 percent of the  
12 cost of the training. Balances remaining in the program at the  
13 end of the fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund,  
14 but shall be carried over for 1 additional year and used for  
15 the purpose of serving incumbent worker training needs of area  
16 businesses with fewer than 100 employees. Priority shall be  
17 given to businesses that must increase or upgrade their use of  
18 technology to remain competitive.

19           (7) A school district or community college that earns  
20 performance funding must use the money to benefit the  
21 postsecondary adult and technical education programs it  
22 provides. The money may be used for equipment upgrades,  
23 program expansions, or any other use that would result in  
24 workforce development program improvement. The district school  
25 board or community college board of trustees may not withhold  
26 any portion of the performance funding for indirect costs.  
27 Notwithstanding s. 216.351, funds awarded pursuant to this  
28 section may be carried across fiscal years and shall not  
29 revert to any other fund maintained by the district school  
30 board or community college board of trustees.

31

1           (8) The State Board of Education and Workforce  
2 Florida, Inc., shall provide the Legislature with recommended  
3 formulas, criteria, timeframes, and mechanisms for  
4 distributing performance funds. The commissioner shall  
5 consolidate the recommendations and develop a consensus  
6 proposal for funding. The Legislature shall adopt a formula  
7 and distribute the performance funds to the State Board of  
8 Education for community colleges and school districts through  
9 the General Appropriations Act. These recommendations shall be  
10 based on formulas that would discourage low-performing or  
11 low-demand programs and encourage through performance-funding  
12 awards:

13           (a) Programs that prepare people to enter high-wage  
14 occupations identified by the Workforce Estimating Conference  
15 created by s. 216.136 and other programs as approved by  
16 Workforce Florida, Inc. At a minimum, performance incentives  
17 shall be calculated for adults who reach completion points or  
18 complete programs that lead to specified high-wage employment  
19 and to their placement in that employment.

20           (b) Programs that successfully prepare adults who are  
21 eligible for public assistance, economically disadvantaged,  
22 disabled, not proficient in English, or dislocated workers for  
23 high-wage occupations. At a minimum, performance incentives  
24 shall be calculated at an enhanced value for the completion of  
25 adults identified in this paragraph and job placement of such  
26 adults upon completion. In addition, adjustments may be made  
27 in payments for job placements for areas of high unemployment.

28           (c) Programs that are specifically designed to be  
29 consistent with the workforce needs of private enterprise and  
30 regional economic development strategies, as defined in  
31 guidelines set by Workforce Florida, Inc. Workforce Florida,

1 Inc., shall develop guidelines to identify such needs and  
2 strategies based on localized research of private employers  
3 and economic development practitioners.

4 (d) Programs identified by Workforce Florida, Inc., as  
5 increasing the effectiveness and cost efficiency of education.

6 (9) A high school student dually enrolled under s.  
7 1007.271 in a workforce development program funded through the  
8 Workforce Development Education Fund and operated by a  
9 community college or school district technical center  
10 generates the amount calculated by the Workforce Development  
11 Education Fund, including any payment of performance funding,  
12 and the proportional share of full-time equivalent enrollment  
13 generated through the Florida Education Finance Program for  
14 the student's enrollment in a high school. If a high school  
15 student is dually enrolled in a community college program,  
16 including a program conducted at a high school, the community  
17 college earns the funds generated through the Workforce  
18 Development Education Fund and the school district earns the  
19 proportional share of full-time equivalent funding from the  
20 Florida Education Finance Program. If a student is dually  
21 enrolled in a technical center operated by the same district  
22 as the district in which the student attends high school, that  
23 district earns the funds generated through the Workforce  
24 Development Education Fund and also earns the proportional  
25 share of full-time equivalent funding from the Florida  
26 Education Finance Program. If a student is dually enrolled in  
27 a workforce development program provided by a technical center  
28 operated by a different school district, the funds must be  
29 divided between the two school districts proportionally from  
30 the two funding sources. A student may not be reported for  
31 funding in a dual enrollment workforce development program

1 unless the student has completed the basic skills assessment  
2 pursuant to s. 1004.91.

3 (10) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to  
4 administer this section.

5 Section 674. Section 1011.801, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1011.801 Workforce Development Capitalization  
8 Incentive Grant Program.--The Legislature recognizes that the  
9 need for school districts and community colleges to be able to  
10 respond to emerging local or statewide economic development  
11 needs is critical to the workforce development system. The  
12 Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program  
13 is created to provide grants to school districts and community  
14 colleges on a competitive basis to fund some or all of the  
15 costs associated with the creation or expansion of workforce  
16 development programs that serve specific employment workforce  
17 needs.

18 (1) Funds awarded for a workforce development  
19 capitalization incentive grant may be used for instructional  
20 equipment, laboratory equipment, supplies, personnel, student  
21 services, or other expenses associated with the creation or  
22 expansion of a workforce development program. Expansion of a  
23 program may include either the expansion of enrollments in a  
24 program or expansion into new areas of specialization within a  
25 program. No grant funds may be used for recurring  
26 instructional costs or for institutions' indirect costs.

27 (2) The State Board of Education shall accept  
28 applications from school districts or community colleges for  
29 workforce development capitalization incentive grants.  
30 Applications from school districts or community colleges shall  
31 contain projected enrollments and projected costs for the new

1 or expanded workforce development program. The State Board of  
2 Education, in consultation with the Workforce Florida, Inc.,  
3 shall review and rank each application for a grant according  
4 to subsection (3) and shall submit to the Legislature a list  
5 in priority order of applications recommended for a grant  
6 award.

7 (3) The State Board of Education shall give highest  
8 priority to programs that train people to enter high-skill,  
9 high-wage occupations identified by the Workforce Estimating  
10 Conference and other programs approved by Workforce Florida,  
11 Inc.; programs that train people to enter occupations under  
12 the welfare transition program; or programs that train for the  
13 workforce adults who are eligible for public assistance,  
14 economically disadvantaged, disabled, not proficient in  
15 English, or dislocated workers. The State Board of Education  
16 shall consider the statewide geographic dispersion of grant  
17 funds in ranking the applications and shall give priority to  
18 applications from education agencies that are making maximum  
19 use of their workforce development funding by offering  
20 high-performing, high-demand programs.

21 Section 675. Part IV of chapter 1011, Florida  
22 Statutes, shall be entitled "Funding for Community Colleges"  
23 and shall consist of ss. 1011.81-1011.86.

24 Section 676. Section 1011.81, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26 1011.81 Community College Program Fund.--There is  
27 established a Community College Program Fund. This fund shall  
28 comprise all appropriations made by the Legislature for the  
29 support of the current operating program and shall be  
30 apportioned and distributed to the community college districts  
31 of the state on the basis of procedures established by law and

1 rules of the State Board of Education. The annual  
2 apportionment for each community college district shall be  
3 distributed monthly in payments as nearly equal as possible.

4 Section 677. Section 1011.82, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1011.82 Requirements for participation in Community  
7 College Program Fund.--Each community college district which  
8 participates in the state appropriations for the Community  
9 College Program Fund shall provide evidence of its effort to  
10 maintain an adequate community college program which shall:

11 (1) Meet the minimum standards prescribed by the State  
12 Board of Education in accordance with s. 1001.02(9).

13 (2) Effectively fulfill the mission of the community  
14 colleges in accordance with s. 1004.65.

15 Section 678. Section 1011.83, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17 1011.83 Financial support of community colleges.--Each  
18 community college that has been approved by the Department of  
19 Education and meets the requirements of law and rules of the  
20 State Board of Education shall participate in the community  
21 college program fund. However, funds to support workforce  
22 development programs conducted by community colleges shall be  
23 provided by the Workforce Development Education Fund pursuant  
24 to s. 1011.80.

25 Section 679. Section 1011.84, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 1011.84 Procedure for determining state financial  
28 support and annual apportionment of state funds to each  
29 community college district.--The procedure for determining  
30 state financial support and the annual apportionment to each  
31 community college district authorized to operate a community

1 college under the provisions of s. 1001.61 shall be as  
2 follows:

3 (1) DETERMINING THE AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE  
4 COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAM FUND FOR THE CURRENT OPERATING  
5 PROGRAM.--

6 (a) The Department of Education shall determine  
7 annually from an analysis of operating costs, prepared in the  
8 manner prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education,  
9 the costs per full-time equivalent student served in courses  
10 and fields of study offered in community colleges. This  
11 information and current college operating budgets shall be  
12 submitted to the Executive Office of the Governor with the  
13 legislative budget request prior to each regular session of  
14 the Legislature.

15 (b) The allocation of funds for community colleges  
16 shall be based on advanced and professional disciplines,  
17 college-preparatory programs, and other programs for adults  
18 funded pursuant to s. 1011.80.

19 (c) The category of lifelong learning is for students  
20 enrolled pursuant to s. 1004.93. A student shall also be  
21 reported as a lifelong learning student for his or her  
22 enrollment in any course that he or she has previously taken,  
23 unless it is a credit course in which the student earned a  
24 grade of D or F.

25 (d) If an adult student has been determined to be a  
26 disabled student eligible for an approved educational program  
27 for disabled adults provided pursuant to s. 1004.93 and rules  
28 of the State Board of Education and is enrolled in a class  
29 with curriculum frameworks developed for the program, state  
30 funding for that student shall be provided at a level double  
31

1 that of a student enrolled in a special adult general  
2 education program provided by a community college.

3 (e) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
4 implement s. 9(d)(8)f., Art. XII of the State Constitution.  
5 These rules shall provide for the use of the funds available  
6 under s. 9(d)(8)f., Art. XII by an individual community  
7 college for operating expense in any fiscal year during which  
8 the State Board of Education has determined that all major  
9 capital outlay needs have been met. Highest priority for the  
10 use of these funds for purposes other than financing approved  
11 capital outlay projects shall be for the proper maintenance  
12 and repair of existing facilities for projects approved by the  
13 State Board of Education. However, in any fiscal year in which  
14 funds from this source are authorized for operating expense  
15 other than approved maintenance and repair projects, the  
16 allocation of community college program funds shall be reduced  
17 by an amount equal to the sum used for such operating expense  
18 for that community college that year, and that amount shall  
19 not be released or allocated among the other community  
20 colleges that year.

21 (2) DETERMINING THE AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR CAPITAL  
22 OUTLAY AND DEBT SERVICE.--The amount included for capital  
23 outlay and debt service shall be as determined and provided in  
24 s. 18, Art. XII of the State Constitution of 1885, as adopted  
25 by s. 9(d), Art. XII of the 1968 revised State Constitution  
26 and State Board of Education rules.

27 (3) DETERMINING THE APPORTIONMENT FROM STATE FUNDS.--

28 (a) By December 15 of each year, the Department of  
29 Education shall estimate the annual enrollment of each  
30 community college for the current fiscal year and for the 6  
31 subsequent fiscal years. These estimates shall be based upon

1 prior years' enrollments, upon the initial fall term  
2 enrollments for the current fiscal year for each college, and  
3 upon each college's estimated current enrollment and  
4 demographic changes in the respective community college  
5 districts.

6 (b) The apportionment to each community college from  
7 the Community College Program Fund shall be determined  
8 annually in the General Appropriations Act. In determining  
9 each college's apportionment, the Legislature shall consider  
10 the following components:

11 1. Base budget, which includes the state appropriation  
12 to the Community College Program Fund in the current year plus  
13 the related student tuition and out-of-state fees assigned in  
14 the current General Appropriations Act.

15 2. The cost-to-continue allocation, which consists of  
16 incremental changes to the base budget, including salaries,  
17 price levels, and other related costs allocated through a  
18 funding model approved by the Legislature which may recognize  
19 differing economic factors arising from the individual  
20 educational approaches of the various community colleges,  
21 including, but not limited to:

22 a. Direct Instructional Funding, including class size,  
23 faculty productivity factors, average faculty salary, ratio of  
24 full-time to part-time faculty, costs of programs, and  
25 enrollment factors.

26 b. Academic Support, including small colleges factor,  
27 multicampus factor, and enrollment factor.

28 c. Student Services Support, including headcount of  
29 students as well as FTE count and enrollment factors.

30 d. Library Support, including volume and other  
31 materials/audiovisual requirements.

1           e. Special Projects.  
2           f. Operations and Maintenance of Plant, including  
3 square footage and utilization factors.  
4           g. District Cost Differential.  
5           3. Students enrolled in a recreation and leisure  
6 program and students enrolled in a lifelong learning program  
7 who may not be counted as full-time equivalent enrollments for  
8 purposes of enrollment workload adjustments.  
9           4. Operating costs of new facilities adjustments,  
10 which shall be provided, from funds available, for each new  
11 facility that is owned by the college and is recommended in  
12 accordance with s. 1013.31.  
13           5. New and improved program enhancements, which shall  
14 be determined by the Legislature.  
15  
16 Student fees in the base budget plus student fee revenues  
17 generated by increases in fee rates shall be deducted from the  
18 sum of the components determined in subparagraphs 1.-5. The  
19 amount remaining shall be the net annual state apportionment  
20 to each college.  
21           (c) No community college shall commit funds for the  
22 employment of personnel or resources in excess of those  
23 required to continue the same level of support for either the  
24 previously approved enrollment or the revised enrollment,  
25 whichever is lower.  
26           (d) The apportionment to each community college  
27 district for capital outlay and debt service shall be the  
28 amount determined in accordance with subsection (2). This  
29 amount, less any amount determined as necessary for  
30 administrative expense by the State Board of Education and any  
31 amount necessary for debt service on bonds issued by the State

1 Board of Education, shall be transmitted to the community  
 2 college board of trustees to be expended in a manner  
 3 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education.

4 (e) If at any time the unencumbered balance in the  
 5 general fund of the community college board of trustees  
 6 approved operating budget goes below 5 percent, the president  
 7 shall provide written notification to the State Board of  
 8 Education.

9 (f) Expenditures for apprenticeship programs shall be  
 10 reported separately.

11 (4) EXPENDITURE OF ALLOCATED FUNDS.--Any funds  
 12 allocated herein to any community college shall be expended  
 13 only for the purpose of supporting that community college.

14 (5) REPORT OF REMEDIAL EDUCATION.--Each community  
 15 college board of trustees shall report the volume and cost of  
 16 remedial education activities as a separate item in its annual  
 17 cost accounting system.

18 Section 680. Section 1011.85, Florida Statutes, is  
 19 created to read:

20 1011.85 Dr. Philip Benjamin Matching Grant Program for  
 21 Community Colleges.--

22 (1) There is created the Dr. Philip Benjamin Matching  
 23 Grant Program for Community Colleges as a single matching  
 24 gifts program that encompasses the goals originally set out in  
 25 the Academic Improvement Program, the Scholarship Matching  
 26 Program, and the Health Care Education Quality Enhancement  
 27 Challenge Grant. The program shall be administered according  
 28 to rules of the State Board of Education and used to encourage  
 29 private support in enhancing community colleges by providing  
 30 the community college system with the opportunity to receive  
 31 and match challenge grants. Funds received prior to the

1 effective date of this act for each of the three programs  
2 shall be retained in the separate account for which it was  
3 designated.

4 (2) Each community college board of trustees receiving  
5 state appropriations under this program shall approve each  
6 gift to ensure alignment with the unique mission of the  
7 community college. The board of trustees must link all  
8 requests for a state match to the goals and mission statement.  
9 The Florida Community College Foundation Board receiving state  
10 appropriations under this program shall approve each gift to  
11 ensure alignment with its goals and mission statement.

12 (3) Upon approval by the community college board of  
13 trustees and the State Board of Education, the ordering of  
14 donations for priority listing of unmatched gifts should be  
15 determined by the submitting community college.

16 (4) Each year, eligible contributions received by a  
17 community college's foundation or the State Board of Education  
18 by February 1 shall be eligible for state matching funds.

19 (a) Each community college board of trustees and, when  
20 applicable, the Florida Community College Foundation Board,  
21 receiving state appropriations under this program shall also  
22 certify in an annual report to the State Board of Education  
23 the receipt of eligible cash contributions that were  
24 previously unmatched by the state. The State Board of  
25 Education shall adopt rules providing all community colleges  
26 with an opportunity to apply for excess funds before the  
27 awarding of such funds.

28 (b) Community colleges must submit to the State Board  
29 of Education an annual expenditure report tracking the use of  
30 all matching funds.

31

1        (c) The audit of each foundation receiving state funds  
2 from this program must include a certification of accuracy in  
3 the amount reported for matching funds.

4        (5) The matching ratio for donations that are  
5 specifically designated to support scholarships, student  
6 loans, or need-based grants shall be \$1 of state funds to \$1  
7 of local private funds.

8        (6) Otherwise, funds shall be proportionately  
9 allocated to the community colleges on the basis of matching  
10 each \$6 of local or private funds with \$4 of state funds. To  
11 be eligible, a minimum of \$4,500 must be raised from private  
12 sources.

13        (7) The community college board of trustees, in  
14 conjunction with the donor, shall make the determination of  
15 whether scholarships established pursuant to this program are  
16 endowed.

17        (8)(a) Funds sufficient to provide the match shall be  
18 transferred from the state appropriations to the local  
19 community college foundation or the statewide community  
20 college foundation upon notification that a proportionate  
21 amount has been received and deposited by a community college  
22 in its own trust fund.

23        (b) If state funds appropriated for the program are  
24 insufficient to match contributions, the amount allocated  
25 shall be reduced in proportion to its share of the total  
26 eligible contributions. However, in making proportional  
27 reductions, every community college shall receive a minimum of  
28 \$75,000 in state matching funds if its eligible contributions  
29 would have generated an amount at least equal to \$75,000. All  
30 unmet contributions shall be eligible for state matching funds  
31 in subsequent fiscal years.

1       (9) Each community college entity shall establish its  
2 own matching grant program fund as a depository for the  
3 private contributions and matching state funds provided under  
4 this section. Community college foundations are responsible  
5 for the maintenance, investment, and administration of their  
6 matching grant program funds.

7       (10) The State Board of Education may receive  
8 submissions of requests for matching funds and documentation  
9 relating to those requests, may approve requests for matching  
10 funds, and may allocate such funds to the community colleges.

11       (11) The board of trustees of the community college  
12 and the State Board of Education are responsible for  
13 determining the uses for the proceeds of their respective  
14 trust funds. Such use of the proceeds shall include, but not  
15 be limited to, expenditure of the funds for:

16           (a) Scientific and technical equipment.

17           (b) Scholarships, loans, or need-based grants.

18           (c) Other activities that will benefit future students  
19 as well as students currently enrolled at the community  
20 college, will improve the quality of education at the  
21 community college, or will enhance economic development in the  
22 community.

23       Section 681. Section 1011.86, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25       1011.86 Educational leadership enhancement grants.--

26       (1) State universities and community colleges may  
27 submit proposals for educational leadership enhancement grants  
28 to the Commissioner of Education. Proposals shall be funded  
29 competitively.

30       (2) To be eligible for funding, proposals must create  
31 programs designed to strengthen the academic and professional

1 coursework or executive management preparation of women and  
2 minorities.

3 (3) Each proposal must include specific measurable  
4 goals and objectives.

5 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
6 necessary to implement the provisions of this grant program.

7 (5) The grant program shall be implemented to the  
8 extent funded in the General Appropriations Act.

9 Section 682. Part V of chapter 1011, Florida Statutes,  
10 shall be entitled "Funding for Universities" and shall consist  
11 of ss. 1011.90-1011.94.

12 Section 683. Section 1011.90, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14 1011.90 State university funding.--

15 (1) Planned enrollments for each university as  
16 accepted or modified by the Legislature and program cost  
17 categories shall be the basis for the allocation of  
18 appropriated funds to the universities.

19 (2) In addition to enrollment-based appropriations,  
20 categorical programs shall be established in universities  
21 which are not directly related to planned student enrollment.  
22 Such programs shall be based upon the assigned missions of the  
23 institutions and shall include, but not be limited to,  
24 research and public service programs and authority to spend  
25 fee revenues collected pursuant to subsection (5) and s.  
26 1009.24. Appropriations by the Legislature and allocations to  
27 universities shall be based upon full costs, as determined  
28 pursuant to subsection (1), and priorities established by the  
29 Legislature.

30 (3) The Legislature by line item in an appropriations  
31 act may identify programs of extraordinary quality for the

1 utilization of state funds to be matched by nonstate and  
2 nonfederal sources.

3 (4) The State Board of Education shall establish and  
4 validate a cost-estimating system consistent with the  
5 requirements of subsection (1) and shall report as part of its  
6 legislative budget request the actual expenditures for the  
7 fiscal year ending the previous June 30. Expenditure analysis,  
8 operating budgets, and annual financial statements of each  
9 university must be prepared using the standard financial  
10 reporting procedures and formats prescribed by the State Board  
11 of Education. These formats shall be the same as used for the  
12 2000-2001 fiscal year reports. Any revisions to these  
13 financial and reporting procedures and formats must be  
14 approved by the Executive Office of the Governor and the  
15 appropriations committees of the Legislature jointly under the  
16 provisions of s. 216.023(3). The State Board of Education  
17 shall continue to collect and maintain at a minimum the  
18 management information databases existing on June 30, 2002.  
19 The expenditure analysis report shall include total  
20 expenditures from all sources for the general operation of the  
21 university and shall be in such detail as needed to support  
22 the legislative budget request.

23 (5) If the actual enrollment for any university is  
24 less than planned enrollment by more than 5 percent for any 2  
25 consecutive fiscal years, the university enrollment plan for  
26 the next year shall be reduced. If actual enrollment exceeds  
27 planned enrollment by more than 5 percent, an explanation of  
28 the excess shall be provided with the next year's enrollment  
29 plan. The analysis of enrollment conducted for implementing  
30 this subsection shall be based on the categories of enrollment  
31 used in the education and general appropriation.

1 Section 684. Section 1011.91, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1011.91 Additional appropriation.--

4 (1) All moneys received by universities, other than  
5 from state and federal sources, from student building and  
6 capital improvement fees, and from vending machine  
7 collections, are hereby appropriated to the use of the  
8 respective universities collecting same, to be expended as the  
9 university board of trustees may direct; however, the funds  
10 shall not be expended except in pursuance of detailed budgets  
11 filed with the State Board of Education and shall not be  
12 expended for the construction or reconstruction of buildings  
13 except as provided under s. 1013.74.

14 (2) All moneys received from vending machine  
15 collections by universities shall be expended only as set  
16 forth in detailed budgets approved by the State Board of  
17 Education.

18 (3)(a) All moneys received by universities for the  
19 Auxiliary Enterprises and Contracts, Grants and Donations  
20 budget entities, and the self-insurance program authorized in  
21 s. 1004.24, shall be exempt from the requirements of s.  
22 216.023.

23 (b) No new state appropriation shall be obligated as a  
24 source of matching funds for potential federal or private  
25 contracts or grants. Upon the termination of any federal or  
26 private contracts or grants, the state shall not be obligated  
27 to provide continued funding for personnel or project costs  
28 related to such contracts or grants.

29 Section 685. Section 1011.93, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31

1           1011.93 Pari-mutuel wagering funded research and  
2 development programs.--Each fiscal year, the first \$250,000 of  
3 the funds credited to the Pari-mutuel Wagering Trust Fund  
4 shall be used to fund the establishment and implementation of  
5 research and development programs at the University of  
6 Florida. The University of Florida shall administer the  
7 distribution of the funds. These programs must include, but  
8 are not limited to:

9           (1) Research related to the breeding, health, feeding,  
10 or training of dogs and horses.

11           (2) Development of continuing education programs for  
12 individuals involved in the care and treatment of dogs and  
13 horses at pari-mutuel facilities.

14           (3) Establishment of a postmortem evaluation program  
15 for break-down injuries of dogs and horses.

16           (4) Research and development of helmet safety and the  
17 improvement of jai alai equipment.

18           Section 686. Section 1011.94, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20           1011.94 Trust Fund for University Major Gifts.--

21           (1) There is established a Trust Fund for University  
22 Major Gifts. The purpose of the trust fund is to enable each  
23 university and New College to provide donors with an incentive  
24 in the form of matching grants for donations for the  
25 establishment of permanent endowments, which must be invested,  
26 with the proceeds of the investment used to support libraries  
27 and instruction and research programs, as defined by procedure  
28 of the State Board of Education. All funds appropriated for  
29 the challenge grants, new donors, major gifts, or eminent  
30 scholars program must be deposited into the trust fund and  
31 invested pursuant to s. 18.125 until the State Board of

1 Education allocates the funds to universities to match private  
2 donations. Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s.  
3 216.351, any undisbursed balance remaining in the trust fund  
4 and interest income accruing to the portion of the trust fund  
5 which is not matched and distributed to universities must  
6 remain in the trust fund and be used to increase the total  
7 funds available for challenge grants. The State Board of  
8 Education may authorize any university to encumber the state  
9 matching portion of a challenge grant from funds available  
10 under s. 1011.45.

11 (2) The State Board of Education shall specify the  
12 process for submission, documentation, and approval of  
13 requests for matching funds, accountability for endowments and  
14 proceeds of endowments, allocations to universities,  
15 restrictions on the use of the proceeds from endowments, and  
16 criteria used in determining the value of donations.

17 (3)(a) The State Board of Education shall allocate the  
18 amount appropriated to the trust fund to each university and  
19 New College based on the amount of the donation and the  
20 restrictions applied to the donation.

21 (b) Donations for a specific purpose must be matched  
22 in the following manner:

23 1. Each university that raises at least \$100,000 but  
24 no more than \$599,999 from a private source must receive a  
25 matching grant equal to 50 percent of the private  
26 contribution.

27 2. Each university that raises a contribution of at  
28 least \$600,000 but no more than \$1 million from a private  
29 source must receive a matching grant equal to 70 percent of  
30 the private contribution.

31

1           3. Each university that raises a contribution in  
2 excess of \$1 million but no more than \$1.5 million from a  
3 private source must receive a matching grant equal to 75  
4 percent of the private contribution.

5           4. Each university that raises a contribution in  
6 excess of \$1.5 million but no more than \$2 million from a  
7 private source must receive a matching grant equal to 80  
8 percent of the private contribution.

9           5. Each university that raises a contribution in  
10 excess of \$2 million from a private source must receive a  
11 matching grant equal to 100 percent of the private  
12 contribution.

13           (c) The State Board of Education shall encumber state  
14 matching funds for any pledged contributions, pro rata, based  
15 on the requirements for state matching funds as specified for  
16 the particular challenge grant and the amount of the private  
17 donations actually received by the university for the  
18 respective challenge grant.

19           (4) Matching funds may be provided for contributions  
20 encumbered or pledged under the Eminent Scholars Act prior to  
21 July 1, 1994, and for donations or pledges of any amount equal  
22 to or in excess of the prescribed minimums which are pledged  
23 for the purpose of this section.

24           (5)(a) Each university foundation and New College  
25 Foundation shall establish a challenge grant account for each  
26 challenge grant as a depository for private contributions and  
27 state matching funds to be administered on behalf of the State  
28 Board of Education, the university, or New College. State  
29 matching funds must be transferred to a university foundation  
30 or New College Foundation upon notification that the  
31 university or New College has received and deposited the

1 amount specified in this section in a foundation challenge  
2 grant account.

3 (b) The foundation serving a university and New  
4 College Foundation each has the responsibility for the  
5 maintenance and investment of its challenge grant account and  
6 for the administration of the program on behalf of the  
7 university or New College, pursuant to procedures specified by  
8 the State Board of Education. Each foundation shall include in  
9 its annual report to the State Board of Education information  
10 concerning collection and investment of matching gifts and  
11 donations and investment of the account.

12 (c) A donation of at least \$600,000 and associated  
13 state matching funds may be used to designate an Eminent  
14 Scholar Endowed Chair pursuant to procedures specified by the  
15 State Board of Education.

16 (6) The donations, state matching funds, or proceeds  
17 from endowments established under this section may not be  
18 expended for the construction, renovation, or maintenance of  
19 facilities or for the support of intercollegiate athletics.

20 Section 687. Chapter 1012, Florida Statutes, shall be  
21 entitled "Personnel" and shall consist of ss.  
22 1012.01-1012.992.

23 Section 688. Part I of chapter 1012, Florida Statutes,  
24 shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall consist of s.  
25 1012.01.

26 Section 689. Section 1012.01, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1012.01 K-12 definitions.--Specific definitions shall  
29 be as follows, and wherever such defined words or terms are  
30 used in the Florida K-20 Education Code, they shall be used as  
31 follows:

1           (1) SCHOOL OFFICERS.--The officers of the state system  
2 of public education shall be the Commissioner of Education and  
3 the members of the State Board of Education; and, for each  
4 district school system, the officers shall be the district  
5 school superintendent and members of the district school  
6 board.

7           (2) INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL.--"Instructional  
8 personnel" means any staff member whose function includes the  
9 provision of direct instructional services to students.

10 Instructional personnel also includes personnel whose  
11 functions provide direct support in the learning process of  
12 students. Included in the classification of instructional  
13 personnel are:

14           (a) Classroom teachers.--Classroom teachers are staff  
15 members assigned the professional activity of instructing  
16 students in courses in classroom situations, including basic  
17 instruction, exceptional student education, career and  
18 technical education, and adult education, including substitute  
19 teachers.

20           (b) Student personnel services.--Student personnel  
21 services include staff members responsible for: advising  
22 students with regard to their abilities and aptitudes,  
23 educational and occupational opportunities, and personal and  
24 social adjustments; providing placement services; performing  
25 educational evaluations; and similar functions. Included in  
26 this classification are guidance counselors, social workers,  
27 occupational/placement specialists, and school psychologists.

28           (c) Librarians/media specialists.--Librarians/media  
29 specialists are staff members responsible for providing school  
30 library media services. These employees are responsible for  
31 evaluating, selecting, organizing, and managing media and

1 technology resources, equipment, and related systems;  
2 facilitating access to information resources beyond the  
3 school; working with teachers to make resources available in  
4 the instructional programs; assisting teachers and students in  
5 media productions; and instructing students in the location  
6 and use of information resources.

7 (d) Other instructional staff.--Other instructional  
8 staff are staff members who are part of the instructional  
9 staff but are not classified in one of the categories  
10 specified in paragraphs (a)-(c). Included in this  
11 classification are primary specialists, learning resource  
12 specialists, instructional trainers, adjunct educators  
13 certified pursuant to s. 1012.57, and similar positions.

14 (e) Education paraprofessionals.--Education  
15 paraprofessionals are individuals who are under the direct  
16 supervision of an instructional staff member, aiding the  
17 instructional process. Included in this classification are  
18 classroom paraprofessionals in regular instruction,  
19 exceptional education paraprofessionals, career education  
20 paraprofessionals, adult education paraprofessionals, library  
21 paraprofessionals, physical education and playground  
22 paraprofessionals, and other school-level paraprofessionals.

23 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL.--"Administrative  
24 personnel" includes personnel who perform management  
25 activities such as developing broad policies for the school  
26 district and executing those policies through the direction of  
27 personnel at all levels within the district. Administrative  
28 personnel are generally high-level, responsible personnel who  
29 have been assigned the responsibilities of systemwide or  
30 schoolwide functions, such as district school superintendents,  
31 assistant superintendents, deputy superintendents, school

1 principals, assistant principals, technical center directors,  
2 and others who perform management activities. Broad  
3 classifications of administrative personnel are as follows:  
4       (a) District-based instructional  
5 administrators.--Included in this classification are persons  
6 with district-level administrative or policymaking duties who  
7 have broad authority for management policies and general  
8 school district operations related to the instructional  
9 program. Such personnel often report directly to the district  
10 school superintendent and supervise other administrative  
11 employees. This classification includes assistant, associate,  
12 or deputy superintendents and directors of major instructional  
13 areas, such as curriculum, federal programs such as Title I,  
14 specialized instructional program areas such as exceptional  
15 student education, career and technical education, and similar  
16 areas.  
17       (b) District-based noninstructional  
18 administrators.--Included in this classification are persons  
19 with district-level administrative or policymaking duties who  
20 have broad authority for management policies and general  
21 school district operations related to the noninstructional  
22 program. Such personnel often report directly to the district  
23 school superintendent and supervise other administrative  
24 employees. This classification includes assistant, associate,  
25 or deputy superintendents and directors of major  
26 noninstructional areas, such as personnel, construction,  
27 facilities, transportation, data processing, and finance.  
28       (c) School administrators.--Included in this  
29 classification are:  
30           1. School principals or school directors who are staff  
31 members performing the assigned activities as the

1 administrative head of a school and to whom have been  
2 delegated responsibility for the coordination and  
3 administrative direction of the instructional and  
4 noninstructional activities of the school. This classification  
5 also includes technical center directors.

6 2. Assistant principals who are staff members  
7 assisting the administrative head of the school. This  
8 classification also includes assistant principals for  
9 curriculum and administration.

10 (4) YEAR OF SERVICE.--The minimum time which may be  
11 recognized in administering the state program of education,  
12 not including retirement, as a year of service by a school  
13 employee shall be full-time actual service; and, beginning  
14 July 1963, such service shall also include sick leave and  
15 holidays for which compensation was received but shall exclude  
16 all other types of leave and holidays for a total of more than  
17 one-half of the number of days required for the normal  
18 contractual period of service for the position held, which  
19 shall be 196 days or longer, or the minimum required for the  
20 district to participate in the Florida Education Finance  
21 Program in the year service was rendered, or the equivalent  
22 for service performed on a daily or hourly basis; provided,  
23 further, that absence from duty after the date of beginning  
24 service shall be covered by leave duly authorized and granted;  
25 further, the school board shall have authority to establish a  
26 different minimum for local district school purposes.

27 (5) SCHOOL VOLUNTEER.--A school volunteer is any  
28 nonpaid person who may be appointed by a district school board  
29 or its designee. School volunteers may include, but may not be  
30 limited to, parents, senior citizens, students, and others who  
31 assist the teacher or other members of the school staff.

1           (6) EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT EMPLOYEES.--"Educational  
2 support employees" means employees whose job functions are  
3 neither administrative nor instructional, yet whose work  
4 supports the educational process.

5           (a) Other professional staff or  
6 nonadministrative/noninstructional employees are staff members  
7 who perform professional job functions which are  
8 nonadministrative/noninstructional in nature and who are not  
9 otherwise classified in this section. Included in this  
10 classification are employees such as doctors, nurses,  
11 attorneys, certified public accountants, and others  
12 appropriate to the classification.

13           (b) Technicians are individuals whose occupations  
14 require a combination of knowledge and manual skill which can  
15 be obtained through about 2 years of post-high school  
16 education, such as is offered in many technical institutes and  
17 community colleges, or through equivalent on-the-job training.

18           (c) Clerical/secretarial workers are individuals whose  
19 job requires skills and training in clerical-type work,  
20 including activities such as preparing, transcribing,  
21 systematizing, or preserving written communications and  
22 reports or operating equipment performing those functions.  
23 Included in this classification are secretaries, bookkeepers,  
24 messengers, and office machine operators.

25           (d) Skilled crafts workers are individuals who perform  
26 jobs which require special manual skill and a thorough and  
27 comprehensive knowledge of the processes involved in the work  
28 which is acquired through on-the-job training and experience  
29 or through apprenticeship or other formal training programs.  
30 Lead workers for the various skilled crafts areas shall be  
31 included in this classification.

1           (e) Service workers are staff members performing a  
2 service for which there are no formal qualifications,  
3 including those responsible for: cleaning the buildings,  
4 school plants, or supporting facilities; maintenance and  
5 operation of such equipment as heating and ventilation  
6 systems; preserving the security of school property; and  
7 keeping the school plant safe for occupancy and use. Lead  
8 workers in the various service areas shall be included in this  
9 broad classification.

10           (7) MANAGERS.--"Managers" includes those staff members  
11 who perform managerial and supervisory functions while usually  
12 also performing general operations functions. Managers may be  
13 either instructional or noninstructional in their  
14 responsibility. They may direct employees' work, plan the work  
15 schedule, control the flow and distribution of work or  
16 materials, train employees, handle complaints, authorize  
17 payments, and appraise productivity and efficiency of  
18 employees. This classification includes coordinators and  
19 supervisors working under the general direction of those staff  
20 identified as district-based instructional or noninstructional  
21 administrators.

22           Section 690. Part II of chapter 1012, Florida  
23 Statutes, shall be entitled "K-20 Personnel Issues" and shall  
24 consist of ss. 1012.05-1012.07.

25           Section 691. Section 1012.05, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27           1012.05 Teacher recruitment and retention.--

28           (1) The Department of Education, in cooperation with  
29 teacher organizations, district personnel offices, and  
30 schools, colleges, and departments of education in public and  
31

- 1 nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions, shall  
2 concentrate on the recruitment of qualified teachers.
- 3 (2) The Department of Education shall:
- 4 (a) Develop and implement a system for posting  
5 teaching vacancies and establish a database of teacher  
6 applicants that is accessible within and outside the state.
- 7 (b) Advertise in major newspapers, national  
8 professional publications, and other professional publications  
9 and in schools of education.
- 10 (c) Utilize state and nationwide toll-free numbers.
- 11 (d) Conduct periodic communications with district  
12 personnel directors regarding applicants.
- 13 (e) Provide district access to the applicant database  
14 by computer or telephone.
- 15 (f) Develop and distribute promotional materials  
16 related to teaching as a career.
- 17 (g) Publish and distribute information pertaining to  
18 employment opportunities, application procedures, teacher  
19 certification, and teacher salaries.
- 20 (h) Provide information related to certification  
21 procedures.
- 22 (i) Develop and sponsor the Florida Future Educator of  
23 America Program throughout the state.
- 24 (j) Develop, in consultation with school district  
25 staff including, but not limited to, district school  
26 superintendents, district school board members, and district  
27 human resources personnel, a long-range plan for educator  
28 recruitment and retention.
- 29 (k) Identify best practices for retaining high-quality  
30 teachers.
- 31

1       (1) Develop, in consultation with Workforce Florida,  
2 Inc., and the Agency for Workforce Innovation, created  
3 pursuant to ss. 445.004 and 20.50, respectively, a plan for  
4 accessing and identifying available resources in the state's  
5 workforce system for the purpose of enhancing teacher  
6 recruitment and retention.

7       (3) The Department of Education, in cooperation with  
8 district personnel offices, shall sponsor a job fair in a  
9 central part of the state to match in-state educators and  
10 out-of-state educators with teaching opportunities in this  
11 state.

12       Section 692. Section 1012.06, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14       1012.06 Temporary assignment of professional staff  
15 among K-20 system.--To facilitate economical and effective use  
16 of professional staff, school districts, public postsecondary  
17 educational institutions, and the Department of Education may  
18 enter into written agreements assigning employees among  
19 themselves. The purpose of the temporary assignment is to  
20 bring staff together within the state system of education,  
21 notwithstanding their current places of assignment or agencies  
22 of employment, who possess specific or unique knowledge or  
23 experience especially suited to solving specific problems,  
24 developing new programs, or providing technical assistance on  
25 specific tasks or programs.

26       (1) A person may be temporarily assigned for whatever  
27 period of time is required for a specific task; however, no  
28 assignment may be for a period of more than 2 years.

29       (2) A person on temporary assignment shall be  
30 considered on temporary assignment duty to regular work  
31 assignments of the sending agency; shall be entitled to all

1 benefits to which the person would otherwise be entitled,  
2 including compensation for injury or disability; shall receive  
3 the same salary and benefits as at the person's regular  
4 assignment; and shall remain an employee of the permanent  
5 employer for all purposes, except that the person shall be  
6 supervised by the agency to which assigned. Payment of such  
7 salary and benefits may be made by either agency as provided  
8 in the assignment agreement.

9 (3) Travel and per diem expenses incurred while a  
10 person is on temporary assignment shall be paid by the agency  
11 to which the person is assigned. Round-trip travel and moving  
12 expenses from the person's permanent location to the temporary  
13 assignment may be paid by either agency, as provided in the  
14 assignment agreement, for any assignment in excess of 3  
15 months. Notwithstanding s. 112.061 to the contrary, a person  
16 may be paid per diem expenses for any temporary assignment of  
17 3 months or less.

18 Section 693. Section 1012.07, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1012.07 Identification of critical teacher shortage  
21 areas.--

22 (1) As used in ss. 1009.57, 1009.58, and 1009.59, the  
23 term "critical teacher shortage area" applies to mathematics,  
24 science, career education, and high priority location areas.  
25 The State Board of Education may identify career education  
26 programs having critical teacher shortages. The State Board of  
27 Education shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and  
28 120.54, necessary to annually identify other critical teacher  
29 shortage areas and high priority location areas. The state  
30 board shall also consider teacher characteristics such as  
31 ethnic background, race, and sex in determining critical

1 teacher shortage areas. School grade levels may also be  
2 designated critical teacher shortage areas. Individual  
3 district school boards may identify other critical teacher  
4 shortage areas. Such shortages must be certified to and  
5 approved by the State Board of Education. High priority  
6 location areas shall be in high-density, low-economic urban  
7 schools and low-density, low-economic rural schools and shall  
8 include schools which meet criteria which include, but are not  
9 limited to, the percentage of free lunches, the percentage of  
10 students under Chapter I of the Education Consolidation and  
11 Improvement Act of 1981, and the faculty attrition rate.

12 (2) This section shall be implemented only to the  
13 extent as specifically funded and authorized by law.

14 Section 694. Part III of chapter 1012, Florida  
15 Statutes, shall be entitled "Public Schools; Personnel" and  
16 shall consist of ss. 1012.21-1012.799.

17 Section 695. Part III.a. of chapter 1012, Florida  
18 Statutes, shall be entitled "Department of Education, District  
19 School Board, District School Superintendent, and School  
20 Principal Duties; Public School Personnel" and shall consist  
21 of ss. 1012.21-1012.28.

22 Section 696. Section 1012.21, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1012.21 Department of Education duties; K-12  
25 personnel.--

26 (1) PERIODIC CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS.--In  
27 cooperation with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement,  
28 the Department of Education may periodically perform criminal  
29 history record checks on individuals who hold a certificate  
30 pursuant to s. 1012.56 or s. 1012.57.

31

1           (2) COMPUTER DATABASE OF CERTAIN PERSONS WHOSE  
2 EMPLOYMENT WAS TERMINATED.--

3           (a) The Department of Education shall establish a  
4 computer database containing the names of persons whose  
5 employment is terminated under s. 1012.33(1)(a) or (4)(c),  
6 which information shall be available to the district school  
7 superintendents and their designees.

8           (b) Each district school superintendent shall report  
9 to the Department of Education the name of any person  
10 terminated under s. 1012.33(1)(a) or (4)(c) within 10 working  
11 days after the date of final action by the district school  
12 board on the termination, and the department shall immediately  
13 enter the information in the computer records.

14           (3) SUSPENSION OR DENIAL OF TEACHING CERTIFICATE DUE  
15 TO CHILD SUPPORT DELINQUENCY.--The Department of Education  
16 shall allow applicants for new or renewal certificates and  
17 renewal certificateholders to be screened by the Title IV-D  
18 child support agency pursuant to s. 409.2598 to assure  
19 compliance with an obligation for support, as defined in s.  
20 409.2554. The purpose of this section is to promote the  
21 public policy of this state as established in s. 409.2551.  
22 The department shall, when directed by the court, deny the  
23 application of any applicant found to have a delinquent  
24 support obligation. The department shall issue or reinstate  
25 the certificate without additional charge to the  
26 certificateholder when notified by the court that the  
27 certificateholder has complied with the terms of the court  
28 order. The department shall not be held liable for any  
29 certificate denial or suspension resulting from the discharge  
30 of its duties under this section.

31

1           (4) CONFERENCES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL.--As a  
 2 means of stimulating the professional improvement of personnel  
 3 in service, the Department of Education may call conferences  
 4 of personnel of the public schools on matters relating solely  
 5 to education, which conferences, if held on a school day  
 6 within the period of time covered by a contract, shall be  
 7 attended with pay by all who may be designated in the call of  
 8 the Department of Education, provided that the call of the  
 9 Department of Education may indicate that attendance is  
 10 optional, and that in any case of those absent from their  
 11 usual duties during the time of the conference, only those  
 12 actually in attendance at the conference shall be entitled to  
 13 pay for time covered by the conference.

14           (5) SCHOOL-RELATED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR PROGRAM.--The  
 15 Department of Education shall, by rule, provide for a  
 16 School-Related Employee of the Year Program. In addition to  
 17 any other provision, the department shall include in such  
 18 rules that:

19           (a) The program shall apply to school-related  
 20 employees.

21           (b) The program shall be modeled after the Teacher of  
 22 the Year Program.

23           (c) One school-related employee of the year shall be  
 24 nominated by each district school board in the state.

25           (d) A selection process shall be instituted to select  
 26 the school-related employee of the year so that the top five  
 27 finalists receive awards under the program.

28           Section 697. Effective upon this act becoming a law,  
 29 section 1012.22, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

30           1012.22 Public school personnel; powers and duties of  
 31 the district school board.--The district school board shall:

1           (1) Designate positions to be filled, prescribe  
2 qualifications for those positions, and provide for the  
3 appointment, compensation, promotion, suspension, and  
4 dismissal of employees as follows, subject to the requirements  
5 of this chapter:

6           (a) Positions, qualifications, and appointments.--

7           1. The district school board shall act upon written  
8 recommendations submitted by the district school  
9 superintendent for positions to be filled, for minimum  
10 qualifications for personnel for the various positions, and  
11 for the persons nominated to fill such positions.

12           2. The district school board may reject for good cause  
13 any employee nominated.

14           3. If the third nomination by the district school  
15 superintendent for any position is rejected for good cause, if  
16 the district school superintendent fails to submit a  
17 nomination for initial employment within a reasonable time as  
18 prescribed by the district school board, or if the district  
19 school superintendent fails to submit a nomination for  
20 reemployment within the time prescribed by law, the district  
21 school board may proceed on its own motion to fill such  
22 position.

23           4. The district school board's decision to reject a  
24 person's nomination does not give that person a right of  
25 action to sue over the rejection and may not be used as a  
26 cause of action by the nominated employee.

27           (b) Time to act on nominations.--The district school  
28 board shall act not later than 3 weeks after the end of the  
29 regular legislative session or May 31, whichever is later, on  
30 the district school superintendent's nominations of  
31

1 supervisors, principals, and members of the instructional  
2 staff.

3 (c) Compensation and salary schedules.--

4 1. The district school board shall adopt a salary  
5 schedule or salary schedules designed to furnish incentives  
6 for improvement in training and for continued efficient  
7 service to be used as a basis for paying all school employees  
8 and fix and authorize the compensation of school employees on  
9 the basis thereof.

10 2. A district school board, in determining the salary  
11 schedule for instructional personnel, must base a portion of  
12 each employee's compensation on performance demonstrated under  
13 s. 1012.34, must consider the prior teaching experience of a  
14 person who has been designated state teacher of the year by  
15 any state in the United States, and must consider prior  
16 professional experience in the field of education gained in  
17 positions in addition to district level instructional and  
18 administrative positions.

19 3. In developing the salary schedule, the district  
20 school board shall seek input from parents, teachers, and  
21 representatives of the business community.

22 4. Beginning with the 2002-2003 fiscal year, each  
23 district school board must adopt a performance-pay policy for  
24 school administrators and instructional personnel. The  
25 district's performance-pay policy is subject to negotiation as  
26 provided in chapter 447; however, the adopted salary schedule  
27 must allow school administrators and instructional personnel  
28 who demonstrate outstanding performance, as measured under s.  
29 1012.34, to earn a 5-percent supplement in addition to their  
30 individual, negotiated salary. The supplements shall be funded  
31 from the performance-pay reserve funds adopted in the salary

1 schedule. The Commissioner of Education shall determine  
2 whether the district school board's adopted salary schedule  
3 complies with the requirement for performance-based pay. If  
4 the district school board fails to comply with this section,  
5 the commissioner shall withhold disbursements from the  
6 Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to the district until  
7 compliance is verified.

8 (d) Contracts and terms of service.--The district  
9 school board shall provide written contracts for all regular  
10 members of the instructional staff.

11 (e) Transfer and promotion.--The district school board  
12 shall act on recommendations of the district school  
13 superintendent regarding transfer and promotion of any  
14 employee.

15 (f) Suspension, dismissal, and return to annual  
16 contract status.--The district school board shall suspend,  
17 dismiss, or return to annual contract members of the  
18 instructional staff and other school employees; however, no  
19 administrative assistant, supervisor, principal, teacher, or  
20 other member of the instructional staff may be discharged,  
21 removed, or returned to annual contract except as provided in  
22 this chapter.

23 (g) Awards and incentives.--The district school board  
24 shall provide for recognition of district employees, students,  
25 school volunteers, and advisory committee members who have  
26 contributed outstanding and meritorious service in their  
27 fields or service areas. After considering recommendations of  
28 the district school superintendent, the district school board  
29 shall adopt rules establishing and regulating the meritorious  
30 service awards necessary for the efficient operation of the  
31 program. An award or incentive granted under this paragraph

1 may not be considered in determining the salary schedules  
2 required by paragraph (c). Monetary awards shall be limited to  
3 persons who propose procedures or ideas adopted by the board  
4 which will result in eliminating or reducing district school  
5 board expenditures or improving district or school center  
6 operations. Nonmonetary awards shall include, but are not  
7 limited to, certificates, plaques, medals, ribbons, and  
8 photographs. The district school board may expend funds for  
9 such recognition and awards. No award granted under this  
10 paragraph shall exceed \$2,000 or 10 percent of the first  
11 year's gross savings, whichever is greater.

12 (h) Planning and training time for teachers.--The  
13 district school board may adopt rules to make provisions for  
14 teachers to have time for lunch and some planning and training  
15 time when they will not be directly responsible for the  
16 children, provided that some adult supervision shall be  
17 furnished for the students during such periods.

18 (i) Comprehensive program of staff development.--The  
19 district school board shall establish a comprehensive program  
20 of staff development.

21 (2) Adopt policies relating to personnel leave as  
22 follows:

23 (a) Annual leave.--The district school board may adopt  
24 rules that provide for the earning of annual leave by  
25 employees, including educational support employees, who are  
26 employed for 12 calendar months a year.

27 (b) Sick leave.--The district school board may adopt  
28 rules relating to sick leave, in accordance with the  
29 provisions of this chapter.

30 (c) Illness-in-line-of-duty leave.--The district  
31 school board may adopt rules relating to

1 illness-in-the-line-of-duty leave, in accordance with the  
2 provisions of this chapter.

3 (d) Sabbatical leave.--The district school board may  
4 adopt rules relating to sabbatical leave, in accordance with  
5 the provisions of this chapter.

6 Section 698. Section 1012.23, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8 1012.23 School district personnel policies.--

9 (1) Except as otherwise provided by law or the State  
10 Constitution, district school boards may adopt rules governing  
11 personnel matters, including the assignment of duties and  
12 responsibilities for all district employees.

13 (2) A district school board member may not employ or  
14 appoint a relative, as defined in s. 112.3135, to work under  
15 the direct supervision of that district school board member.

16 Section 699. Section 1012.24, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18 1012.24 Employment and compensation of instructional  
19 personnel during specific emergencies.--In the event of an  
20 epidemic, strike, mass walkout, substantial numbers of teacher  
21 resignations, or other urgent condition, a district school  
22 board upon recommendation of the district school  
23 superintendent may find and declare that an emergency exists  
24 because there is not a sufficient number of certified teachers  
25 to continue the normal operation of the schools within the  
26 district. In said event the district school board may upon  
27 recommendation of the district school superintendent employ,  
28 contract with, and compensate for instructional services  
29 rendered any person who shall be deemed qualified by  
30 regulations of the district school board. In such event, a  
31

1 state certificate to teach shall not be required for such  
2 employment, contract, or compensation.

3 Section 700. Section 1012.25, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1012.25 School officers to turn over money and  
6 property to successors.--Every school officer shall turn over  
7 to his or her successor or successors in office, on retiring,  
8 all books, papers, documents, records, funds, money, and  
9 property of whatever kind which the officer may have acquired,  
10 received, and held by virtue of his or her office and shall  
11 take full receipt for them from his or her successor and shall  
12 make in correct form all reports required by the state. No  
13 school officer who receives any salary or compensation for his  
14 or her services shall be entitled to be paid or compensated  
15 for the last month served until the provisions of this section  
16 have been fully observed. Any person violating the provisions  
17 of this section shall forfeit his or her compensation for the  
18 last month served and commits a misdemeanor of the second  
19 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

20 Section 701. Section 1012.26, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22 1012.26 Legal services for employees; reimbursement  
23 for judgments in civil actions.--Each district school board  
24 may provide legal services for officers and employees of the  
25 school board who are charged with civil or criminal actions  
26 arising out of and in the course of the performance of  
27 assigned duties and responsibilities. The district school  
28 board shall provide for reimbursement of reasonable expenses  
29 for legal services for officers and employees of school boards  
30 who are charged with civil or criminal actions arising out of  
31 and in the course of the performance of assigned duties and

1 responsibilities upon successful defense by the employee or  
2 officer. However, in any case in which the officer or employee  
3 pleads guilty or nolo contendere or is found guilty of any  
4 such action, the officer or employee shall reimburse the  
5 district school board for any legal services which the school  
6 board may have supplied pursuant to this section. A district  
7 school board may also reimburse an officer or employee of the  
8 school board for any judgment which may be entered against him  
9 or her in a civil action arising out of and in the course of  
10 the performance of his or her assigned duties and  
11 responsibilities. Each expenditure by a district school board  
12 for legal defense of an officer or employee, or for  
13 reimbursement pursuant to this section, shall be made at a  
14 public meeting with notice pursuant to s. 120.525(1). The  
15 provision of such legal services or reimbursement under the  
16 conditions described above is declared to be a district school  
17 purpose for which district school funds may be expended.

18 Section 702. Section 1012.27, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1012.27 Public school personnel; powers and duties of  
21 district school superintendent.--The district school  
22 superintendent shall be responsible, as required herein, for  
23 directing the work of the personnel, subject to the  
24 requirements of this chapter, and in addition the district  
25 school superintendent shall have the following duties:

26 (1) POSITIONS, QUALIFICATIONS, AND NOMINATIONS.--

27 (a) Recommend to the district school board duties and  
28 responsibilities which need to be performed and positions  
29 which need to be filled to make possible the development of an  
30 adequate school program in the district.

31

1           (b) Recommend minimum qualifications of personnel for  
2 these various positions, and nominate in writing persons to  
3 fill such positions.

4  
5 The district school superintendent's recommendations for  
6 filling instructional positions at the school level must  
7 consider nominations received from school principals of the  
8 respective schools. Before transferring a teacher who holds a  
9 professional teaching certificate from one school to another,  
10 the district school superintendent shall consult with the  
11 principal of the receiving school and allow the principal to  
12 review the teacher's records and interview the teacher. If, in  
13 the judgment of the principal, students would not benefit from  
14 the placement, an alternative placement may be sought.

15           (2) COMPENSATION AND SALARY SCHEDULES.--Prepare and  
16 recommend to the district school board for adoption a salary  
17 schedule or salary schedules. The district school  
18 superintendent must recommend a salary schedule for  
19 instructional personnel which bases a portion of each  
20 employee's compensation on performance demonstrated under s.  
21 1012.34. In developing the recommended salary schedule, the  
22 district school superintendent shall include input from  
23 parents, teachers, and representatives of the business  
24 community.

25           (3) CONTRACTS AND TERMS OF SERVICE.--Recommend to the  
26 district school board terms for contracting with employees and  
27 prepare such contracts as are approved.

28           (4) TRANSFER AND PROMOTIONS.--Recommend employees for  
29 transfer and transfer any employee during any emergency and  
30 report the transfer to the district school board at its next  
31 regular meeting.

1           (5) SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL.--Suspend members of the  
2 instructional staff and other school employees during  
3 emergencies for a period extending to and including the day of  
4 the next regular or special meeting of the district school  
5 board and notify the district school board immediately of such  
6 suspension. When authorized to do so, serve notice on the  
7 suspended member of the instructional staff of charges made  
8 against him or her and of the date of hearing. Recommend  
9 employees for dismissal under the terms prescribed herein.

10           (6) DIRECT WORK OF EMPLOYEES AND SUPERVISE  
11 INSTRUCTION.--Direct or arrange for the proper direction and  
12 improvement, under rules of the district school board, of the  
13 work of all members of the instructional staff and other  
14 employees of the district school system, supervise or arrange  
15 under rules of the district school board for the supervision  
16 of instruction in the district, and take such steps as are  
17 necessary to bring about continuous improvement.

18           Section 703. Section 1012.28, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20           1012.28 Public school personnel; duties of school  
21 principals.--

22           (1) Public school principals shall supervise public  
23 school personnel as the district school board determines  
24 necessary.

25           (2) The school principal is responsible for  
26 recommending to the district school superintendent the  
27 employment of instructional personnel to be assigned to the  
28 school to which the principal is assigned.

29           (3) Each school principal is responsible for the  
30 performance of all personnel employed by the district school  
31 board and assigned to the school to which the principal is

1 assigned. The school principal shall faithfully and  
2 effectively apply the personnel assessment system approved by  
3 the district school board pursuant to s. 1012.34.

4 (4) Each school principal shall assist the teachers  
5 within the school to use student assessment data, as measured  
6 by student learning gains pursuant to s. 1008.22, for  
7 self-evaluation.

8 (5) Each school principal shall perform such duties as  
9 may be assigned by the district school superintendent,  
10 pursuant to the rules of the district school board. Such rules  
11 shall include, but are not limited to, rules relating to  
12 administrative responsibility, instructional leadership in  
13 implementing the Sunshine State Standards and the overall  
14 educational program of the school to which the school  
15 principal is assigned, submission of personnel recommendations  
16 to the district school superintendent, administrative  
17 responsibility for records and reports, administration of  
18 corporal punishment, and student suspension.

19 (6) A school principal who fails to comply with this  
20 section shall be ineligible for any portion the performance  
21 pay policy incentive under s. 1012.22(1)(c).

22 Section 704. Part III.b. of chapter 1012, Florida  
23 Statutes, shall be entitled "Personnel Files, Qualifications,  
24 Contracts, Assessments for Public Schools" and shall consist  
25 of ss. 1012.31-1012.34.

26 Section 705. Section 1012.31, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1012.31 Personnel files.--Public school system  
29 employee personnel files shall be maintained according to the  
30 following provisions:

31

1           (1)(a) Except for materials pertaining to work  
2 performance or such other matters that may be cause for  
3 discipline, suspension, or dismissal under laws of this state,  
4 no derogatory materials relating to an employee's conduct,  
5 service, character, or personality shall be placed in the  
6 personnel file of such employee.

7           (b) No anonymous letter or anonymous materials shall  
8 be placed in the personnel file.

9           (2)(a) Materials relating to work performance,  
10 discipline, suspension, or dismissal must be reduced to  
11 writing and signed by a person competent to know the facts or  
12 make the judgment.

13           (b)1. No such materials may be placed in a personnel  
14 file unless they have been reduced to writing within 45 days,  
15 exclusive of the summer vacation period, of the school system  
16 administration becoming aware of the facts reflected in the  
17 materials.

18           2. Additional information related to such written  
19 materials previously placed in the file may be appended to  
20 such materials to clarify or amplify them as needed.

21           (c) A copy of such materials to be added to an  
22 employee's personnel file shall be provided to the employee  
23 either:

24           1. By certified mail, return receipt requested, to his  
25 or her address of record; or

26           2. By personal delivery. The employee's signature on a  
27 copy of the materials to be filed shall be proof that such  
28 materials were given to the employee, with the understanding  
29 that such signature merely signifies receipt and does not  
30 necessarily indicate agreement with its contents.  
31

1        (d) An employee has the right to answer in writing any  
2 such materials in a personnel file on July 1, 1983, as well as  
3 any such materials filed thereafter, and the answer shall be  
4 attached to the file copy. An employee has the right to  
5 request that the district school superintendent or the  
6 superintendent's designee make an informal inquiry regarding  
7 material in the employee's personnel file which the employee  
8 believes to be false. The official who makes the inquiry shall  
9 append to the material a written report of his or her  
10 findings.

11        (e) Upon request, an employee, or any person  
12 designated in writing by the employee, shall be permitted to  
13 examine the personnel file of such employee. The employee  
14 shall be permitted conveniently to reproduce any materials in  
15 the file, at a cost no greater than the fees prescribed in s.  
16 119.07(1).

17        (f) The custodian of the record shall maintain a  
18 record in the file of those persons reviewing the file each  
19 time it is reviewed.

20        (3)(a) Public school system employee personnel files  
21 are subject to the provisions of s. 119.07(1), except as  
22 follows:

23            1. Any complaint and any material relating to the  
24 investigation of a complaint against an employee shall be  
25 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1)  
26 until the conclusion of the preliminary investigation or until  
27 such time as the preliminary investigation ceases to be  
28 active. If the preliminary investigation is concluded with  
29 the finding that there is no probable cause to proceed further  
30 and with no disciplinary action taken or charges filed, a  
31 statement to that effect signed by the responsible

1 investigating official shall be attached to the complaint, and  
2 the complaint and all such materials shall be open thereafter  
3 to inspection pursuant to s. 119.07(1). If the preliminary  
4 investigation is concluded with the finding that there is  
5 probable cause to proceed further or with disciplinary action  
6 taken or charges filed, the complaint and all such materials  
7 shall be open thereafter to inspection pursuant to s.  
8 119.07(1). If the preliminary investigation ceases to be  
9 active, the complaint and all such materials shall be open  
10 thereafter to inspection pursuant to s. 119.07(1). For the  
11 purpose of this subsection, a preliminary investigation shall  
12 be considered active as long as it is continuing with a  
13 reasonable, good faith anticipation that an administrative  
14 finding will be made in the foreseeable future. An  
15 investigation shall be presumed to be inactive if no finding  
16 relating to probable cause is made within 60 days after the  
17 complaint is made.

18         2. An employee evaluation prepared pursuant to s.  
19 1012.56, s. 1012.34, or s. 1012.33 or rules adopted by the  
20 State Board of Education or district school board under the  
21 authority of those sections shall be confidential and exempt  
22 from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) until the end of the  
23 school year immediately following the school year in which the  
24 evaluation was made. No evaluation prepared before July 1,  
25 1983, shall be made public pursuant to this section.

26         3. No material derogatory to an employee shall be open  
27 to inspection until 10 days after the employee has been  
28 notified pursuant to paragraph (2)(c).

29         4. The payroll deduction records of an employee shall  
30 be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.  
31 119.07(1).

1           5. Employee medical records, including psychiatric and  
2 psychological records, shall be confidential and exempt from  
3 the provisions of s. 119.07(1); however, at any hearing  
4 relative to the competency or performance of an employee, the  
5 administrative law judge, hearing officer, or panel shall have  
6 access to such records.

7           (b) Notwithstanding other provisions of this  
8 subsection, all aspects of the personnel file of each employee  
9 shall be open to inspection at all times by district school  
10 board members, the district school superintendent, and the  
11 principal, or their respective designees, in the exercise of  
12 their respective duties.

13           (c) Notwithstanding other provisions of this  
14 subsection, all aspects of the personnel file of each employee  
15 shall be made available to law enforcement personnel in the  
16 conduct of a lawful criminal investigation.

17           (4) The term "personnel file," as used in this  
18 section, means all records, information, data, or materials  
19 maintained by a public school system, in any form or retrieval  
20 system whatsoever, with respect to any of its employees, which  
21 is uniquely applicable to that employee whether maintained in  
22 one or more locations.

23           Section 706. Section 1012.32, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25           1012.32 Qualifications of personnel.--

26           (1) To be eligible for appointment in any position in  
27 any district school system, a person shall be of good moral  
28 character; shall have attained the age of 18 years, if he or  
29 she is to be employed in an instructional capacity; and shall,  
30 when required by law, hold a certificate or license issued  
31 under rules of the State Board of Education or the Department

1 of Children and Family Services, except when employed pursuant  
2 to s. 1012.55 or under the emergency provisions of s. 1012.24.  
3 Previous residence in this state shall not be required in any  
4 school of the state as a prerequisite for any person holding a  
5 valid Florida certificate or license to serve in an  
6 instructional capacity.

7 (2)(a) Instructional and noninstructional personnel  
8 who are hired to fill positions requiring direct contact with  
9 students in any district school system or university lab  
10 school shall, upon employment, file a complete set of  
11 fingerprints taken by an authorized law enforcement officer or  
12 an employee of the school or district who is trained to take  
13 fingerprints. These fingerprints shall be submitted to the  
14 Department of Law Enforcement for state processing and to the  
15 Federal Bureau of Investigation for federal processing. The  
16 new employees shall be on probationary status pending  
17 fingerprint processing and determination of compliance with  
18 standards of good moral character. Employees found through  
19 fingerprint processing to have been convicted of a crime  
20 involving moral turpitude shall not be employed in any  
21 position requiring direct contact with students. Probationary  
22 employees terminated because of their criminal record shall  
23 have the right to appeal such decisions. The cost of the  
24 fingerprint processing may be borne by the district school  
25 board or the employee.

26 (b) Personnel who have been fingerprinted or screened  
27 pursuant to this subsection and who have not been unemployed  
28 for more than 90 days shall not be required to be  
29 refingerprinted or rescreened in order to comply with the  
30 requirements of this subsection.

31

1 Section 707. Section 1012.33, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1012.33 Contracts with instructional staff,  
4 supervisors, and school principals.--

5 (1)(a) Each person employed as a member of the  
6 instructional staff in any district school system shall be  
7 properly certified pursuant to s. 1012.56 or s. 1012.57 or  
8 employed pursuant to s. 1012.39 and shall be entitled to and  
9 shall receive a written contract as specified in chapter 230.  
10 All such contracts, except continuing contracts as specified  
11 in subsection (4), shall contain provisions for dismissal  
12 during the term of the contract only for just cause. Just  
13 cause includes, but is not limited to, the following  
14 instances, as defined by rule of the State Board of Education:  
15 misconduct in office, incompetency, gross insubordination,  
16 willful neglect of duty, or conviction of a crime involving  
17 moral turpitude.

18 (b) A supervisor or school principal shall be properly  
19 certified and shall receive a written contract as specified in  
20 chapter 1001. Such contract may be for an initial period not  
21 to exceed 3 years, subject to annual review and renewal. The  
22 first 97 days of an initial contract is a probationary period.  
23 During the probationary period, the employee may be dismissed  
24 without cause or may resign from the contractual position  
25 without breach of contract. After the first 3 years, the  
26 contract may be renewed for a period not to exceed 3 years and  
27 shall contain provisions for dismissal during the term of the  
28 contract only for just cause, in addition to such other  
29 provisions as are prescribed by the district school board.

30 (2) Any person so employed on the basis of a written  
31 offer of a specific position by a duly authorized agent of the

1 district school board for a stated term of service at a  
2 specified salary, and who accepted such offer by telegram or  
3 letter or by signing the regular contract form, who violates  
4 the terms of such contract or agreement by leaving his or her  
5 position without first being released from his or her contract  
6 or agreement by the district school board of the district in  
7 which the person is employed shall be subject to the  
8 jurisdiction of the Education Practices Commission. The  
9 district school board shall take official action on such  
10 violation and shall furnish a copy of its official minutes to  
11 the Commissioner of Education.

12 (3)(a) Each district school board shall provide a  
13 professional service contract as prescribed herein. Each  
14 member of the instructional staff who completed the following  
15 requirements prior to July 1, 1984, shall be entitled to and  
16 shall be issued a continuing contract in the form prescribed  
17 by rules of the state board pursuant to s. 231.36, Florida  
18 Statutes (1981). Each member of the instructional staff who  
19 completes the following requirements on or after July 1, 1984,  
20 shall be entitled to and shall be issued a professional  
21 service contract in the form prescribed by rules of the state  
22 board as provided herein:

23 1. The member must hold a professional certificate as  
24 prescribed by s. 1012.56 and rules of the State Board of  
25 Education.

26 2. The member must have completed 3 years of  
27 probationary service in the district during a period not in  
28 excess of 5 successive years, except for leave duly authorized  
29 and granted.

30 3. The member must have been recommended by the  
31 district school superintendent for such contract and

1 reappointed by the district school board based on successful  
2 performance of duties and demonstration of professional  
3 competence.

4 4. For any person newly employed as a member of the  
5 instructional staff after June 30, 1997, the initial annual  
6 contract shall include a 97-day probationary period during  
7 which time the employee's contract may be terminated without  
8 cause or the employee may resign without breach of contract.

9 (b) The professional service contract shall be  
10 effective at the beginning of the school fiscal year following  
11 the completion of all requirements therefor.

12 (c) The period of service provided herein may be  
13 extended to 4 years when prescribed by the district school  
14 board and agreed to in writing by the employee at the time of  
15 reappointment.

16 (d) A district school board may issue a continuing  
17 contract prior to July 1, 1984, and may issue a professional  
18 service contract subsequent to July 1, 1984, to any employee  
19 who has previously held a professional service contract or  
20 continuing contract in the same or another district within  
21 this state. Any employee who holds a continuing contract may,  
22 but is not required to, exchange such continuing contract for  
23 a professional service contract in the same district.

24 (e) A professional service contract shall be renewed  
25 each year unless the district school superintendent, after  
26 receiving the recommendations required by s. 1012.34, charges  
27 the employee with unsatisfactory performance and notifies the  
28 employee of performance deficiencies as required by s.  
29 1012.34. An employee who holds a professional service contract  
30 on July 1, 1997, is subject to the procedures set forth in  
31 paragraph (f) during the term of the existing professional

1 service contract. The employee is subject to the procedures  
2 set forth in s. 1012.34(3)(d) upon the next renewal of the  
3 professional service contract; however, if the employee is  
4 notified of performance deficiencies before the next contract  
5 renewal date, the procedures of s. 1012.34(3)(d) do not apply  
6 until the procedures set forth in paragraph (f) have been  
7 exhausted and the professional service contract is  
8 subsequently renewed.

9 (f) The district school superintendent shall notify an  
10 employee who holds a professional service contract on July 1,  
11 1997, in writing, no later than 6 weeks prior to the end of  
12 the postschool conference period, of performance deficiencies  
13 which may result in termination of employment, if not  
14 corrected during the subsequent year of employment (which  
15 shall be granted for an additional year in accordance with the  
16 provisions in subsection (1)). Except as otherwise hereinafter  
17 provided, this action shall not be subject to the provisions  
18 of chapter 120, but the following procedures shall apply:

19 1. On receiving notice of unsatisfactory performance,  
20 the employee, on request, shall be accorded an opportunity to  
21 meet with the district school superintendent, or his or her  
22 designee, for an informal review of the determination of  
23 unsatisfactory performance.

24 2. An employee notified of unsatisfactory performance  
25 may request an opportunity to be considered for a transfer to  
26 another appropriate position, with a different supervising  
27 administrator, for the subsequent year of employment. If the  
28 request for the transfer is granted, the district school  
29 superintendent shall annually report to the department the  
30 total number of employees transferred pursuant to this  
31 subparagraph, where they were transferred, and what, if any,

1 remediation was implemented to remediate the unsatisfactory  
2 performance.

3 3. During the subsequent year, the employee shall be  
4 provided assistance and inservice training opportunities to  
5 help correct the noted performance deficiencies. The employee  
6 shall also be evaluated periodically so that he or she will be  
7 kept apprised of progress achieved.

8 4. Not later than 6 weeks prior to the close of the  
9 postschool conference period of the subsequent year, the  
10 district school superintendent, after receiving and reviewing  
11 the recommendation required by s. 1012.34, shall notify the  
12 employee, in writing, whether the performance deficiencies  
13 have been corrected. If so, a new professional service  
14 contract shall be issued to the employee. If the performance  
15 deficiencies have not been corrected, the district school  
16 superintendent may notify the district school board and the  
17 employee, in writing, that the employee shall not be issued a  
18 new professional service contract; however, if the  
19 recommendation of the district school superintendent is not to  
20 issue a new professional service contract, and if the employee  
21 wishes to contest such recommendation, the employee will have  
22 15 days from receipt of the district school superintendent's  
23 recommendation to demand, in writing, a hearing. In such  
24 hearing, the employee may raise as an issue, among other  
25 things, the sufficiency of the district school  
26 superintendent's charges of unsatisfactory performance. Such  
27 hearing shall be conducted at the district school board's  
28 election in accordance with one of the following procedures:  
29 a. A direct hearing conducted by the district school  
30 board within 60 days of receipt of the written appeal. The  
31 hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions

1 of ss. 120.569 and 120.57. A majority vote of the membership  
2 of the district school board shall be required to sustain the  
3 district school superintendent's recommendation. The  
4 determination of the district school board shall be final as  
5 to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the grounds for  
6 termination of employment; or

7 b. A hearing conducted by an administrative law judge  
8 assigned by the Division of Administrative Hearings of the  
9 Department of Management Services. The hearing shall be  
10 conducted within 60 days of receipt of the written appeal in  
11 accordance with chapter 120. The recommendation of the  
12 administrative law judge shall be made to the district school  
13 board. A majority vote of the membership of the district  
14 school board shall be required to sustain or change the  
15 administrative law judge's recommendation. The determination  
16 of the district school board shall be final as to the  
17 sufficiency or insufficiency of the grounds for termination of  
18 employment.

19 (g) Beginning July 1, 2001, for each employee who  
20 enters into a written contract, pursuant to this section, in a  
21 school district in which the employee was not employed as of  
22 June 30, 2001, for purposes of pay, a district school board  
23 must recognize and accept each year of full-time public school  
24 teaching service earned in the State of Florida or outside the  
25 state and for which the employee received a satisfactory  
26 performance evaluation. Instructional personnel employed  
27 pursuant to s. 121.091(9)(b)3. are exempt from the provisions  
28 of this paragraph.

29 (4)(a) An employee who had continuing contract status  
30 prior to July 1, 1984, shall be entitled to retain such  
31 contract and all rights arising therefrom as prescribed by

1 rules of the State Board of Education adopted pursuant to s.  
2 231.36, Florida Statutes (1981), unless the employee  
3 voluntarily relinquishes his or her continuing contract.

4 (b) Any member of the district administrative or  
5 supervisory staff and any member of the instructional staff,  
6 including any school principal, who is under continuing  
7 contract may be dismissed or may be returned to annual  
8 contract status for another 3 years in the discretion of the  
9 district school board, at the end of the school year, when a  
10 recommendation to that effect is submitted in writing to the  
11 district school board on or before April 1 of any school year,  
12 giving good and sufficient reasons therefor, by the district  
13 school superintendent, by the school principal if his or her  
14 contract is not under consideration, or by a majority of the  
15 district school board. The employee whose contract is under  
16 consideration shall be duly notified in writing by the party  
17 or parties preferring the charges at least 5 days prior to the  
18 filing of the written recommendation with the district school  
19 board, and such notice shall include a copy of the charges and  
20 the recommendation to the district school board. The district  
21 school board shall proceed to take appropriate action. Any  
22 decision adverse to the employee shall be made by a majority  
23 vote of the full membership of the district school board. Any  
24 such decision adverse to the employee may be appealed by the  
25 employee pursuant to s. 120.68.

26 (c) Any member of the district administrative or  
27 supervisory staff and any member of the instructional staff,  
28 including any school principal, who is under continuing  
29 contract may be suspended or dismissed at any time during the  
30 school year; however, the charges against him or her must be  
31 based on immorality, misconduct in office, incompetency, gross

1 insubordination, willful neglect of duty, drunkenness, or  
2 conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude, as these  
3 terms are defined by rule of the State Board of Education.  
4 Whenever such charges are made against any such employee of  
5 the district school board, the district school board may  
6 suspend such person without pay; but, if the charges are not  
7 sustained, he or she shall be immediately reinstated, and his  
8 or her back salary shall be paid. In cases of suspension by  
9 the district school board or by the district school  
10 superintendent, the district school board shall determine upon  
11 the evidence submitted whether the charges have been sustained  
12 and, if the charges are sustained, shall determine either to  
13 dismiss the employee or fix the terms under which he or she  
14 may be reinstated. If such charges are sustained by a majority  
15 vote of the full membership of the district school board and  
16 such employee is discharged, his or her contract of employment  
17 shall be thereby canceled. Any such decision adverse to the  
18 employee may be appealed by the employee pursuant to s.  
19 120.68, provided such appeal is filed within 30 days after the  
20 decision of the district school board.

21 (5) Should a district school board have to choose from  
22 among its personnel who are on continuing contracts or  
23 professional service contracts as to which should be retained,  
24 such decisions shall be made pursuant to the terms of a  
25 collectively bargained agreement, when one exists. If no such  
26 agreement exists, the district school board shall prescribe  
27 rules to handle reductions in workforce.

28 (6)(a) Any member of the instructional staff,  
29 excluding an employee specified in subsection (4), may be  
30 suspended or dismissed at any time during the term of the  
31 contract for just cause as provided in paragraph (1)(a). The

1 district school board must notify the employee in writing  
2 whenever charges are made against the employee and may suspend  
3 such person without pay; but, if the charges are not  
4 sustained, the employee shall be immediately reinstated, and  
5 his or her back salary shall be paid. If the employee wishes  
6 to contest the charges, the employee must, within 15 days  
7 after receipt of the written notice, submit a written request  
8 for a hearing. Such hearing shall be conducted at the district  
9 school board's election in accordance with one of the  
10 following procedures:

11 1. A direct hearing conducted by the district school  
12 board within 60 days after receipt of the written appeal. The  
13 hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions  
14 of ss. 120.569 and 120.57. A majority vote of the membership  
15 of the district school board shall be required to sustain the  
16 district school superintendent's recommendation. The  
17 determination of the district school board shall be final as  
18 to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the grounds for  
19 termination of employment; or

20 2. A hearing conducted by an administrative law judge  
21 assigned by the Division of Administrative Hearings of the  
22 Department of Management Services. The hearing shall be  
23 conducted within 60 days after receipt of the written appeal  
24 in accordance with chapter 120. The recommendation of the  
25 administrative law judge shall be made to the district school  
26 board. A majority vote of the membership of the district  
27 school board shall be required to sustain or change the  
28 administrative law judge's recommendation. The determination  
29 of the district school board shall be final as to the  
30 sufficiency or insufficiency of the grounds for termination of  
31 employment.

1  
2 Any such decision adverse to the employee may be appealed by  
3 the employee pursuant to s. 120.68, provided such appeal is  
4 filed within 30 days after the decision of the district school  
5 board.

6 (b) Any member of the district administrative or  
7 supervisory staff, including any principal but excluding an  
8 employee specified in subsection (4), may be suspended or  
9 dismissed at any time during the term of the contract;  
10 however, the charges against him or her must be based on  
11 immorality, misconduct in office, incompetency, gross  
12 insubordination, willful neglect of duty, drunkenness, or  
13 conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude, as these  
14 terms are defined by rule of the State Board of Education.  
15 Whenever such charges are made against any such employee of  
16 the district school board, the district school board may  
17 suspend the employee without pay; but, if the charges are not  
18 sustained, he or she shall be immediately reinstated, and his  
19 or her back salary shall be paid. In cases of suspension by  
20 the district school board or by the district school  
21 superintendent, the district school board shall determine upon  
22 the evidence submitted whether the charges have been sustained  
23 and, if the charges are sustained, shall determine either to  
24 dismiss the employee or fix the terms under which he or she  
25 may be reinstated. If such charges are sustained by a  
26 majority vote of the full membership of the district school  
27 board and such employee is discharged, his or her contract of  
28 employment shall be thereby canceled. Any such decision  
29 adverse to the employee may be appealed by him or her pursuant  
30 to s. 120.68, provided such appeal is filed within 30 days  
31 after the decision of the district school board.

1           (7) The district school board of any given district  
2 shall grant continuing service credit for time spent  
3 performing duties as a member of the Legislature to any  
4 district employee who possesses a professional service  
5 contract, multiyear contract, or continuing contract.

6           (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any  
7 member who has retired may interrupt retirement and be  
8 reemployed in any public school. Any member so reemployed by  
9 the same district from which he or she retired may be employed  
10 on a probationary contractual basis as provided in subsection  
11 (1); however, no regular retirement employee shall be eligible  
12 to renew membership under a retirement system created by  
13 chapter 121 or chapter 238.

14           Section 708. Section 1012.34, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16           1012.34 Assessment procedures and criteria.--

17           (1) For the purpose of improving the quality of  
18 instructional, administrative, and supervisory services in the  
19 public schools of the state, the district school  
20 superintendent shall establish procedures for assessing the  
21 performance of duties and responsibilities of all  
22 instructional, administrative, and supervisory personnel  
23 employed by the school district. The Department of Education  
24 must approve each district's instructional personnel  
25 assessment system.

26           (2) The following conditions must be considered in the  
27 design of the district's instructional personnel assessment  
28 system:

29           (a) The system must be designed to support district  
30 and school level improvement plans.

31

1           **(b) The system must provide appropriate instruments,**  
2 **procedures, and criteria for continuous quality improvement of**  
3 **the professional skills of instructional personnel.**

4           **(c) The system must include a mechanism to give**  
5 **parents an opportunity to provide input into employee**  
6 **performance assessments when appropriate.**

7           **(d) In addition to addressing generic teaching**  
8 **competencies, districts must determine those teaching fields**  
9 **for which special procedures and criteria will be developed.**

10           **(e) Each district school board may establish a peer**  
11 **assistance process. The plan may provide a mechanism for**  
12 **assistance of persons who are placed on performance probation**  
13 **as well as offer assistance to other employees who request it.**

14           **(f) The district school board shall provide training**  
15 **programs that are based upon guidelines provided by the**  
16 **Department of Education to ensure that all individuals with**  
17 **evaluation responsibilities understand the proper use of the**  
18 **assessment criteria and procedures.**

19           **(3) The assessment procedure for instructional**  
20 **personnel and school administrators must be primarily based on**  
21 **the performance of students assigned to their classrooms or**  
22 **schools, as appropriate. The procedures must comply with, but**  
23 **are not limited to, the following requirements:**

24           **(a) An assessment must be conducted for each employee**  
25 **at least once a year. The assessment must be based upon sound**  
26 **educational principles and contemporary research in effective**  
27 **educational practices. The assessment must primarily use data**  
28 **and indicators of improvement in student performance assessed**  
29 **annually as specified in s. 1008.22 and may consider results**  
30 **of peer reviews in evaluating the employee's performance.**  
31 **Student performance must be measured by state assessments**

1 required under s. 1008.22 and by local assessments for  
2 subjects and grade levels not measured by the state assessment  
3 program. The assessment criteria must include, but are not  
4 limited to, indicators that relate to the following:  
5       1. Performance of students.  
6       2. Ability to maintain appropriate discipline.  
7       3. Knowledge of subject matter. The district school  
8 board shall make special provisions for evaluating teachers  
9 who are assigned to teach out-of-field.  
10       4. Ability to plan and deliver instruction, including  
11 the use of technology in the classroom.  
12       5. Ability to evaluate instructional needs.  
13       6. Ability to establish and maintain a positive  
14 collaborative relationship with students' families to increase  
15 student achievement.  
16       7. Other professional competencies, responsibilities,  
17 and requirements as established by rules of the State Board of  
18 Education and policies of the district school board.  
19       (b) All personnel must be fully informed of the  
20 criteria and procedures associated with the assessment process  
21 before the assessment takes place.  
22       (c) The individual responsible for supervising the  
23 employee must assess the employee's performance. The evaluator  
24 must submit a written report of the assessment to the district  
25 school superintendent for the purpose of reviewing the  
26 employee's contract. The evaluator must submit the written  
27 report to the employee no later than 10 days after the  
28 assessment takes place. The evaluator must discuss the written  
29 report of assessment with the employee. The employee shall  
30 have the right to initiate a written response to the  
31

1 assessment, and the response shall become a permanent  
2 attachment to his or her personnel file.

3 (d) If an employee is not performing his or her duties  
4 in a satisfactory manner, the evaluator shall notify the  
5 employee in writing of such determination. The notice must  
6 describe such unsatisfactory performance and include notice of  
7 the following procedural requirements:

8 1. Upon delivery of a notice of unsatisfactory  
9 performance, the evaluator must confer with the employee, make  
10 recommendations with respect to specific areas of  
11 unsatisfactory performance, and provide assistance in helping  
12 to correct deficiencies within a prescribed period of time.

13 2.a. If the employee holds a professional service  
14 contract as provided in s. 1012.33, the employee shall be  
15 placed on performance probation and governed by the provisions  
16 of this section for 90 calendar days following the receipt of  
17 the notice of unsatisfactory performance to demonstrate  
18 corrective action. School holidays and school vacation periods  
19 are not counted when calculating the 90-calendar-day period.  
20 During the 90 calendar days, the employee who holds a  
21 professional service contract must be evaluated periodically  
22 and apprised of progress achieved and must be provided  
23 assistance and inservice training opportunities to help  
24 correct the noted performance deficiencies. At any time during  
25 the 90 calendar days, the employee who holds a professional  
26 service contract may request a transfer to another appropriate  
27 position with a different supervising administrator; however,  
28 a transfer does not extend the period for correcting  
29 performance deficiencies.

30 b. Within 14 days after the close of the 90 calendar  
31 days, the evaluator must assess whether the performance

1 deficiencies have been corrected and forward a recommendation  
2 to the district school superintendent. Within 14 days after  
3 receiving the evaluator's recommendation, the district school  
4 superintendent must notify the employee who holds a  
5 professional service contract in writing whether the  
6 performance deficiencies have been satisfactorily corrected  
7 and whether the district school superintendent will recommend  
8 that the district school board continue or terminate his or  
9 her employment contract. If the employee wishes to contest the  
10 district school superintendent's recommendation, the employee  
11 must, within 15 days after receipt of the district school  
12 superintendent's recommendation, submit a written request for  
13 a hearing. The hearing shall be conducted at the district  
14 school board's election in accordance with one of the  
15 following procedures:

16 (I) A direct hearing conducted by the district school  
17 board within 60 days after receipt of the written appeal. The  
18 hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions  
19 of ss. 120.569 and 120.57. A majority vote of the membership  
20 of the district school board shall be required to sustain the  
21 district school superintendent's recommendation. The  
22 determination of the district school board shall be final as  
23 to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the grounds for  
24 termination of employment; or

25 (II) A hearing conducted by an administrative law  
26 judge assigned by the Division of Administrative Hearings of  
27 the Department of Management Services. The hearing shall be  
28 conducted within 60 days after receipt of the written appeal  
29 in accordance with chapter 120. The recommendation of the  
30 administrative law judge shall be made to the district school  
31 board. A majority vote of the membership of the district

1 school board shall be required to sustain or change the  
2 administrative law judge's recommendation. The determination  
3 of the district school board shall be final as to the  
4 sufficiency or insufficiency of the grounds for termination of  
5 employment.

6 (4) The district school superintendent shall notify  
7 the department of any instructional personnel who receive two  
8 consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations and who have been given  
9 written notice by the district that their employment is being  
10 terminated or is not being renewed or that the district school  
11 board intends to terminate, or not renew, their employment.  
12 The department shall conduct an investigation to determine  
13 whether action shall be taken against the certificateholder  
14 pursuant to s. 1012.795(1)(b).

15 (5) The district school superintendent shall develop a  
16 mechanism for evaluating the effective use of assessment  
17 criteria and evaluation procedures by administrators who are  
18 assigned responsibility for evaluating the performance of  
19 instructional personnel. The use of the assessment and  
20 evaluation procedures shall be considered as part of the  
21 annual assessment of the administrator's performance. The  
22 system must include a mechanism to give parents and teachers  
23 an opportunity to provide input into the administrator's  
24 performance assessment, when appropriate.

25 (6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
26 grant a probationary employee a right to continued employment  
27 beyond the term of his or her contract.

28 (7) The district school board shall establish a  
29 procedure annually reviewing instructional personnel  
30 assessment systems to determine compliance with this section.  
31 All substantial revisions to an approved system must be

1 reviewed and approved by the district school board before  
2 being used to assess instructional personnel. Upon request by  
3 a school district, the department shall provide assistance in  
4 developing, improving, or reviewing an assessment system.

5 (8) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
6 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, that establish uniform  
7 guidelines for the submission, review, and approval of  
8 district procedures for the annual assessment of instructional  
9 personnel and that include criteria for evaluating  
10 professional performance.

11 Section 709. Part III.c. of chapter 1012, Florida  
12 Statutes, shall be entitled "Personnel, Instructional and  
13 Noninstructional; Authorization; Requirements" and shall  
14 consist of ss. 1012.35-1012.46.

15 Section 710. Section 1012.35, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17 1012.35 Substitute teachers.--Each district school  
18 board shall adopt rules prescribing the compensation of, and  
19 the procedure for employment of, substitute teachers. Such  
20 procedure for employment shall include, but is not limited to,  
21 the filing of a complete set of fingerprints as required in s.  
22 1012.32.

23 Section 711. Section 1012.36, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25 1012.36 Part-time teachers.--

26 (1) District school boards may hire certified and  
27 qualified personnel as provided in ss. 1012.39 and 1012.57 to  
28 teach a specified number of periods, which may be less than a  
29 full school day or less than a full school year.

30 (2) Assigned additional school duties and salaries  
31 shall be given in direct ratio to the number of periods

1 taught. Other benefits shall be provided by district school  
2 board rule or, if applicable, pursuant to chapter 447.

3 Section 712. Section 1012.37, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1012.37 Education paraprofessionals.--A district  
6 school board may appoint education paraprofessionals to assist  
7 members of the instructional staff in carrying out their  
8 duties and responsibilities. An education paraprofessional  
9 shall not be required to hold a teaching certificate. An  
10 education paraprofessional, while rendering services under the  
11 supervision of a certified teacher, shall be accorded the same  
12 protection of laws as that accorded the certified teacher.  
13 Paid education paraprofessionals employed by a district school  
14 board shall be entitled to the same rights as those accorded  
15 noninstructional employees of the district school board.

16 Section 713. Section 1012.38, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18 1012.38 Education paraprofessional career  
19 development.--

20 (1)(a) Each school district may adopt a program for  
21 the career development of education paraprofessionals. The  
22 purpose of the program is to provide to education  
23 paraprofessionals a system of career development which is  
24 based upon education and training advancement, and to furnish  
25 economic incentives to encourage excellence among education  
26 paraprofessionals.

27 (b) The adoption of each program is subject to chapter  
28 447, and the implementation of a program is contingent upon  
29 the agreement and ratification of the program by both the  
30 employer and employees under s. 447.309.

31

1           (2) A district education paraprofessional career  
2 development program must include voluntary participation by  
3 paraprofessionals in five career development levels. The  
4 district school board shall adopt a procedure for verifying  
5 the competency levels of all persons who participate in the  
6 career development program and a procedure to determine the  
7 outcomes and results of the program and impact on student  
8 performance.

9           (3)(a) Level I.--To qualify for Level I, the person  
10 must meet:

11           1. The health requirement established for certified  
12 personnel.

13           2. The age requirements for certified personnel.

14           3. The local school district requirements for  
15 employment.

16           (b) Level II.--To qualify for Level II, the person  
17 must:

18           1. Have earned a high school diploma or the  
19 equivalent.

20           2. Possess a clear understanding of state and district  
21 rules and policies relevant to paraprofessionals.

22           3. Possess knowledge of all state and district  
23 instructional practices and policies relevant to  
24 paraprofessionals.

25           4. Have maintained satisfactory job performance of  
26 appropriate skills and competencies for 1 year.

27           (c) Level III.--To qualify for Level III, the person  
28 must:

29           1. Have completed 30 college semester hours or the  
30 equivalent inservice hours.

31

- 1           2. Possess a clear understanding of state and district  
2 rules and policies relevant to paraprofessionals.
- 3           3. Possess knowledge of all state and district  
4 instructional practices and policies relevant to  
5 paraprofessionals.
- 6           4. Have maintained satisfactory job performance of  
7 appropriate skills and competencies for 2 years.
- 8           (d) Level IV.--To qualify for Level IV, the person  
9 must:
- 10           1. Have completed 60 college semester hours or the  
11 equivalent inservice hours.
- 12           2. Possess a clear understanding of state and district  
13 rules and policies relevant to paraprofessionals.
- 14           3. Possess knowledge of all state and district  
15 instructional practices and policies relevant to  
16 paraprofessionals.
- 17           4. Have maintained satisfactory job performance of  
18 appropriate skills and competencies for 2 years.
- 19           (e) Level V.--To qualify for Level V, the person must:
- 20           1. Have completed coursework to earn a bachelor of  
21 arts or bachelor of science degree from an accredited  
22 institution pursuant to s. 1012.56(2)(c).
- 23           2. Possess a clear understanding of state and district  
24 rules and policies relevant to paraprofessionals.
- 25           3. Possess knowledge of all state and district  
26 instructional practices and policies relevant to  
27 paraprofessionals.
- 28           4. Have maintained satisfactory job performance of  
29 appropriate skills and competencies for 2 years.
- 30           (4) Paraprofessionals may not:
- 31           (a) Establish instructional objectives;

- 1           (b) Make decisions regarding the relevancy of certain  
2 activities or procedures to the attainment of instructional  
3 objectives;
- 4           (c) Make decisions regarding the appropriateness of  
5 certain teaching materials for accomplishing instructional  
6 objectives; or
- 7           (d) Make judgments regarding the attainment of  
8 instructional objectives unless these judgments are based upon  
9 clear and objective criteria, such as specific achievement  
10 standards on a true-false test.
- 11           Section 714. Section 1012.39, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:
- 13           1012.39 Employment of substitute teachers, teachers of  
14 adult education, nondegreed teachers of career education, and  
15 career specialists; students performing clinical field  
16 experience.--
- 17           (1) Notwithstanding ss. 1012.32, 1012.55, 1012.56, and  
18 1012.57, or any other provision of law or rule to the  
19 contrary, each district school board shall establish the  
20 minimal qualifications for:
- 21           (a) Substitute teachers to be employed pursuant to s.  
22 1012.35. The qualifications shall require the filing of a  
23 complete set of fingerprints in the same manner as required by  
24 s. 1012.32.
- 25           (b) Part-time and full-time teachers in adult  
26 education programs. The qualifications shall require the  
27 filing of a complete set of fingerprints in the same manner as  
28 required by s. 1012.32. Faculty employed solely to conduct  
29 postsecondary instruction may be exempted from this  
30 requirement.
- 31

1           (c) Part-time and full-time nondegreed teachers of  
2 career and technical programs. Qualifications shall be  
3 established for agriculture, business, health occupations,  
4 family and consumer sciences, industrial, marketing, career  
5 specialist, and public service education teachers, based  
6 primarily on successful occupational experience rather than  
7 academic training. The qualifications for such teachers shall  
8 require:

9           1. The filing of a complete set of fingerprints in the  
10 same manner as required by s. 1012.32. Faculty employed solely  
11 to conduct postsecondary instruction may be exempted from this  
12 requirement.

13           2. Documentation of education and successful  
14 occupational experience including documentation of:

15           a. A high school diploma or the equivalent.

16           b. Completion of 6 years of full-time successful  
17 occupational experience or the equivalent of part-time  
18 experience in the teaching specialization area. Alternate  
19 means of determining successful occupational experience may be  
20 established by the district school board.

21           c. Completion of career education training conducted  
22 through the local school district inservice master plan.

23           d. For full-time teachers, completion of professional  
24 education training in teaching methods, course construction,  
25 lesson planning and evaluation, and teaching special needs  
26 students. This training may be completed through coursework  
27 from an accredited or approved institution or an approved  
28 district teacher education program.

29           e. Demonstration of successful teaching performance.

30           (2) Substitute, adult education, and nondegreed career  
31 education teachers who are employed pursuant to this section

1 shall have the same rights and protection of laws as certified  
2 teachers.

3 (3) A student who is enrolled in a state-approved  
4 teacher preparation program in a postsecondary educational  
5 institution that is approved by rules of the State Board of  
6 Education and who is jointly assigned by the postsecondary  
7 educational institution and a district school board to perform  
8 a clinical field experience under the direction of a regularly  
9 employed and certified educator shall, while serving such  
10 supervised clinical field experience, be accorded the same  
11 protection of law as that accorded to the certified educator  
12 except for the right to bargain collectively as an employee of  
13 the district school board.

14 Section 715. Section 1012.40, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 1012.40 Educational support employees.--

17 (1) As used in this section:

18 (a) "Educational support employee" means any person  
19 employed by a district school system who is employed as a  
20 teacher assistant, an education paraprofessional, a member of  
21 the transportation department, a member of the operations  
22 department, a member of the maintenance department, a member  
23 of food service, a secretary, or a clerical employee, or any  
24 other person who by virtue of his or her position of  
25 employment is not required to be certified by the Department  
26 of Education or district school board pursuant to s. 1012.39.  
27 This section does not apply to persons employed in  
28 confidential or management positions. This section applies to  
29 all employees who are not temporary or casual and whose duties  
30 require 20 or more hours in each normal working week.  
31

1           **(b) "Employee" means any person employed as an**  
2 **educational support employee.**

3           **(2)(a) Each educational support employee shall be**  
4 **employed on probationary status for a period to be determined**  
5 **through the appropriate collective bargaining agreement or by**  
6 **district school board rule in cases where a collective**  
7 **bargaining agreement does not exist.**

8           **(b) Upon successful completion of the probationary**  
9 **period by the employee, the employee's status shall continue**  
10 **from year to year unless the district school superintendent**  
11 **terminates the employee for reasons stated in the collective**  
12 **bargaining agreement, or in district school board rule in**  
13 **cases where a collective bargaining agreement does not exist,**  
14 **or reduces the number of employees on a districtwide basis for**  
15 **financial reasons.**

16           **(c) In the event a district school superintendent**  
17 **seeks termination of an employee, the district school board**  
18 **may suspend the employee with or without pay. The employee**  
19 **shall receive written notice and shall have the opportunity to**  
20 **formally appeal the termination. The appeals process shall be**  
21 **determined by the appropriate collective bargaining process or**  
22 **by district school board rule in the event there is no**  
23 **collective bargaining agreement.**

24           Section 716. Section 1012.41, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26           **1012.41 Employment of directors of career and**  
27 **technical education.--In order to receive state funding, each**  
28 **district school board that employs at least 15 full-time**  
29 **equivalent career and technical teachers must employ a**  
30 **director of career and technical education who meets the**  
31 **certification requirements established by the State Board of**

1 Education. The directors shall be directly accountable to the  
2 district school superintendent, or his or her designee, for  
3 the planning and implementation of career and technical  
4 programs. Two or more district school boards may employ a  
5 single director.

6 Section 717. Section 1012.42, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8 1012.42 Teacher teaching out-of-field.--

9 (1) ASSISTANCE.--Each district school board shall  
10 adopt and implement a plan to assist any teacher teaching  
11 out-of-field, and priority consideration in professional  
12 development activities shall be given to teachers who are  
13 teaching out-of-field. The district school board shall require  
14 that such teachers participate in a certification or staff  
15 development program designed to provide the teacher with the  
16 competencies required for the assigned duties. The  
17 board-approved assistance plan must include duties of  
18 administrative personnel and other instructional personnel to  
19 provide students with instructional services. Each district  
20 school board shall contact its regional workforce board,  
21 created pursuant to s. 445.007, to identify resources that may  
22 assist teachers who are teaching out-of-field and who are  
23 pursuing certification.

24 (2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.--When a teacher in a  
25 district school system is assigned teaching duties in a class  
26 dealing with subject matter that is outside the field in which  
27 the teacher is certified, outside the field that was the  
28 applicant's minor field of study, or outside the field in  
29 which the applicant has demonstrated sufficient subject area  
30 expertise, as determined by district school board policy in  
31

1 the subject area to be taught, the parents of all students in  
2 the class shall be notified in writing of such assignment.

3 Section 718. Section 1012.43, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1012.43 Career and technical teachers.--

6 (1) Career and technical teachers and other teachers  
7 who qualify for certificates on the basis of nonacademic  
8 preparation shall be entitled to all the contractual rights  
9 and privileges now granted to other instructional personnel  
10 holding equivalent certificates.

11 (2) A holder of a certificate based on nonacademic  
12 preparation which entitled him or her to employment to teach  
13 classes in career and technical or adult education shall not  
14 be assigned to teach in a regular academic field of the  
15 kindergarten through grade 12 school program.

16 Section 719. Section 1012.44, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18 1012.44 Qualifications for certain persons providing  
19 speech-language services.--The State Board of Education shall  
20 adopt rules for speech-language services to school districts  
21 that qualify for the sparsity supplement as described in s.  
22 1011.62(6). These services may be provided by baccalaureate  
23 degree level persons for a period of 3 years. The rules shall  
24 authorize the delivery of speech-language services by  
25 baccalaureate degree level persons under the direction of a  
26 certified speech-language pathologist with a master's degree  
27 or higher. By October 1, 2003, these rules shall be reviewed  
28 by the State Board of Education.

29 Section 720. Section 1012.45, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31 1012.45 School bus drivers; requirements and duties.--

1           (1) Each school bus driver must be of good moral  
2 character, of good vision and hearing, able-bodied, free from  
3 communicable disease, mentally alert, and sufficiently strong  
4 physically to handle the bus with ease, and he or she must  
5 possess other qualifications prescribed by the Commissioner of  
6 Education, including those qualifications described in 49  
7 C.F.R. s. 391, relating to physical qualifications and  
8 examinations and 49 C.F.R. part 40 and part 382, relating to  
9 controlled substance and alcohol use and testing, and he or  
10 she must hold a valid commercial driver's license with a  
11 passenger endorsement.

12           (2) Each school bus driver has the authority and  
13 responsibility to control students during the time students  
14 are on the school bus pursuant to s. 1006.10.

15           (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
16 outlining requirements that school bus drivers must meet  
17 before they are employed by district school boards.

18           (4) Each district school board may provide a school  
19 bus driver training program and may make this program  
20 available to private school bus drivers by contract.

21           Section 721. Section 1012.46, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23           1012.46 Athletic trainers.--

24           (1) School districts may establish and implement an  
25 athletic injuries prevention and treatment program. Central to  
26 this program should be the employment and availability of  
27 persons trained in the prevention and treatment of physical  
28 injuries which may occur during athletic activities. The  
29 program should reflect opportunities for progressive  
30 advancement and compensation in employment as provided in  
31 subsection (2) and meet certain other minimum standards

1 developed by the Department of Education. The goal of the  
2 Legislature is to have school districts employ and have  
3 available a full-time teacher athletic trainer in each high  
4 school in the state.

5 (2) To the extent practicable, a school district  
6 program should include the following employment classification  
7 and advancement scheme:

8 (a) First responder.--To qualify as a first responder,  
9 a person must possess a professional, temporary, part-time,  
10 adjunct, or substitute certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, be  
11 certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, and  
12 have 15 semester hours in courses such as care and prevention  
13 of athletic injuries, anatomy, physiology, nutrition,  
14 counseling, and other similar courses approved by the  
15 Commissioner of Education. This person may only administer  
16 first aid and similar care.

17 (b) Teacher athletic trainer.--To qualify as a teacher  
18 athletic trainer, a person must possess a professional,  
19 temporary, part-time, adjunct, or substitute certificate  
20 pursuant to s. 1012.35, s. 1012.56 or s. 1012.57, and be  
21 licensed as required by part XIII of chapter 468.

22 Section 722. Part III.d. of chapter 1012, Florida  
23 Statutes, shall be entitled "Educator Certification for Public  
24 Schools; Renewal; Duties" and shall consist of ss.  
25 1012.51-1012.595.

26 Section 723. Section 1012.51, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1012.51 Legislative intent; declaration.--It is the  
29 intent and purpose of the Legislature that the practice of  
30 teaching in the public school system and its related services,  
31 including administering and supervisory services, shall be

1 designated as professional services. Teaching is hereby  
2 declared to be a profession in Florida, with similar rights,  
3 responsibilities, and privileges accorded other legally  
4 recognized professions.

5 Section 724. Section 1012.52, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1012.52 Teacher quality; legislative findings.--

8 (1) The Legislature intends to implement a  
9 comprehensive approach to increase students' academic  
10 achievement and improve teaching quality. The Legislature  
11 recognizes that professional educators play an important role  
12 in shaping the future of this state and the nation by  
13 developing the knowledge and skills of our future workforce  
14 and laying the foundation for good citizenship and full  
15 participation in community and civic life. The Legislature  
16 also recognizes its role in meeting the state's educational  
17 priorities so as to provide opportunity for all students to  
18 achieve at the levels set by the Sunshine State Standards.

19 (2) The Legislature further finds that effective  
20 educators are able to do the following:

21 (a) Write and speak in a logical and understandable  
22 style, using appropriate grammar and sentence structure, and  
23 demonstrate a command of standard English, enunciation,  
24 clarity of oral directions, and pace and precision in  
25 speaking.

26 (b) Read, comprehend, and interpret professional and  
27 other written material.

28 (c) Compute, think logically, and solve problems.

29 (d) Recognize signs of students' difficulty with the  
30 reading and computational process and apply appropriate  
31

- 1 measures to improve students' reading and computational  
2 performance.
- 3 (e) Recognize patterns of physical, social, emotional,  
4 and intellectual development in students, including  
5 exceptional students in the regular classroom.
- 6 (f) Recognize and demonstrate awareness of the  
7 educational needs of students who have limited proficiency in  
8 English and employ appropriate teaching strategies.
- 9 (g) Use and integrate appropriate technology in  
10 teaching and learning processes and in managing, evaluating,  
11 and improving instruction.
- 12 (h) Use assessment and other diagnostic strategies to  
13 assist the continuous development and acquisition of knowledge  
14 and understanding of the learner.
- 15 (i) Use teaching and learning strategies that include  
16 consideration of each student's learning styles, needs, and  
17 background.
- 18 (j) Demonstrate the ability to maintain a positive,  
19 collaborative relationship with students' families to increase  
20 student achievement.
- 21 (k) Recognize signs of tendency toward violence and  
22 severe emotional distress in students and apply techniques of  
23 crisis intervention.
- 24 (l) Recognize signs of alcohol and drug abuse in  
25 students and know how to appropriately work with such students  
26 and seek assistance designed to prevent future abuse.
- 27 (m) Recognize the physical and behavioral indicators  
28 of child abuse and neglect and know rights and  
29 responsibilities regarding reporting.
- 30  
31

1           (n) Demonstrate the ability to maintain a positive  
2 environment in the classroom while achieving order and  
3 discipline.

4           (o) Demonstrate the ability to grade student  
5 performance effectively.

6           (p) Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the  
7 value of, and strategies for, promoting parental involvement  
8 in education.

9           Section 725. Section 1012.53, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11           1012.53 Duties of instructional personnel.--

12           (1) The primary duty of instructional personnel is to  
13 work diligently and faithfully to help students meet or exceed  
14 annual learning goals, to meet state and local achievement  
15 requirements, and to master the skills required to graduate  
16 from high school prepared for postsecondary education and  
17 work. This duty applies to instructional personnel whether  
18 they teach or function in a support role.

19           (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public  
20 schools shall perform duties prescribed by rules of the  
21 district school board. The rules shall include, but are not  
22 limited to, rules relating to a teacher's duty to help  
23 students master challenging standards and meet all state and  
24 local requirements for achievement; teaching efficiently and  
25 faithfully, using prescribed materials and methods, including  
26 technology-based instruction; recordkeeping; and fulfilling  
27 the terms of any contract, unless released from the contract  
28 by the district school board.

29           Section 726. Section 1012.54, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31

1           1012.54 Purpose of instructional personnel  
2 certification.--It is the intent of the Legislature that  
3 school personnel certified in this state possess the  
4 credentials, knowledge, and skills necessary to allow the  
5 opportunity for a high-quality education in the public  
6 schools. The purpose of school personnel certification is to  
7 protect the educational interests of students, parents, and  
8 the public at large by assuring that teachers in this state  
9 are professionally qualified. In fulfillment of its duty to  
10 the citizens of this state, the Legislature has established  
11 certification requirements to assure that educational  
12 personnel in public schools possess appropriate skills in  
13 reading, writing, and mathematics, and adequate pedagogical  
14 knowledge, including the use of technology to enhance student  
15 learning, and relevant subject matter competence so as to  
16 demonstrate an acceptable level of professional performance.  
17 Further, the Legislature has established a certificate renewal  
18 process which promotes the continuing professional improvement  
19 of school personnel, thereby enhancing public education in all  
20 areas of the state.

21           Section 727. Section 1012.55, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23           1012.55 Positions for which certificates required.--  
24           (1) The State Board of Education shall classify school  
25 services, designate the certification subject areas, establish  
26 competencies, including the use of technology to enhance  
27 student learning, and certification requirements for all  
28 school-based personnel, and adopt rules in accordance with  
29 which the professional, temporary, and part-time certificates  
30 shall be issued by the Department of Education to applicants  
31 who meet the standards prescribed by such rules for their

1 class of service. Each person employed or occupying a position  
2 as school supervisor, school principal, teacher, library media  
3 specialist, school counselor, athletic coach, or other  
4 position in which the employee serves in an instructional  
5 capacity, in any public school of any district of this state  
6 shall hold the certificate required by law and by rules of the  
7 State Board of Education in fulfilling the requirements of the  
8 law for the type of service rendered. However, the state board  
9 shall adopt rules authorizing district school boards to employ  
10 selected noncertificated personnel to provide instructional  
11 services in the individuals' fields of specialty or to assist  
12 instructional staff members as education paraprofessionals.

13 (2) Each person who is employed and renders service as  
14 an athletic coach in any public school in any district of this  
15 state shall hold a valid temporary or professional certificate  
16 or an athletic coaching certificate. The athletic coaching  
17 certificate may be used for either part-time or full-time  
18 positions. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to  
19 any athletic coach who voluntarily renders service and who is  
20 not employed by any public school district of this state.

21 (3) Each person employed as a school nurse shall hold  
22 a license to practice nursing in the state, and each person  
23 employed as a school physician shall hold a license to  
24 practice medicine in the state.

25 (4) A commissioned or noncommissioned military officer  
26 who is an instructor of junior reserve officer training shall  
27 be exempt from requirements for teacher certification, except  
28 for the filing of fingerprints pursuant to s. 1012.32, if he  
29 or she meets the following qualifications:

30 (a) Is retired from active military duty, pursuant to  
31 chapter 102 of Title 10, U.S.C.

1           **(b) Satisfies criteria established by the appropriate**  
2 **military service for certification by the service as a junior**  
3 **reserve officer training instructor.**

4           **(c) Has an exemplary military record.**

5  
6 **If such instructor is assigned instructional duties other than**  
7 **junior reserve officer training, he or she shall hold the**  
8 **certificate required by law and rules of the state board for**  
9 **the type of service rendered.**

10           Section 728. Effective July 1, 2002, section 1012.56,  
11 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

12           **1012.56 Educator certification requirements.--**

13           **(1) APPLICATION.--Each person seeking certification**  
14 **pursuant to this chapter shall submit a completed application**  
15 **containing the applicant's social security number to the**  
16 **Department of Education and remit the fee required pursuant to**  
17 **s. 1012.59 and rules of the State Board of Education. Pursuant**  
18 **to the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity**  
19 **Reconciliation Act of 1996, each party is required to provide**  
20 **his or her social security number in accordance with this**  
21 **section. Disclosure of social security numbers obtained**  
22 **through this requirement shall be limited to the purpose of**  
23 **administration of the Title IV-D program of the Social**  
24 **Security Act for child support enforcement. Pursuant to s.**  
25 **120.60, the department shall issue within 90 calendar days**  
26 **after the stamped receipted date of the completed application:**

27           **(a) A certificate covering the classification, level,**  
28 **and area for which the applicant is deemed qualified; or**

29           **(b) An official statement of status of eligibility.**

30 **The statement of status of eligibility must advise the**  
31 **applicant of any qualifications that must be completed to**

1 qualify for certification. Each statement of status of  
2 eligibility is valid for 2 years after its date of issuance,  
3 except as provided in paragraph (2)(d). A statement of status  
4 of eligibility may be reissued for one additional 2-year  
5 period if application is made while the initial statement of  
6 status of eligibility is valid or within 1 year after the  
7 initial statement expires, and if the certification subject  
8 area is authorized to be issued by the state board at the time  
9 the application requesting a reissued statement of status of  
10 eligibility is received.

11 (2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.--To be eligible to seek  
12 certification pursuant to this chapter, a person must:

13 (a) Be at least 18 years of age.

14 (b) File a written statement, under oath, that the  
15 applicant subscribes to and will uphold the principles  
16 incorporated in the Constitution of the United States and the  
17 Constitution of the State of Florida.

18 (c) Document receipt of a bachelor's or higher degree  
19 from an accredited institution of higher learning, or a  
20 nonaccredited institution of higher learning that the  
21 Department of Education has identified as having a quality  
22 program resulting in a bachelor's degree, or higher. Each  
23 applicant seeking initial certification must have attained at  
24 least a 2.5 overall grade point average on a 4.0 scale in the  
25 applicant's major field of study. The applicant may document  
26 the required education by submitting official transcripts from  
27 institutions of higher education or by authorizing the direct  
28 submission of such official transcripts through established  
29 electronic network systems. The bachelor's or higher degree  
30 may not be required in areas approved in rule by the State  
31 Board of Education as nondegreed areas.

1           (d) Submit to a fingerprint check from the Department  
2 of Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
3 pursuant to s. 1012.32. If the fingerprint reports indicate a  
4 criminal history or if the applicant acknowledges a criminal  
5 history, the applicant's records shall be referred to the  
6 Bureau of Educator Standards for review and determination of  
7 eligibility for certification. If the applicant fails to  
8 provide the necessary documentation requested by the Bureau of  
9 Educator Standards within 90 days after the date of the  
10 receipt of the certified mail request, the statement of  
11 eligibility and pending application shall become invalid.

12           (e) Be of good moral character.

13           (f) Be competent and capable of performing the duties,  
14 functions, and responsibilities of an educator.

15           (g) Demonstrate mastery of general knowledge, pursuant  
16 to subsection (3).

17           (h) Demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge,  
18 pursuant to subsection (4).

19           (i) Demonstrate mastery of professional preparation  
20 and education competence, pursuant to subsection (5).

21           (3) MASTERY OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.--Acceptable means of  
22 demonstrating mastery of general knowledge are:

23           (a) Achievement of passing scores on basic skills  
24 examination required by state board rule;

25           (b) Achievement of passing scores on the College Level  
26 Academic Skills Test earned prior to July 1, 2002;

27           (c) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by  
28 another state that requires an examination of mastery of  
29 general knowledge;

30  
31

1           (d) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by  
2 another state and valid certificate issued by the National  
3 Board for Professional Teaching Standards; or

4           (e) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by  
5 another state and documentation of 2 years of continuous  
6 successful full-time teaching or administrative experience  
7 during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of  
8 application for certification.

9           (4) MASTERY OF SUBJECT AREA KNOWLEDGE.--Acceptable  
10 means of demonstrating mastery of subject area knowledge are:

11           (a) Achievement of passing scores on subject area  
12 examinations required by state board rule;

13           (b) Completion of the subject area specialization  
14 requirements specified in state board rule and verification of  
15 the attainment of the essential subject matter competencies by  
16 the district school superintendent of the employing school  
17 district or chief administrative officer of the employing  
18 state-supported or private school for a subject area for which  
19 a subject area examination has not been developed and required  
20 by state board rule;

21           (c) Completion of the graduate level subject area  
22 specialization requirements specified in state board rule for  
23 a subject coverage requiring a master's or higher degree and  
24 achievement of a passing score on the subject area examination  
25 specified in state board rule;

26           (d) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by  
27 another state that requires an examination of mastery of  
28 subject area knowledge;

29           (e) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by  
30 another state and valid certificate issued by the National  
31 Board for Professional Teaching Standards; or

1           (f) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by  
2 another state and documentation of 2 years of continuous  
3 successful full-time teaching or administrative experience  
4 during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of  
5 application for certification.

6           (5) MASTERY OF PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND EDUCATION  
7 COMPETENCE.--Acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of  
8 professional preparation and education competence are:

9           (a) Completion of an approved teacher preparation  
10 program at a postsecondary educational institution within this  
11 state and achievement of a passing score on the professional  
12 education competency examination required by state board rule;

13           (b) Completion of a teacher preparation program at a  
14 postsecondary educational institution outside Florida and  
15 achievement of a passing score on the professional education  
16 competency examination required by state board rule;

17           (c) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by  
18 another state that requires an examination of mastery of  
19 professional education competence;

20           (d) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by  
21 another state and valid certificate issued by the National  
22 Board for Professional Teaching Standards;

23           (e) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by  
24 another state and documentation of 2 years of continuous  
25 successful full-time teaching or administrative experience  
26 during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of  
27 application for certification;

28           (f) Completion of professional preparation courses as  
29 specified in state board rule, successful completion of a  
30 professional education competence demonstration program  
31 pursuant to paragraph (7)(b), and achievement of a passing

1 score on the professional education competency examination  
2 required by state board rule; or  
3 (g) Successful completion of a professional  
4 preparation alternative certification and education competency  
5 program, outlined in paragraph (7)(a).  
6 (6) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.--  
7 (a) The Department of Education shall issue a  
8 professional certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to  
9 any applicant who meets all the requirements outlined in  
10 subsection (2).  
11 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate  
12 to any applicant who completes the requirements outlined in  
13 paragraphs (2)(a)-(f) and completes the subject area content  
14 requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates  
15 mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (4)  
16 and holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the  
17 Department of Education at the level required for the subject  
18 area specialization in state board rule.  
19 (c) The department shall issue one nonrenewable 2-year  
20 temporary certificate and one nonrenewable 5-year professional  
21 certificate to a qualified applicant who holds a bachelor's  
22 degree in the area of speech-language impairment to allow for  
23 completion of a master's degree program in speech-language  
24 impairment.  
25  
26 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years  
27 and is nonrenewable. However, the requirement in paragraph  
28 (2)(g) must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of  
29 employment under the temporary certificate. Individuals who  
30 are employed under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year  
31 time period may continue to be employed through the end of the

1 school year in which they have been contracted. A school  
2 district shall not employ, or continue the employment of, an  
3 individual in a position for which a temporary certificate is  
4 required beyond this time period if the individual has not met  
5 the requirement of paragraph (2)(g). The State Board of  
6 Education shall adopt rules to allow the department to extend  
7 the validity period of a temporary certificate for 2 years  
8 when the requirements for the professional certificate, not  
9 including the requirement in paragraph (2)(g), were not  
10 completed due to the serious illness or injury of the  
11 applicant or other extraordinary extenuating circumstances.  
12 The department shall reissue the temporary certificate for 2  
13 additional years upon approval by the Commissioner of  
14 Education. A written request for reissuance of the certificate  
15 shall be submitted by the district school superintendent, the  
16 governing authority of a university lab school, the governing  
17 authority of a state-supported school, or the governing  
18 authority of a private school.

19 (7) PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION  
20 AND EDUCATION COMPETENCY PROGRAM.--

21 (a) The Department of Education shall develop and each  
22 school district must provide a cohesive competency-based  
23 professional preparation alternative certification program by  
24 which members of a school district's instructional staff may  
25 satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and education  
26 competence requirements specified in this subsection and rules  
27 of the State Board of Education. Participants must hold a  
28 state-issued temporary certificate. A school district shall  
29 provide a competency-based alternative certification  
30 preparation program developed by the Department of Education  
31

1 or developed by the district and approved by the Department of  
2 Education. The program shall include the following components:  
3       1. A minimum period of initial preparation prior to  
4 assuming duties as the teacher of record.  
5       2. An option for collaboration between school  
6 districts and other supporting agencies for implementation.  
7       3. Experienced peer mentors.  
8       4. An assessment that provides for:  
9           a. An initial evaluation of each educator's  
10 competencies to determine an appropriate individualized  
11 professional development plan.  
12           b. A postevaluation to assure successful completion of  
13 the program.  
14       5. Professional education preparation content  
15 knowledge that includes, but is not limited to, the following:  
16           a. Requirements specified in state board rule for  
17 professional preparation.  
18           b. The educator-accomplished practices approved by the  
19 state board.  
20           c. A variety of data indicators for student progress.  
21           d. Methodologies, including technology-based  
22 methodologies, for teaching subject content that supports the  
23 Sunshine State Standards for students.  
24           e. Techniques for effective classroom management.  
25           f. Techniques and strategies for operationalizing the  
26 role of the teacher in assuring a safe learning environment  
27 for students.  
28           g. Methodologies for assuring the ability of all  
29 students to read, write, and compute.  
30  
31

1           6. Required achievement of passing scores on the  
2 professional education competency examination required by  
3 state board rule.

4           (b) Each school district must and a state supported  
5 public school or a private school may develop and maintain a  
6 system by which members of the instructional staff may  
7 demonstrate mastery of professional education competence as  
8 required by law. Each program must be based on classroom  
9 application and instructional performance and must include a  
10 performance evaluation plan for documenting the demonstration  
11 of required professional education competence.

12           (8) EXAMINATIONS.--

13           (a) The Commissioner of Education, with the approval  
14 of the State Board of Education, may contract for developing,  
15 printing, administering, scoring, and appropriate analysis of  
16 the written examinations required.

17           (b) The State Board of Education shall, by rule,  
18 specify the examination scores that are required for the  
19 issuance of a professional certificate and temporary  
20 certificate. Such rules must define generic subject area  
21 competencies and must establish uniform evaluation guidelines.

22           (c) The State Board of Education shall designate the  
23 certification areas for subject area examinations. All  
24 required examinations may be taken prior to graduation.

25           (d) If an applicant takes an examination developed by  
26 this state and does not achieve the score necessary for  
27 certification, the applicant may review his or her completed  
28 examination and bring to the attention of the department any  
29 errors that would result in a passing score.

30           (e) For any examination developed by this state, the  
31 Department of Education and the State Board of Education shall

1 maintain confidentiality of the examination, developmental  
2 materials, and workpapers, which are exempt from s. 119.07(1).  
3 (f) The examinations used for demonstration of mastery  
4 of general knowledge, professional education competence, and  
5 subject area knowledge shall be aligned with student standards  
6 approved by the state board. The delivery system for these  
7 examinations shall provide for overall efficiency,  
8 user-friendly application, reasonable accessibility to  
9 prospective teachers, and prompt attainment of examination  
10 results. The examination of competency for demonstration of  
11 subject area knowledge shall be sufficiently comprehensive to  
12 assess subject matter expertise for individuals who have  
13 acquired subject knowledge either through college credit or by  
14 other means.  
15 (g) All examination instruments, including  
16 developmental materials and workpapers directly related  
17 thereto, which are prepared, prescribed, or administered  
18 pursuant to this section shall be confidential and exempt from  
19 the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and from s. 1001.52. Provisions  
20 governing access to, maintenance of, and destruction of such  
21 instruments and related materials shall be prescribed by rules  
22 of the State Board of Education.  
23 (9) NONCITIZENS.--  
24 (a) The State Board of Education may adopt rules for  
25 issuing certificates to noncitizens who are needed to teach  
26 and who are legally admitted to the United States through the  
27 United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. The  
28 filing of a written oath to uphold the principles of the  
29 Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the  
30 State of Florida, required under paragraph (2)(b), does not  
31 apply to individuals assigned to teach on an exchange basis.

1           (b) A certificate may not be issued to a citizen of a  
2 nation controlled by forces that are antagonistic to  
3 democratic forms of government, except to an individual who  
4 has been legally admitted to the United States through the  
5 United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

6           (10) DENIAL OF CERTIFICATE.--

7           (a) The Department of Education may deny an applicant  
8 a certificate if the department possesses evidence  
9 satisfactory to it that the applicant has committed an act or  
10 acts, or that a situation exists, for which the Education  
11 Practices Commission would be authorized to revoke a teaching  
12 certificate.

13           (b) The decision of the department is subject to  
14 review by the Education Practices Commission upon the filing  
15 of a written request from the applicant within 20 days after  
16 receipt of the notice of denial.

17           (11) STATE BOARD RULES.--The State Board of Education  
18 shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536 and 120.54, as  
19 necessary to implement this section.

20           (12) PRIOR APPLICATION.--Persons who apply for  
21 certification are governed by the law and rules in effect at  
22 the time of application for issuance of the initial  
23 certificate, provided that continuity of certificates is  
24 maintained.

25           (13) PERSONNEL RECORDS.--The Department of Education  
26 shall maintain a complete statement of the academic  
27 preparation, professional training, and teaching experience of  
28 each person to whom a certificate is issued. The applicant or  
29 the district school superintendent shall furnish the  
30 information using a format or forms provided by the  
31 department.

1           (14) AUTHORITY OF COMMISSIONER.--The Commissioner of  
2 Education may make decisions regarding an applicant's  
3 certification under extenuating circumstances not otherwise  
4 provided for in statute or by rule. However, an applicant for  
5 certification approved by the commissioner must possess the  
6 credentials, knowledge, and skills necessary to provide  
7 quality education in the public schools.

8           (15) COMPARISON OF ROUTES TO A PROFESSIONAL  
9 CERTIFICATE.--Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, the  
10 Department of Education shall conduct a longitudinal study to  
11 compare performance of certificateholders who are employed in  
12 Florida school districts. The study shall compare a sampling  
13 of educators who have qualified for a professional certificate  
14 since July 1, 2002, based on the following:

15           (a) Graduation from a state-approved teacher  
16 preparation program.

17           (b) Completion of a state-approved professional  
18 preparation and education competency program.

19           (c) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by a  
20 state other than Florida.

21  
22 The department comparisons shall be made to determine if there  
23 is any significant difference in the performance of these  
24 groups of teachers, as measured by their students' achievement  
25 levels and learning gains as measured by s. 1008.22.

26           Section 729. Section 1012.565, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28           1012.565 Educator certification for blind and visually  
29 impaired students.--As a part of the certification process,  
30 teachers certified in the education of blind and visually  
31 impaired students shall be required to demonstrate competence

1 in reading, writing, and teaching braille pursuant to  
2 standards adopted by the Department of Education, comparable  
3 to the braille reading and writing standards adopted by the  
4 National Library Service for the Blind and Physically  
5 Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. The  
6 department shall ensure that teachers of students with visual  
7 impairments have access to inservice instruction for the  
8 purpose of updating their braille skill competence.

9 Section 730. Section 1012.57, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11 1012.57 Certification of adjunct educators.--

12 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 1012.32,  
13 1012.55, and 1012.56, or any other provision of law or rule to  
14 the contrary, district school boards may issue an adjunct  
15 teaching certificate to any applicant who fulfills the  
16 requirements of s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(f) and who has expertise in  
17 the subject area to be taught. An applicant shall be  
18 considered to have expertise in the subject area to be taught  
19 if the applicant has at least a minor in the subject area or  
20 demonstrates sufficient subject area mastery as determined by  
21 district school board policy. The adjunct teaching certificate  
22 shall be used for part-time teaching positions. The intent of  
23 this provision is to allow school districts to tap the wealth  
24 of talent and expertise represented in Florida's citizens who  
25 may wish to teach part-time in a Florida public school by  
26 permitting school districts to issue adjunct certificates.  
27 Adjunct certificateholders should be used as a strategy to  
28 reduce the teacher shortage; thus, adjunct certificateholders  
29 should supplement a school's instructional staff, not supplant  
30 it. Each school principal shall assign an experienced peer  
31 mentor to assist the adjunct teaching certificateholder during

1 the certificateholder's first year of teaching, and an adjunct  
2 certificateholder may participate in a district's new teacher  
3 training program. District school boards shall provide the  
4 adjunct teaching certificateholder an orientation in classroom  
5 management prior to assigning the certificateholder to a  
6 school. Each adjunct teaching certificate is valid for 5  
7 school years and is renewable if:

8       (a) The applicant completes a minimum of 60 inservice  
9 points or 3 semester hours of college credit. The earned  
10 credits must include instruction in classroom management,  
11 district school board procedures, school culture, and other  
12 activities that enhance the professional teaching skills of  
13 the certificateholder.

14       (b) The applicant has received satisfactory  
15 performance evaluations during each year of teaching under  
16 adjunct teaching certification.

17       (2) Individuals who are certified and employed  
18 pursuant to this section shall have the same rights and  
19 protection of laws as teachers certified pursuant to s.  
20 1012.56.

21       Section 731. Section 1012.575, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23       1012.575 Alternative preparation programs for  
24 certified teachers to add additional coverage.--A district  
25 school board may design alternative teacher preparation  
26 programs to enable persons already certificated to add an  
27 additional coverage to their certificates. Each alternative  
28 teacher preparation program shall be reviewed and approved by  
29 the Department of Education to assure that persons who  
30 complete the program are competent in the necessary areas of  
31 subject matter specialization. Two or more school districts

1 may jointly participate in an alternative preparation program  
2 for teachers.

3 Section 732. Section 1012.58, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1012.58 Transition to Teaching Program.--

6 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Transition to Teaching  
7 Program is created to encourage and assist midcareer  
8 professionals who want to become teachers.

9 (2) GRANTS; ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.--

10 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall design the  
11 process for receiving and evaluating grant proposals in  
12 accordance with state and federal appropriations guidelines.  
13 Grants may be awarded only to the extent that funding is  
14 provided.

15 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall request  
16 proposals from eligible applicants to participate in the  
17 program. Each application must:

18 1. Describe the target group of career-changing  
19 professionals upon which the applicant will focus in carrying  
20 out its program, including a description of the  
21 characteristics of the target group that shows how the  
22 knowledge and experience of its members are likely to improve  
23 their ability to become effective teachers.

24 2. Describe how the applicant will identify and  
25 recruit program participants.

26 3. Describe how the applicant will ensure that program  
27 participants are placed and teach in eligible school districts  
28 in this state.

29 4. Describe the teacher support services that program  
30 participants will receive throughout at least their first year  
31 of teaching.

1           5. Describe how the applicant will collaborate with  
2 other institutions, agencies, or organizations to recruit,  
3 train, place, and support program participants, including  
4 evidence of the commitment of those institutions, agencies, or  
5 organizations to the applicant's program.

6           (c) The Commissioner of Education must require an  
7 evaluation process to measure the progress and effectiveness  
8 of the program. This evaluation must include:

9           1. The program's goals and objectives.

10          2. The performance indicators that the applicant will  
11 use to measure the program's progress.

12          3. The outcome measures that will be used to determine  
13 the program's effectiveness.

14          4. An assurance that the applicant will provide the  
15 commissioner with information the commissioner finds necessary  
16 to determine the overall effectiveness of the programs.

17          (3) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION; AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES.--

18          (a) An applicant shall estimate the funds required for  
19 the proposed program. All funds provided for a program must be  
20 used as authorized in federal guidelines.

21          (b) Eligible applicants are encouraged to implement  
22 the program using the following components:

23          1. Recruiting program participants, including  
24 informing them of opportunities under the program and putting  
25 them in contact with other institutions, agencies, or  
26 organizations that will train, place, and support them in the  
27 teaching profession.

28          2. Assisting providers of teacher training to tailor  
29 their training to meet the particular needs of professionals  
30 who are changing their careers to teaching.

31

1           3. Placement activities, including identifying  
2 eligible local education agencies with a need for the skills  
3 and characteristics of the newly trained program participants  
4 and assisting those participants to obtain employment in those  
5 school districts.

6           4. Post-placement support activities for program  
7 participants.

8           (4) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS; REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT  
9 REPAYMENT.--

10           (a) Each participant who receives a grant from the  
11 program to pursue a teacher preparation program must agree to  
12 teach in an eligible school district in this state for at  
13 least 3 years after certification. To be eligible, a school  
14 district must meet the requirements established in regulations  
15 that implement the Omnibus Appropriations Bill of 2000.

16           (b) The commissioner shall establish conditions under  
17 which a participant must repay all or a portion of the  
18 training stipend if the participant fails to complete his or  
19 her service obligation.

20           Section 733. Section 1012.585, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22           1012.585 Process for renewal of professional  
23 certificates.--

24           (1)(a) District school boards in this state shall  
25 renew state-issued professional certificates as follows:

26           1. Each district school board shall renew state-issued  
27 professional certificates for individuals who hold a  
28 professional certificate by this state and are employed by  
29 that district pursuant to criteria established in subsections  
30 (2), (3), and (4) and rules of the State Board of Education.  
31

1           2. The employing school district may charge the  
2 individual an application fee not to exceed the amount charged  
3 by the Department of Education for such services, including  
4 associated late renewal fees. Each district school board  
5 shall transmit monthly to the department a fee in an amount  
6 established by the State Board of Education for each renewed  
7 certificate. The fee shall not exceed the actual cost for  
8 maintenance and operation of the statewide certification  
9 database and for the actual costs incurred in printing and  
10 mailing such renewed certificates. As defined in current rules  
11 of the state board, the department shall contribute a portion  
12 of such fee for purposes of funding the Educator Recovery  
13 Network established in s. 1012.798. The department shall  
14 deposit all funds into the Educational Certification Trust  
15 Fund for use as specified in s. 1012.59.

16           (b) The department shall renew state-issued  
17 professional certificates for individuals who are not employed  
18 by a district school board of this state pursuant to criteria  
19 established in subsections (2), (3), and (4) and requirements  
20 specified in rules of the state board.

21           (2)(a) All professional certificates, except a  
22 nonrenewable professional certificate, shall be renewable for  
23 successive periods not to exceed 5 years after the date of  
24 submission of documentation of completion of the requirements  
25 for renewal provided in subsection (3). Only one renewal may  
26 be granted during each 5-year validity period of a  
27 professional certificate.

28           (b) A teacher with national certification from the  
29 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is deemed  
30 to meet state renewal requirements for the life of the  
31

1 teacher's national certificate in the subject shown on the  
2 national certificate.

3 (c) If the renewal application form is not received by  
4 the department or by the employing school district before the  
5 expiration of the professional certificate, the application  
6 form, application fee, and a late fee must be submitted before  
7 July 1 of the year following expiration of the certificate in  
8 order to renew the professional certificate.

9 (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
10 allow a 1-year extension of the validity period of a  
11 professional certificate in the event of serious illness,  
12 injury, or other extraordinary extenuating circumstances of  
13 the applicant. The department shall grant such 1-year  
14 extension upon written request by the applicant or by the  
15 district school superintendent or the governing authority of a  
16 university lab school, state-supported school, or private  
17 school that employs the applicant.

18 (3) For the renewal of a professional certificate, the  
19 following requirements must be met:

20 (a) The applicant must earn a minimum of 6 college  
21 credits or 120 inservice points or a combination thereof. For  
22 each area of specialization to be retained on a certificate,  
23 the applicant must earn at least 3 of the required credit  
24 hours or equivalent inservice points in the specialization  
25 area. Education in "clinical educator" training pursuant to s.  
26 1004.04(5)(b) and credits or points that provide training in  
27 the area of exceptional student education, normal child  
28 development, and the disorders of development may be applied  
29 toward any specialization area. Credits or points that provide  
30 training in the areas of drug abuse, child abuse and neglect,  
31 strategies in teaching students having limited proficiency in

1 English, or dropout prevention, or training in areas  
2 identified in the educational goals and performance standards  
3 adopted pursuant to ss. 1000.03(5) and 1001.23 may be applied  
4 toward any specialization area. Credits or points earned  
5 through approved summer institutes may be applied toward the  
6 fulfillment of these requirements. Inservice points may also  
7 be earned by participation in professional growth components  
8 approved by the State Board of Education and specified  
9 pursuant to s. 1012.98 in the district's approved master plan  
10 for inservice educational training, including, but not limited  
11 to, serving as a trainer in an approved teacher training  
12 activity, serving on an instructional materials committee or a  
13 state board or commission that deals with educational issues,  
14 or serving on an advisory council created pursuant to s.  
15 229.58.

16 (b) In lieu of college course credit or inservice  
17 points, the applicant may renew a specialization area by  
18 passage of a state board approved subject area test.

19 (c) If an applicant wishes to retain more than two  
20 specialization areas on the certificate, the applicant shall  
21 be permitted two successive validity periods for renewal of  
22 all specialization areas, but must earn no fewer than 6  
23 college course credit hours or the equivalent in any one  
24 validity period.

25 (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for  
26 the expanded use of training for renewal of the professional  
27 certificate for educators who are required to complete  
28 training in teaching students of limited English proficiency  
29 as follows:

30 1. A teacher who holds a professional certificate may  
31 use college credits or inservice points completed in

1 English-for-Speakers-of-Other-Languages training in excess of  
2 6 semester hours during one certificate-validity period toward  
3 renewal of the professional certificate during the subsequent  
4 validity periods.

5       2. A teacher who holds a temporary certificate may use  
6 college credits or inservice points completed in  
7 English-for-Speakers-of-Other-Languages training toward  
8 renewal of the teacher's first professional certificate. Such  
9 training must not have been included within the degree  
10 program, and the teacher's temporary and professional  
11 certificates must be issued for consecutive school years.

12       (4) When any person who holds a valid temporary  
13 certificate or professional certificate is called into or  
14 volunteers for actual wartime service or required peacetime  
15 military service training, the certificate shall be renewed  
16 for a period of time equal to the time spent in military  
17 service if the person makes proper application and presents  
18 substantiating evidence to the department or the employing  
19 school district regarding such military service.

20       (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
21 allow the reinstatement of expired professional certificates.  
22 The department may reinstate an expired professional  
23 certificate if the certificateholder:

24       (a) Submits an application for reinstatement of the  
25 expired certificate.

26       (b) Documents completion of 6 college credits during  
27 the 5 years immediately preceding reinstatement of the expired  
28 certificate, completion of 120 inservice points, or a  
29 combination thereof, in an area specified in paragraph (3)(a).

30       (c) During the 5 years immediately preceding  
31 reinstatement of the certificate, achieves a passing score on

1 the subject area test for each subject to be shown on the  
2 reinstated certificate.

3  
4 The requirements of this subsection may not be satisfied by  
5 subject area tests or college credits completed for issuance  
6 of the certificate that has expired.

7 Section 734. Section 1012.59, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9 1012.59 Certification fees.--

10 (1) The State Board of Education, by rule, shall  
11 establish separate fees for applications, examinations,  
12 certification, certification renewal, late renewal,  
13 recordmaking, and recordkeeping, and may establish procedures  
14 for scheduling and administering an examination upon an  
15 applicant's request. Each fee shall be based on department  
16 estimates of the revenue required to implement the provisions  
17 of law with respect to certification of school personnel. The  
18 application fee shall be nonrefundable. Each examination fee  
19 shall be sufficient to cover the actual cost of developing and  
20 administering the examination, but shall not exceed \$100 for  
21 an examination.

22 (2) The proceeds from the collection of certification  
23 fees, fines, penalties, and costs levied pursuant to this  
24 chapter shall be remitted by the Department of Education to  
25 the Treasurer for deposit into a separate fund to be known as  
26 the "Educational Certification and Service Trust Fund" and  
27 disbursed for the payment of expenses incurred by the  
28 Educational Practices Commission and in the printing of forms  
29 and bulletins and the issuing of certificates, upon vouchers  
30 approved by the department.

31

1           Section 735. Section 1012.595, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1012.595 Saving clause.--Each applicant who was issued  
4 a certificate by the Department of Education prior to June 25,  
5 1986, shall be entitled to hold such certificate. Henceforth,  
6 such certificate shall be renewed in accordance with the  
7 provisions of chapter 86-156, Laws of Florida. No judicial or  
8 administrative proceeding against a holder of a certificate  
9 shall be abated as a result of this chapter.

10           Section 736. Part III.e. of chapter 1012, Florida  
11 Statutes, shall be entitled "Leave, Retirement, Workers'  
12 Compensation in Public Schools" and shall consist of ss.  
13 1012.61-1012.695.

14           Section 737. Section 1012.61, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16           1012.61 Sick leave.--

17           (1) ELIGIBILITY.--Any member of the instructional  
18 staff or any other employee of a district school system  
19 employed on a full-time basis in the public schools of the  
20 state who is unable to perform his or her duty in the school  
21 on account of personal sickness, accident disability, or  
22 extended personal illness, or because of illness or death of  
23 father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, child, other  
24 close relative, or member of his or her own household, and  
25 consequently has to be absent from his or her work shall be  
26 granted leave of absence for sickness by the district school  
27 superintendent or by someone designated in writing by the  
28 district school superintendent to do so.

29           (2) PROVISIONS GOVERNING SICK LEAVE.--The following  
30 provisions shall govern sick leave:

31           (a) Extent of leave.--

1           1. Each member of the instructional staff employed on  
2 a full-time basis is entitled to 4 days of sick leave as of  
3 the first day of employment of each contract year and shall  
4 thereafter earn 1 day of sick leave for each month of  
5 employment, which shall be credited to the member at the end  
6 of that month and which may not be used before it is earned  
7 and credited to the member. Each other employee shall be  
8 credited with 4 days of sick leave at the end of the first  
9 month of employment of each contract year and shall thereafter  
10 be credited for 1 day of sick leave for each month of  
11 employment, which shall be credited to the employee at the end  
12 of the month and which may not be used before it is earned and  
13 credited to the employee. However, each member of the  
14 instructional staff and each other employee is entitled to  
15 earn no more than 1 day of sick leave times the number of  
16 months of employment during the year of employment. If the  
17 employee terminates his or her employment and has not accrued  
18 the 4 days of sick leave available to him or her, the district  
19 school board may withhold the average daily amount for the  
20 days of sick leave used but unearned by the employee. Such  
21 leave may be taken only when necessary because of sickness as  
22 prescribed in this section. The sick leave shall be  
23 cumulative from year to year. There shall be no limit on the  
24 number of days of sick leave which a member of the  
25 instructional staff or an educational support employee may  
26 accrue, except that at least one-half of this cumulative leave  
27 must be established within the district granting such leave.

28           2. A district school board may establish policies and  
29 prescribe standards to permit an employee to be absent 6 days  
30 each school year for personal reasons. However, such absences  
31

1 for personal reasons must be charged only to accrued sick  
2 leave, and leave for personal reasons is noncumulative.

3 3. District school boards may adopt rules permitting  
4 the annual payment for accumulated sick leave that is earned  
5 for that year and that is unused at the end of the school  
6 year, based on the daily rate of pay of the employee  
7 multiplied by up to 80 percent. Days for which such payment  
8 is received shall be deducted from the accumulated leave  
9 balance. Such annual payment may apply only to instructional  
10 staff and educational support employees.

11 4. A district school board may establish policies to  
12 provide terminal pay for accumulated sick leave to  
13 instructional staff and educational support employees of the  
14 district school board. If termination of employment is by  
15 death of the employee, any terminal pay to which the employee  
16 may have been entitled may be made to his or her beneficiary.  
17 However, such terminal pay may not exceed an amount determined  
18 as follows:

19 a. During the first 3 years of service, the daily rate  
20 of pay multiplied by 35 percent times the number of days of  
21 accumulated sick leave.

22 b. During the next 3 years of service, the daily rate  
23 of pay multiplied by 40 percent times the number of days of  
24 accumulated sick leave.

25 c. During the next 3 years of service, the daily rate  
26 of pay multiplied by 45 percent times the number of days of  
27 accumulated sick leave.

28 d. During the next 3 years of service, the daily rate  
29 of pay multiplied by 50 percent times the number of days of  
30 accumulated sick leave.

31

1 e. During and after the 13th year of service, the  
2 daily rate of pay multiplied by 100 percent times the number  
3 of days of accumulated sick leave.

4 5. A district school board may establish policies to  
5 provide terminal pay for accumulated sick leave to any  
6 full-time employee of the district school board other than  
7 instructional staff or educational support employees as  
8 defined in this section. If termination of the employee is by  
9 death of the employee, any terminal pay to which the employee  
10 may have been entitled may be made to the employee's  
11 beneficiary.

12 a. Terminal pay may not exceed one-fourth of all  
13 unused sick leave accumulated on or after July 1, 2001, and  
14 may not exceed a maximum of 60 days of actual payment. This  
15 limit does not impair any contractual agreement established  
16 before July 1, 2001; however, a previously established  
17 contract renewed on or after July 1, 2001, constitutes a new  
18 contract.

19 b. For unused sick leave accumulated before July 1,  
20 2001, terminal payment shall be made pursuant to a district  
21 school board's policies, contracts, or rules that are in  
22 effect on June 30, 2001.

23 c. If an employee has an accumulated sick leave  
24 balance of 60 days of actual payment or more prior to July 1,  
25 2001, sick leave earned after that date may not be accumulated  
26 for terminal pay purposes until the accumulated leave balance  
27 for leave earned before July 1, 2001, is less than 60 days.

28 (b) Claim must be filed.--Any district school board  
29 employee who finds it necessary to be absent from his or her  
30 duties because of illness, as defined in this section, shall  
31 notify his or her immediate supervisor, if possible, before

1 the beginning of the workday on which the employee must be  
2 absent or during that day, except for emergency reasons  
3 recognized by the district school board as valid. Any  
4 district school board employee shall, before claiming and  
5 receiving compensation for the time absent from his or her  
6 duties while absent because of sick leave as prescribed in  
7 this section, make and file within 5 working days following  
8 his or her return from such absence with the district school  
9 superintendent of the district in which he or she is so  
10 employed a written certificate which shall set forth the day  
11 or days absent, that such absence was necessary, and that the  
12 employee is entitled or not entitled to receive pay for such  
13 absence in accordance with the provisions of this section;  
14 however, the district school board of any district may adopt  
15 rules under which the district school superintendent may  
16 require a certificate of illness from a licensed physician or  
17 from the county health officer.

18 (c) Compensation.--Any employee having unused sick  
19 leave credit shall receive full-time compensation for the time  
20 justifiably absent on sick leave, but no compensation may be  
21 allowed beyond that which may be provided in subsection (4).

22 (d) Expenditure authorized.--District school boards  
23 may expend public funds for payment to employees on account of  
24 sickness. The expending and excluding of such funds shall be  
25 in compliance with rules adopted by the Department of  
26 Management Services pursuant to chapter 650.

27 (e) Use by family member.--Each district school system  
28 must provide a policy under which a district employee may  
29 authorize his or her spouse, child, parent, or sibling who is  
30 also a district employee to use sick leave that has accrued to  
31 the authorizing employee. In developing the policy, the

1 district school board must provide that the recipient may not  
2 use the donated sick leave until all of his or her sick leave  
3 has been depleted, excluding sick leave from a sick leave  
4 pool, if the recipient participates in a sick leave pool.  
5 Donated sick leave under this paragraph shall have no terminal  
6 value as provided in s. 1012.61(2).

7 (3) SICK LEAVE POOL.--Notwithstanding any other  
8 provision of this section, a district school board, based upon  
9 the maintenance of reliable and accurate records by the  
10 district school system showing the amount of sick leave which  
11 has been accumulated and is unused by employees in accordance  
12 with this section, may, by rule or collective bargaining  
13 agreement, establish one or more plans allowing participating  
14 full-time employees of a district school system to pool sick  
15 leave accrued and allowing any sick leave thus pooled to be  
16 disbursed to any participating employee who is in need of sick  
17 leave in excess of that amount he or she has personally  
18 accrued. Such rules or agreements shall include, but not be  
19 limited to, the following provisions:

20 (a) Participation in any sick leave pool shall at all  
21 times be voluntary on the part of employees.

22 (b) Any full-time employee shall be eligible for  
23 participation in any sick leave pool after 1 year of  
24 employment with the district school system, provided the  
25 employee has accrued a minimum amount of unused sick leave  
26 which shall be established by rule and provided, further, a  
27 sick leave pool is established that allows participation by  
28 that particular employee.

29 (c) Any sick leave pooled pursuant to this section  
30 shall be removed from the personally accumulated sick leave  
31 balance of the employee donating such leave.

- 1        (d) Participating employees shall make equal  
2 contributions to the sick leave pool. There shall be  
3 established a maximum amount of sick leave which may be  
4 contributed by an employee to the pool. After the initial  
5 contribution which an employee makes upon electing to  
6 participate, no further contributions shall be required except  
7 as may be necessary to replenish the pool. Any such further  
8 contribution shall be equally required of all employees  
9 participating in the pool.
- 10        (e) Any sick leave time drawn from the pool by a  
11 participating employee must be used for said employee's  
12 personal illness, accident, or injury.
- 13        (f) A participating employee is not eligible to use  
14 sick leave from the pool until all of his or her sick leave  
15 has been depleted, unless otherwise agreed to in a collective  
16 bargaining agreement. There shall be established a maximum  
17 number of days for which an employee may draw sick leave from  
18 the sick leave pool.
- 19        (g) A participating employee who uses sick leave from  
20 the pool is not required to recontribute such sick leave to  
21 the pool, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- 22        (h) A participating employee who chooses to no longer  
23 participate in the sick leave pool is not eligible to withdraw  
24 any sick leave already contributed to the pool.
- 25        (i) Alleged abuse of the use of the sick leave pool  
26 shall be investigated and, on a finding of wrongdoing, the  
27 employee shall repay all of the sick leave credits drawn from  
28 the sick leave pool and be subject to such other disciplinary  
29 action as determined by the district school board to be  
30 appropriate. Rules adopted for the administration of this  
31 program shall provide for the investigation of the use of sick

1 leave utilized by the participating employee in the sick leave  
2 pool.

3 Section 738. Section 1012.62, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1012.62 Transfer of sick leave and annual leave.--In  
6 implementing the provisions of ss. 1001.42(4)(n) and  
7 402.22(1)(d), educational personnel in Department of Children  
8 and Family Services residential care facilities who are  
9 employed by a district school board may request, and the  
10 district school board shall accept, a lump-sum transfer of  
11 accumulated sick leave for such personnel to the maximum  
12 allowed by policies of the district school board,  
13 notwithstanding the provisions of s. 110.122. Educational  
14 personnel in Department of Children and Family Services  
15 residential care facilities who are employed by a district  
16 school board under the provisions of s. 402.22(1)(d) may  
17 request, and the district school board shall accept, a  
18 lump-sum transfer of accumulated annual leave for each person  
19 employed by the district school board in a position in the  
20 district eligible to accrue vacation leave under policies of  
21 the district school board.

22 Section 739. Section 1012.63, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1012.63 Illness-in-line-of-duty leave.--Any district  
25 school board employee shall be entitled to  
26 illness-in-line-of-duty leave when he or she has to be absent  
27 from his or her duties because of a personal injury received  
28 in the discharge of duty or because of illness from any  
29 contagious or infectious disease contracted in school work.  
30 The following requirements shall be observed:  
31

1           (1) DURATION OF LEAVE AND COMPENSATION.--Leave of the  
2 district school board employee shall be authorized for a total  
3 of not to exceed 10 school days during any school year for  
4 illness contracted, or injury incurred, from the causes  
5 prescribed above. However, in the case of sickness or injury  
6 occurring under such circumstances as in the opinion of the  
7 district school board warrant it, additional emergency sick  
8 leave may be granted out of local funds for such term and  
9 under such conditions as the district school board deems  
10 proper. The district school board may carry insurance to  
11 safeguard the district school board against excessive payments  
12 during any year.

13           (2) CLAIMS.--Any district school board employee who  
14 has any claim for compensation while absent because of illness  
15 contracted or injury incurred as prescribed herein shall file  
16 a claim in the manner prescribed in s. 1012.61(2)(b) within 5  
17 working days following the employee's return from such  
18 absence. The school board of the district in which such person  
19 is employed shall approve the claims and authorize the payment  
20 thereof if the district school board is satisfied that the  
21 claim correctly states the facts and that the claim is  
22 entitled to payment in accordance with the provisions of this  
23 section.

24           Section 740. Section 1012.64, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26           1012.64 Sabbatical leave.--

27           (1) Any member of the instructional staff of any  
28 school district may be granted sabbatical leave for a period  
29 not to exceed 1 year. A person who receives such leave may be  
30 paid one-half of his or her ordinary salary during the period  
31 of such leave, or in accordance with negotiated agreement or

1 district school board policy, and shall receive full benefits  
2 during such period. A person compensated under this section  
3 may not be compensated for other employment during the period  
4 of sabbatical leave so that he or she would receive combined  
5 compensation in excess of his or her ordinary salary.

6 (2) Funds, not to exceed 25 percent, of the district's  
7 allocation for inservice training under s. 1011.62(3) or other  
8 district funds may be expended in order to fulfill the  
9 provisions of this section, provided that the district  
10 allocates \$5 of district funds for each \$1 of state inservice  
11 training funds expended under this subsection.

12 (3) Each district school board shall adopt rules to  
13 implement this section.

14 Section 741. Section 1012.65, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 1012.65 Terminal pay for accrued vacation leave.--A  
17 district school board may establish policies to provide for a  
18 lump-sum payment for accrued vacation leave to an employee of  
19 the district school board upon termination of employment or  
20 upon retirement, or to the employee's beneficiary if service  
21 is terminated by death. Effective July 1, 2001, terminal pay  
22 for accrued vacation leave may not exceed a maximum of 60 days  
23 of actual payment. This limit does not impair any contractual  
24 agreement established before July 1, 2001. For unused vacation  
25 leave accumulated before July 1, 2001, terminal payment shall  
26 be made pursuant to the district school board's policies,  
27 contracts, or rules that are in effect on June 30, 2001.

28 Section 742. Section 1012.66, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30 1012.66 Provisions for leaves of absence.--All leaves  
31 of absence for all district school board employees, except

1 those leaves prescribed by law, shall be granted with or  
2 without compensation pursuant to rules adopted by the district  
3 school board. Such leaves authorized by the district school  
4 board shall include, but are not limited to, professional  
5 leave and extended professional leave, personal leave,  
6 military leave granted in compliance with chapter 115, and  
7 maternity leave.

8 Section 743. Section 1012.67, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1012.67 Absence without leave.--Any district school  
11 board employee who is willfully absent from duty without leave  
12 shall forfeit compensation for the time of such absence, and  
13 his or her employment shall be subject to termination by the  
14 district school board.

15 Section 744. Section 1012.68, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17 1012.68 Records of absences.--The administrator of  
18 each designated organizational unit shall see that both the  
19 days present and the days absent for each employee are  
20 reported to the district school superintendent at least once  
21 each month in the manner prescribed for that purpose. This  
22 report shall include the exact dates of, and the reasons for,  
23 each absence. Each district school superintendent shall  
24 establish procedures to ensure maintenance of the complete  
25 records of all such absences.

26 Section 745. Section 1012.685, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1012.685 Retirement; annuities authorized.--  
29 (1) District school boards may purchase annuities for  
30 all school personnel with 25 or more years of creditable  
31 service who have reached age 50 and have applied for

1 retirement under the Florida Retirement System or who have  
2 reached age 55 and have applied for retirement under plan E of  
3 the Teachers' Retirement System. No such annuity shall provide  
4 for more than the total difference in retirement income  
5 between the retirement benefit based on average monthly  
6 compensation and creditable service as of the member's early  
7 retirement date and the early retirement benefit.

8       (2) District school boards may purchase annuities for  
9 members of the Florida Retirement System who have out-of-state  
10 teaching service in another state or country which is  
11 documented as valid by the appropriate district school board.  
12 Such annuities may be based on no more than 5 years of  
13 out-of-state teaching service and may equal, but not exceed,  
14 the benefits that would be payable under the Florida  
15 Retirement System if credit for out-of-state teaching was  
16 authorized under that system.

17       (3) District school boards may invest funds, purchase  
18 annuities, or provide local supplemental retirement programs  
19 for purposes of providing annuities for school personnel.

20       (4) All retirement annuities shall comply with s. 14,  
21 Art. X of the State Constitution.

22       Section 746. Section 1012.69, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24       1012.69 Provisions relating to Workers' Compensation  
25 Law.--Nothing contained in this chapter shall supersede any of  
26 the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Law; provided,  
27 however, that where amounts payable under the provisions of  
28 the education code, for injuries, accidents, or other  
29 disabilities which would entitle an employee to compensation  
30 under the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Law exceed  
31 the amounts payable under the compensation law, payments shall

1 be made, as provided in the education code, for the difference  
2 between the amount paid under the Workers' Compensation Law  
3 and the amount due under the provisions of the education code.

4 Section 747. Section 1012.695, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1012.695 Local civil service system laws not  
7 superseded.--Sections 1012.66, 1012.61, and 1012.63 shall not  
8 be construed to supersede or modify any local law establishing  
9 a civil service system covering employees of any school  
10 district.

11 Section 748. Part III.f. of chapter 1012, Florida  
12 Statutes, shall be entitled "Educator Benefits; Liability  
13 Protection; Awards in Public Schools" and shall consist of ss.  
14 1012.71-1012.77.

15 Section 749. Section 1012.71, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17 1012.71 The Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend.--

18 (1) Funding for the Florida Teachers Lead Program  
19 Stipend shall be as determined by the Legislature in the  
20 General Appropriations Act. Funds appropriated for the Florida  
21 Teachers Lead Program Stipend are provided to purchase  
22 classroom materials and supplies used in the instruction of  
23 students in kindergarten through grade 12 of the public school  
24 system. From the funds appropriated, the Commissioner of  
25 Education shall calculate an amount for each school district  
26 by prorating the total of each school district's share of the  
27 total K-12 unweighted FTE student enrollment.

28 (2) From the funds allocated to each district, the  
29 district school board shall calculate an identical amount for  
30 each classroom teacher which is his or her proportionate share  
31 of the amount allocated to the district for the total number

1 of teachers in the district. The district school board shall  
2 provide the funds no later than September 30 of each year  
3 directly to each teacher as a stipend to purchase, on behalf  
4 of the school district, classroom materials and supplies to be  
5 used in the instruction of students assigned to the teacher.  
6 Each teacher shall have sole discretion regarding which  
7 classroom materials and supplies best meet the needs of the  
8 students, when they are needed, and where they are acquired.  
9 The funds expended by individual teachers shall not be subject  
10 to state or local competitive bidding requirements.  
11 Disbursement of Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend funds  
12 directly to each teacher shall complete the school district's  
13 expenditure of these funds.  
14 (3) Each teacher shall sign a statement acknowledging  
15 receipt of the funds, agreeing to keep receipts to show the  
16 expenditure of the funds used to purchase classroom materials  
17 and supplies for use in the instruction of the students  
18 assigned to them, and agreeing to return any unused funds by  
19 the end of the regular school year. The statement to be signed  
20 and dated by each teacher for receipt of the Florida Teachers  
21 Lead Program Stipend shall include the wording: "I, ...(Name  
22 of teacher)..., am employed by the .... County District School  
23 Board as a full-time classroom teacher. I acknowledge that  
24 Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend funds are appropriated  
25 by the Legislature for the sole purpose of purchasing  
26 classroom materials and supplies to be used in the instruction  
27 of students assigned to me. In accepting custody of these  
28 funds, I agree to keep receipts for all expenditures. I  
29 understand that if I do not keep receipts showing these funds  
30 were spent to purchase classroom materials and supplies for  
31 use with my students, it will be my personal responsibility to

1 pay any federal taxes due on these funds. I also agree to  
2 return any unused funds to the district school board at the  
3 end of the regular school year for deposit into the School  
4 Advisory Council account of the school at which I was employed  
5 at the time of the receipt of the funds."

6 (4) Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend funds shall  
7 be provided to each teacher in addition to any other funds  
8 appropriated for public school operations.

9 (5) Any unused funds which are returned to the  
10 district school board shall be deposited into the School  
11 Advisory Council account of the school at which the teacher  
12 returning the funds was employed at the time of the receipt of  
13 the funds.

14 (6) For purposes of this section, the term "classroom  
15 teacher" includes certified teachers employed on or before  
16 September 1 of each year whose full-time job responsibility is  
17 the classroom instruction of students in kindergarten through  
18 grade 12, and full-time media specialists and guidance  
19 counselors who serve students in kindergarten through grade  
20 12. Only school district personnel employed in these positions  
21 are eligible for the classroom materials and supply stipend  
22 from funds appropriated to implement the provisions of this  
23 section.

24 Section 750. Section 1012.72, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26 1012.72 Excellent Teaching Program.--

27 (1) The Legislature recognizes that teachers play a  
28 critical role in preparing students to achieve the high levels  
29 of academic performance expected by the Sunshine State  
30 Standards. The Legislature further recognizes the importance  
31 of identifying and rewarding teaching excellence and of

1 encouraging good teachers to become excellent teachers. The  
2 Legislature finds that the National Board of Professional  
3 Teaching Standards (NBPTS) has established high and rigorous  
4 standards for accomplished teaching and has developed a  
5 national voluntary system for assessing and certifying  
6 teachers who demonstrate teaching excellence by meeting those  
7 standards. It is therefore the Legislature's intent to provide  
8 incentives for teachers to seek NBPTS certification and to  
9 reward teachers who demonstrate teaching excellence by  
10 attaining NBPTS certification and sharing their expertise with  
11 other teachers.

12 (2) The Excellent Teaching Program is created to  
13 provide monetary incentives and bonuses for teaching  
14 excellence. The Department of Education shall distribute to  
15 each school district or to the NBPTS an amount as prescribed  
16 annually by the Legislature for the Excellent Teaching  
17 Program. For purposes of this section, the Florida School for  
18 the Deaf and the Blind shall be considered a school district.  
19 Unless otherwise provided in the General Appropriations Act,  
20 each distribution shall be the sum of the amounts earned for  
21 the following incentives and bonuses:

22 (a) A fee subsidy to be paid by the Department of  
23 Education to the NBPTS on behalf of each individual who is an  
24 employee of a district school board or a public school within  
25 the school district, who is certified by the district to have  
26 demonstrated satisfactory teaching performance pursuant to s.  
27 1012.34 and who satisfies the prerequisites for participating  
28 in the NBPTS certification program, and who agrees, in  
29 writing, to pay 10 percent of the NBPTS participation fee and  
30 to participate in the NBPTS certification program during the  
31 school year for which the fee subsidy is provided. The fee

1 subsidy for each eligible participant shall be an amount equal  
2 to 90 percent of the fee charged for participating in the  
3 NBPTS certification program. The fee subsidy is a one-time  
4 award and may not be duplicated for any individual.

5 (b) A portfolio-preparation incentive of \$150 paid by  
6 the Department of Education to each teacher employed by a  
7 district school board or a public school within a school  
8 district who is participating in the NBPTS certification  
9 program. The portfolio-preparation incentive is a one-time  
10 award paid during the school year for which the NBPTS fee  
11 subsidy is provided.

12 (c) An annual bonus equal to 10 percent of the prior  
13 fiscal year's statewide average salary for classroom teachers  
14 to be distributed to the school district to be paid to each  
15 individual who holds NBPTS certification and is employed by  
16 the district school board or by a public school within the  
17 school district. The district school board shall distribute  
18 the annual bonus to each individual who meets the requirements  
19 of this paragraph and who is certified annually by the  
20 district to have demonstrated satisfactory teaching  
21 performance pursuant to s. 1012.34. The annual bonus may be  
22 paid as a single payment or divided into not more than three  
23 payments.

24 (d) An annual bonus equal to 10 percent of the prior  
25 fiscal year's statewide average salary for classroom teachers  
26 to be distributed to the school district to be paid to each  
27 individual who meets the requirements of paragraph (c) and  
28 agrees, in writing, to provide the equivalent of 12 workdays  
29 of mentoring and related services to public school teachers  
30 within the state who do not hold NBPTS certification. The  
31 district school board shall distribute the annual bonus in a

1 single payment following the completion of all required  
2 mentoring and related services for the year. It is not the  
3 intent of the Legislature to remove excellent teachers from  
4 their assigned classrooms; therefore, credit may not be  
5 granted by a school district or public school for mentoring or  
6 related services provided during student contact time during  
7 the 196 days of required service for the school year.

8  
9 A teacher for whom the state pays the certification fee and  
10 who does not complete the certification program or does not  
11 teach in a public school of this state for at least 1 year  
12 after completing the certification program must repay the  
13 amount of the certification fee to the state. However, a  
14 teacher who completes the certification program but fails to  
15 be awarded NBPTS certification is not required to repay the  
16 amount of the certification fee if the teacher meets the  
17 1-year teaching requirement. Repayment is not required of a  
18 teacher who does not complete the certification program or  
19 fails to fulfill the teaching requirement because of the  
20 teacher's death or disability or because of other extenuating  
21 circumstances as determined by the State Board of Education.

22 (3)(a) In addition to any other remedy available under  
23 the law, any person who is a recipient of a certification fee  
24 subsidy paid to the NBPTS and who is an employee of the state  
25 or any of its political subdivisions is considered to have  
26 consented, as a condition of employment, to the voluntary or  
27 involuntary withholding of wages to repay to the state the  
28 amount of such a certification fee subsidy awarded under this  
29 section. Any such employee who defaults on the repayment of  
30 such a certification fee subsidy must, within 60 days after  
31 service of a notice of default by the Department of Education

1 to the employee, establish a repayment schedule which must be  
2 agreed to by the department and the employee, for repaying the  
3 defaulted sum through payroll deductions. The department may  
4 not require the employee to pay more than 10 percent of the  
5 employee's pay per pay period under such a repayment schedule  
6 or plan. If the employee fails to establish a repayment  
7 schedule within the specified period of time or fails to meet  
8 the terms and conditions of the agreed upon or approved  
9 repayment schedule as authorized by this subsection, the  
10 employee has breached an essential condition of employment and  
11 is considered to have consented to the involuntary withholding  
12 of wages or salary for the repayment of the certification fee  
13 subsidy.

14 (b) A person who is employed by the state, or any of  
15 its political subdivisions, may not be dismissed for having  
16 defaulted on the repayment of the certification fee subsidy to  
17 the state.

18 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules  
19 pursuant to ss. 120.536 and 120.54 as necessary to implement  
20 the provisions for payment of the fee subsidies, incentives,  
21 and bonuses and for the repayment of defaulted certification  
22 fee subsidies under this section.

23 (5) The Excellent Teaching Program Trust Fund shall be  
24 administered by the Department of Education pursuant to s.  
25 1010.72.

26 Section 751. Section 1012.73, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1012.73 Florida Mentor Teacher School Pilot Program.--

29 (1) The Legislature recognizes that high-quality  
30 teachers are essential to assuring excellence and increasing  
31 the achievement levels of all students. The purpose of this

1 section is to provide a model to reform and improve the  
2 current structure of the teaching profession. There is created  
3 a Florida Mentor Teacher School Pilot Program to attract,  
4 retain, and motivate high-quality teachers. The commissioner  
5 shall select a combination of elementary, middle, and high  
6 schools representing small, medium, and large districts. Each  
7 approved school shall receive an equivalent grant based upon  
8 the number of schools selected by the commissioner and the  
9 amount of the legislative appropriation. Each mentor teacher  
10 school program shall be approved based on criteria specified  
11 by the commissioner.

12 (2) The goals of the Florida Mentor Teacher School  
13 Pilot Program are to:

14 (a) Provide teachers with multiple career paths,  
15 beginning as education paraprofessionals and rising to  
16 associate teachers, teachers, lead teachers, and mentor  
17 teachers. The five levels must have highly differentiated  
18 duties. The mentor teacher shall have a reduced teaching  
19 schedule that permits weekly instruction to all students under  
20 the mentor teacher's supervision while also allowing for  
21 demonstration lessons, coaching, facilitating curriculum  
22 development, and providing staff development for other  
23 teachers at the school.

24 (b) Establish broad salary ranges to provide  
25 flexibility and to reward performance and to negotiate  
26 salaries to attract teachers to hard-to-staff schools and  
27 subjects. Advancement shall be determined by academic  
28 achievement, examination, demonstration, and student learning  
29 gains data. Each mentor teacher shall be eligible for a total  
30 annual salary incentive of up to twice the average district  
31 classroom teacher's salary. Fifty percent of the mentor

1 teacher salary incentive shall be based on increased student  
2 achievement of students assigned to the supervision of the  
3 mentor teacher.

4 (c) Provide ongoing professional development for  
5 teachers to learn and grow professionally that includes a  
6 daily block of time for associate teachers, teachers, and lead  
7 teachers to reflect and plan and to interact with the mentor  
8 teacher.

9 (d) Provide all eligible teachers with the opportunity  
10 for national certification.

11 (e) Provide for a specified organizational pattern,  
12 such as clusters or teams of teachers for grade levels or  
13 subject areas comprised of associate teachers, teachers, and  
14 lead teachers who are supported by education paraprofessional  
15 learning guides and directed by a mentor teacher.

16 (3) The five teacher career development positions and  
17 minimum requirements are:

18 (a) Education paraprofessional learning guide.--An  
19 education paraprofessional learning guide must hold an  
20 associate degree from a postsecondary educational institution  
21 and must demonstrate appropriate writing, speaking, and  
22 computation skills.

23 (b) Associate teacher.--An associate teacher must hold  
24 a bachelor's degree from a postsecondary educational  
25 institution and a valid Florida teaching certificate as  
26 provided by s. 1012.56.

27 (c) Teacher.--A teacher must hold a bachelor's degree  
28 or higher from a postsecondary educational institution and a  
29 valid Florida teaching certificate, have a minimum of 3 years'  
30 full-time teaching experience, document satisfactory teaching  
31

1 performance, and document evidence of positive student  
 2 learning gains, when data become available.

3 (d) Lead teacher.--A lead teacher must hold a  
 4 bachelor's degree or higher from a postsecondary educational  
 5 institution and a valid Florida professional teaching  
 6 certificate, have a minimum of 3 years' full-time teaching  
 7 experience, document exemplary teaching performance, and  
 8 document evidence of significant positive student learning  
 9 gains, when data become available. A lead teacher shall  
 10 provide intensive support for associate teachers and teachers.

11 (e) Mentor teacher.--A mentor teacher must:

12 1. Hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a  
 13 postsecondary educational institution and a valid Florida  
 14 professional teaching certificate.

15 2. Have a minimum of 5 years' full-time teaching  
 16 experience.

17 3. Document exemplary teaching performance.

18 4. Document evidence of significant positive student  
 19 learning gains, when data become available.

20 5. Hold a valid National Board for Professional  
 21 Teaching Standards certificate; have been selected as a  
 22 school, district, or state teacher of the year; or hold an  
 23 equivalent status as determined by the commissioner.

24 6. Demonstrate expertise as a staff developer.

25 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules,  
 26 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, for the implementation  
 27 of this section and approval of the mentor teacher school  
 28 program.

29 (5) This section shall be implemented to the extent  
 30 specifically funded in the General Appropriations Act.

31

1           Section 752. Section 1012.74, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1012.74 Florida educators professional liability  
4 insurance protection.--

5           (1) The Legislature intends that all the teachers in  
6 this state be protected from liability for monetary damages  
7 and the cost of defense of actions resulting from claims made  
8 against them arising out of occurrences in the course of  
9 activities in their professional capacity.

10           (2)(a) Educator professional liability coverage for  
11 all instructional personnel, as defined by s. 1012.01(2), who  
12 are full-time personnel, as defined by the district school  
13 board policy, shall be provided by specific appropriations  
14 under the General Appropriations Act.

15           (b) Educator professional liability coverage shall be  
16 extended at cost to all instructional personnel, as defined by  
17 s. 1012.01(3), who are part-time personnel, as defined by the  
18 district school board policy, and choose to participate in the  
19 state-provided program.

20           (c) Educator professional liability coverage shall be  
21 extended at cost to all administrative personnel, as defined  
22 by s. 1012.01(2), who choose to participate in the  
23 state-provided program.

24           (3) The Department of Education shall administer the  
25 educator liability program. The insurance carrier providing  
26 any portion of educator professional liability coverage under  
27 the program which is procured with state funds must be  
28 selected by a competitive process. The amount of the  
29 appropriation for purchase of liability insurance remaining  
30 after liability insurance is provided shall revert to general  
31 revenue unallocated.

1           Section 753. Section 1012.75, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1012.75 Liability of teacher or principal; excessive  
4 force.--

5           (1) Except in the case of excessive force or cruel and  
6 unusual punishment, a teacher or other member of the  
7 instructional staff, a principal or the principal's designated  
8 representative, or a bus driver shall not be civilly or  
9 criminally liable for any action carried out in conformity  
10 with State Board of Education and district school board rules  
11 regarding the control, discipline, suspension, and expulsion  
12 of students, including, but not limited to, any exercise of  
13 authority under s. 1003.32 or s. 1006.09.

14           (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
15 that outline administrative standards for the use of  
16 reasonable force by school personnel to maintain a safe and  
17 orderly learning environment. Such standards shall be  
18 distributed to each school in the state and shall provide  
19 guidance to school personnel in receiving the limitations on  
20 liability specified in this section.

21           Section 754. Section 1012.77, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23           1012.77 Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education  
24 Program.--

25           (1) The Legislature recognizes that Florida continues  
26 to face teacher shortages and that fewer young people consider  
27 teaching as a career. It is the intent of the Legislature to  
28 promote the positive and rewarding aspects of being a teacher,  
29 to encourage more individuals to become teachers, and to  
30 provide annual sabbatical support for outstanding Florida  
31 teachers to serve as goodwill ambassadors for education. The

1 Legislature further wishes to honor the memory of Christa  
2 McAuliffe, who epitomized the challenge and inspiration that  
3 teaching can be.

4 (2) The Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education  
5 Program is established to provide salary, travel, and other  
6 related expenses annually for an outstanding Florida teacher  
7 to promote the positive aspects of teaching as a career. The  
8 goals of the program are to:

9 (a) Enhance the stature of teachers and the teaching  
10 profession.

11 (b) Promote the importance of quality education and  
12 teaching for our future.

13 (c) Inspire and attract talented people to become  
14 teachers.

15 (d) Provide information regarding Florida's  
16 scholarship and loan programs related to teaching.

17 (e) Promote the teaching profession within community  
18 and business groups.

19 (f) Provide information to retired military personnel  
20 and other individuals who might consider teaching as a second  
21 career.

22 (g) Work with and represent the Department of  
23 Education, as needed.

24 (h) Work with and encourage the efforts of school and  
25 district teachers of the year.

26 (i) Support the activities of the Florida Future  
27 Educator of America Program.

28 (j) Represent Florida teachers at business, trade,  
29 education, and other conferences and meetings.

30  
31

1           (k) Promote the teaching profession in other ways  
2 related to the teaching responsibilities, background  
3 experiences, and aspirations of the Ambassador for Education.

4           (3) The Teacher of the Year shall serve as the  
5 Ambassador for Education. If the Teacher of the Year is  
6 unable to serve as the Ambassador for Education, the first  
7 runner-up shall serve in his or her place. The Department of  
8 Education shall establish application and selection procedures  
9 for determining an annual teacher of the year. Applications  
10 and selection criteria shall be developed and distributed  
11 annually by the Department of Education to all school  
12 districts. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a  
13 selection committee which assures representation from teacher  
14 organizations, administrators, and parents to select the  
15 Teacher of the Year and Ambassador for Education from among  
16 the district teachers of the year.

17           (4)(a) The Commissioner of Education shall pay an  
18 annual salary, fringe benefits, travel costs, and other costs  
19 associated with administering the program.

20           (b) The Ambassador for Education shall serve for 1  
21 year, from July 1 to June 30, and shall be assured of  
22 returning to his or her teaching position upon completion of  
23 the program. The ambassador will not have a break in  
24 creditable or continuous service or employment for the period  
25 of time in which he or she participates in the program.

26           Section 755. Part III.g. of chapter 1012, Florida  
27 Statutes, shall be entitled "Personnel Discipline and  
28 Assistance in Public Schools" and shall consist of ss.  
29 1012.79-1012.799.

30           Section 756. Section 1012.79, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1012.79 Education Practices Commission;  
2 organization.--  
3           (1) The Education Practices Commission consists of 17  
4 members, including 7 teachers, 5 administrators, and 5 lay  
5 citizens (of whom 2 shall be former district school board  
6 members), appointed by the State Board of Education from  
7 nominations by the Commissioner of Education and subject to  
8 Senate confirmation. Prior to making nominations, the  
9 commissioner shall consult with the teaching and other  
10 involved associations in the state. In making nominations, the  
11 commissioner shall attempt to achieve equal geographical  
12 representation, as closely as possible.  
13           (a) A teacher member, in order to be qualified for  
14 appointment:  
15           1. Must be certified to teach in the state.  
16           2. Must be a resident of the state.  
17           3. Must have practiced the profession in this state  
18 for at least 5 years immediately preceding the appointment.  
19           (b) A school administrator member, in order to be  
20 qualified for appointment:  
21           1. Must have an endorsement on the educator  
22 certificate in the area of school administration or  
23 supervision.  
24           2. Must be a resident of the state.  
25           3. Must have practiced the profession as an  
26 administrator for at least 5 years immediately preceding the  
27 appointment.  
28           (c) The lay members must be residents of the state.  
29           (2) Members of the commission shall serve for 4-year  
30 staggered terms. No commission member may serve more than 8  
31 years.

1       (3) The State Board of Education may remove any member  
2 from the commission for misconduct or malfeasance in office,  
3 incapacity, or neglect of duty.

4       (4) From among its members, the commission shall elect  
5 a chair who shall preside over meetings of the commission and  
6 perform other duties directed by the commission or required by  
7 its duly adopted rules or operating procedures. School  
8 districts shall be reimbursed for substitute teachers required  
9 to replace commission members, when they are carrying out  
10 their official duties, at a rate established by the school  
11 district for substitute teachers. The department may  
12 reimburse local school districts for substitutes.

13       (5) The commission, by a vote of three-fourths of the  
14 membership, shall employ an executive director, who shall be  
15 exempt from career service. The executive director may be  
16 dismissed by a majority vote of the membership.

17       (6)(a) The commission shall be assigned to the  
18 Department of Education for administrative purposes. The  
19 commission, in the performance of its powers and duties, shall  
20 not be subject to control, supervision, or direction by the  
21 Department of Education.

22       (b) The property, personnel, and appropriations  
23 related to the specified authority, powers, duties, and  
24 responsibilities of the commission shall be provided to the  
25 commission by the Department of Education.

26       (7) The duties and responsibilities of the commission  
27 are to:

28       (a) Interpret and apply the standards of professional  
29 practice established by the State Board of Education.

30       (b) Revoke or suspend a certificate or take other  
31 appropriate action as provided in ss. 1012.56 and 1012.796.

1           (c) Report to and meet with the State Board of  
2 Education at least once each year.

3           (d) Adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54  
4 to implement provisions of law conferring duties upon it.

5           (8)(a) The commission shall, from time to time,  
6 designate members of the commission to serve on panels for the  
7 purpose of reviewing and issuing final orders upon cases  
8 presented to the commission. A case concerning a complaint  
9 against a teacher shall be reviewed and a final order thereon  
10 shall be entered by a panel composed of seven commission  
11 members, four of whom shall be teachers. A case concerning a  
12 complaint against an administrator shall be reviewed and a  
13 final order thereon shall be entered by a panel composed of  
14 seven commission members, four of whom shall be  
15 administrators.

16           (b) A majority of a quorum of a panel of the  
17 commission shall have final agency authority in all cases  
18 involving the revocation, suspension, or other disciplining of  
19 certificates of teachers and school administrators. A majority  
20 of the membership of the panel shall constitute a quorum. The  
21 district school board shall retain the authority to discipline  
22 teachers and administrators pursuant to law.

23           (9) The commission shall make such expenditures as may  
24 be necessary in exercising its authority and powers and  
25 carrying out its duties and responsibilities, including  
26 expenditures for personal services, general counsel or access  
27 to counsel, and rent at the seat of government and elsewhere;  
28 for books of reference, periodicals, furniture, equipment, and  
29 supplies; and for printing and binding. The expenditures of  
30 the commission shall be subject to the powers and duties of  
31 the Department of Banking and Finance as provided in s. 17.03.

1           (10) The commission shall be financed from the  
2 following: certification fees; fines, penalties, and costs  
3 collected pursuant to s. 1012.796(9); and general revenue.

4           Section 757. Section 1012.795, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1012.795 Education Practices Commission; authority to  
7 discipline.--

8           (1) The Education Practices Commission may suspend the  
9 educator certificate of any person as defined in s. 1012.01(2)  
10 or (3) for a period of time not to exceed 3 years, thereby  
11 denying that person the right to teach for that period of  
12 time, after which the holder may return to teaching as  
13 provided in subsection (4); may revoke the educator  
14 certificate of any person, thereby denying that person the  
15 right to teach for a period of time not to exceed 10 years,  
16 with reinstatement subject to the provisions of subsection  
17 (4); may revoke permanently the educator certificate of any  
18 person; may suspend the educator certificate, upon order of  
19 the court, of any person found to have a delinquent child  
20 support obligation; or may impose any other penalty provided  
21 by law, provided it can be shown that the person:

22           (a) Obtained the educator certificate by fraudulent  
23 means.

24           (b) Has proved to be incompetent to teach or to  
25 perform duties as an employee of the public school system or  
26 to teach in or to operate a private school.

27           (c) Has been guilty of gross immorality or an act  
28 involving moral turpitude.

29           (d) Has had an educator certificate revoked in another  
30 state.

31

1       (e) Has been convicted of a misdemeanor, felony, or  
2 any other criminal charge, other than a minor traffic  
3 violation.

4       (f) Upon investigation, has been found guilty of  
5 personal conduct which seriously reduces that person's  
6 effectiveness as an employee of the district school board.

7       (g) Has breached a contract, as provided in s.  
8 1012.33(2).

9       (h) Has been the subject of a court order directing  
10 the Education Practices Commission to suspend the certificate  
11 as a result of a delinquent child support obligation.

12       (i) Has violated the Principles of Professional  
13 Conduct for the Education Profession prescribed by State Board  
14 of Education rules.

15       (j) Has otherwise violated the provisions of law, the  
16 penalty for which is the revocation of the educator  
17 certificate.

18       (k) Has violated any order of the Education Practices  
19 Commission.

20       (2) The plea of guilty in any court, the decision of  
21 guilty by any court, the forfeiture by the teaching  
22 certificateholder of a bond in any court of law, or the  
23 written acknowledgment, duly witnessed, of offenses listed in  
24 subsection (1) to the district school superintendent or a duly  
25 appointed representative or to the district school board shall  
26 be prima facie proof of grounds for revocation of the  
27 certificate as listed in subsection (1) in the absence of  
28 proof by the certificateholder that the plea of guilty,  
29 forfeiture of bond, or admission of guilt was caused by  
30 threats, coercion, or fraudulent means.  
31

1           (3) The revocation by the Education Practices  
2 Commission of an educator certificate of any person  
3 automatically revokes any and all Florida educator  
4 certificates held by that person.

5           (4)(a) An educator certificate which has been  
6 suspended under this section is automatically reinstated at  
7 the end of the suspension period, provided the certificate did  
8 not expire during the period of suspension. If the  
9 certificate expired during the period of suspension, the  
10 holder of the former certificate may secure a new certificate  
11 by making application therefor and by meeting the  
12 certification requirements of the state board current at the  
13 time of the application for the new certificate. An educator  
14 certificate suspended pursuant to a court order for a  
15 delinquent child support obligation may only be reinstated  
16 upon notice from the court that the party has complied with  
17 the terms of the court order.

18           (b) A person whose educator certificate has been  
19 revoked under this section may apply for a new certificate at  
20 the expiration of that period of ineligibility fixed by the  
21 Education Practices Commission by making application therefor  
22 and by meeting the certification requirements of the state  
23 board current at the time of the application for the new  
24 certificate.

25           (5) Each district school superintendent and the  
26 governing authority of each university lab school,  
27 state-supported school, or private school shall report to the  
28 department the name of any person certified pursuant to this  
29 chapter or employed and qualified pursuant to s. 1012.39:  
30  
31

1           (a) Who has been convicted of, or who has pled nolo  
2 contendere to, a misdemeanor, felony, or any other criminal  
3 charge, other than a minor traffic infraction;

4           (b) Who that official has reason to believe has  
5 committed or is found to have committed any act which would be  
6 a ground for revocation or suspension under subsection (1); or

7           (c) Who has been dismissed or severed from employment  
8 because of conduct involving any immoral, unnatural, or  
9 lascivious act.

10           (6)(a) When an individual violates the provisions of a  
11 settlement agreement enforced by a final order of the  
12 Education Practices Commission, an order to show cause may be  
13 issued by the clerk of the commission. The order shall require  
14 the individual to appear before the commission to show cause  
15 why further penalties should not be levied against the  
16 individual's certificate pursuant to the authority provided to  
17 the Education Practices Commission in subsection (1). The  
18 Education Practices Commission may fashion further penalties  
19 under the authority of subsection (1) as deemed appropriate  
20 when the show cause order is responded to by the individual.

21           (b) The Education Practices Commission shall issue a  
22 final order revoking an individual's Florida educator's  
23 certificate for a minimum of 1 year under the following  
24 circumstances:

25           1. If the individual:

26           a. Has been found to have violated the provisions of  
27 this section, such that the Education Practices Commission has  
28 the authority to discipline the individual's Florida  
29 educator's certificate on two separate occasions;

30  
31

1           b. Has twice entered into a settlement agreement  
2 enforced by a final order of the Education Practices  
3 Commission; or

4           c. Has been found to have violated the provisions of  
5 this section, such that the Education Practices Commission has  
6 the authority to discipline the individual's Florida  
7 educator's certificate on one occasion and entered into a  
8 settlement agreement enforced by a final order of the  
9 Education Practices Commission on one occasion; and

10           2. A third finding of probable cause and a finding  
11 that the allegations are proven or admitted to is subsequently  
12 found by the Commissioner of Education.

13  
14 If, in the third instance, the individual enters into a  
15 settlement agreement with the Department of Education, that  
16 agreement shall also include a penalty revoking that  
17 individual's Florida educator's certificate for a minimum of 1  
18 year.

19           Section 758. Section 1012.796, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21           1012.796 Complaints against teachers and  
22 administrators; procedure; penalties.--

23           (1)(a) The Department of Education shall cause to be  
24 investigated expeditiously any complaint filed before it or  
25 otherwise called to its attention which, if legally  
26 sufficient, contains grounds for the revocation or suspension  
27 of a certificate or any other appropriate penalty as set forth  
28 in subsection (7). The complaint is legally sufficient if it  
29 contains the ultimate facts which show a violation has  
30 occurred as provided in s. 1012.795. The department may  
31 investigate or continue to investigate and take appropriate

1 action in a complaint even though the original complainant  
2 withdraws the complaint or otherwise indicates a desire not to  
3 cause it to be investigated or prosecuted to completion. The  
4 department may investigate or continue to investigate and take  
5 action on a complaint filed against a person whose educator  
6 certificate has expired if the act or acts which are the basis  
7 for the complaint were allegedly committed while that person  
8 possessed an educator certificate.

9       (b) When an investigation is undertaken, the  
10 department shall notify the certificateholder and the district  
11 school superintendent in the district in which the  
12 certificateholder is employed and shall inform the  
13 certificateholder of the substance of any complaint which has  
14 been filed against that certificateholder, unless the  
15 department determines that such notification would be  
16 detrimental to the investigation, in which case the department  
17 may withhold notification.

18       (c) Each school district shall file in writing with  
19 the department all legally sufficient complaints within 30  
20 days after the date on which subject matter of the complaint  
21 comes to the attention of the school district. The school  
22 district shall include all information relating to the  
23 complaint which is known to the school district at the time of  
24 filing. Each district school board shall develop policies and  
25 procedures to comply with this reporting requirement. The  
26 district school board policies and procedures shall include  
27 appropriate penalties for all personnel of the district school  
28 board for nonreporting and procedures for promptly informing  
29 the district school superintendent of each legally sufficient  
30 complaint. The district school superintendent is charged with  
31 knowledge of these policies and procedures. If the district

1 school superintendent has knowledge of a legally sufficient  
2 complaint and does not report the complaint, or fails to  
3 enforce the policies and procedures of the district school  
4 board, and fails to comply with the requirements of this  
5 subsection, in addition to other actions against  
6 certificateholders authorized by law, the district school  
7 superintendent shall be subject to penalties as specified in  
8 s. 1001.51(13). This paragraph does not limit or restrict the  
9 power and duty of the department to investigate complaints as  
10 provided in paragraphs (a) and (b), regardless of the school  
11 district's untimely filing, or failure to file, complaints and  
12 followup reports.

13 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall develop job  
14 specifications for investigative personnel employed by the  
15 department. Such specifications shall be substantially  
16 equivalent to or greater than those job specifications of  
17 investigative personnel employed by the Department of Business  
18 and Professional Regulation. The department may contract with  
19 the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for  
20 investigations. No person who is responsible for conducting an  
21 investigation of a teacher or administrator may prosecute the  
22 same case. The department general counsel or members of that  
23 staff may conduct prosecutions under this section.

24 (3) The department staff shall advise the commissioner  
25 concerning the findings of the investigation. The department  
26 general counsel or members of that staff shall review the  
27 investigation and advise the commissioner concerning probable  
28 cause or lack thereof. The determination of probable cause  
29 shall be made by the commissioner. The commissioner shall  
30 provide an opportunity for a conference, if requested, prior  
31 to determining probable cause. The commissioner may enter

1 into deferred prosecution agreements in lieu of finding  
2 probable cause when in his or her judgment such agreements  
3 would be in the best interests of the department, the  
4 certificateholder, and the public. Such deferred prosecution  
5 agreements shall become effective when filed with the clerk of  
6 the Education Practices Commission. However, a deferred  
7 prosecution agreement shall not be entered into where there is  
8 probable cause to believe that a felony or an act of moral  
9 turpitude has occurred. Upon finding no probable cause, the  
10 commissioner shall dismiss the complaint.

11 (4) The complaint and all information obtained  
12 pursuant to the investigation by the department shall be  
13 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1)  
14 until the conclusion of the preliminary investigation of the  
15 complaint, until such time as the preliminary investigation  
16 ceases to be active, or until such time as otherwise provided  
17 by s. 1012.798(6). However, the complaint and all material  
18 assembled during the investigation may be inspected and copied  
19 by the certificateholder under investigation, or the  
20 certificateholder's designee, after the investigation is  
21 concluded, but prior to the determination of probable cause by  
22 the commissioner. If the preliminary investigation is  
23 concluded with the finding that there is no probable cause to  
24 proceed, the complaint and information shall be open  
25 thereafter to inspection pursuant to s. 119.07(1). If the  
26 preliminary investigation is concluded with the finding that  
27 there is probable cause to proceed and a complaint is filed  
28 pursuant to subsection (6), the complaint and information  
29 shall be open thereafter to inspection pursuant to s.  
30 119.07(1). If the preliminary investigation ceases to be  
31 active, the complaint and all such material shall be open

1 thereafter to inspection pursuant to s. 119.07(1), except as  
2 otherwise provided pursuant to s. 1012.798(6). For the purpose  
3 of this subsection, a preliminary investigation shall be  
4 considered active as long as it is continuing with a  
5 reasonable, good faith anticipation that an administrative  
6 finding will be made in the foreseeable future.

7 (5) When deemed necessary to protect the health,  
8 safety, and welfare of a minor student, the district school  
9 superintendent in consultation with the school principal may,  
10 and upon the request of the Commissioner of Education shall,  
11 temporarily suspend a certificateholder from the  
12 certificateholder's regularly assigned duties, with pay, and  
13 reassign the suspended certificateholder to a position that  
14 does not require direct contact with students in the district  
15 school system. Such suspension shall continue until the  
16 completion of the proceedings and the determination of  
17 sanctions, if any, pursuant to this section and s. 1012.795.

18 (6) Upon the finding of probable cause, the  
19 commissioner shall file a formal complaint and prosecute the  
20 complaint pursuant to the provisions of chapter 120. An  
21 administrative law judge shall be assigned by the Division of  
22 Administrative Hearings of the Department of Management  
23 Services to hear the complaint if there are disputed issues of  
24 material fact. The administrative law judge shall make  
25 recommendations in accordance with the provisions of  
26 subsection (7) to the appropriate Education Practices  
27 Commission panel which shall conduct a formal review of such  
28 recommendations and other pertinent information and issue a  
29 final order. The commission shall consult with its legal  
30 counsel prior to issuance of a final order.

31

1           (7) A panel of the commission shall enter a final  
2 order either dismissing the complaint or imposing one or more  
3 of the following penalties:

4           (a) Denial of an application for a teaching  
5 certificate or for an administrative or supervisory  
6 endorsement on a teaching certificate. The denial may provide  
7 that the applicant may not reapply for certification, and that  
8 the department may refuse to consider that applicant's  
9 application, for a specified period of time or permanently.

10           (b) Revocation or suspension of a certificate.

11           (c) Imposition of an administrative fine not to exceed  
12 \$2,000 for each count or separate offense.

13           (d) Placement of the teacher, administrator, or  
14 supervisor on probation for a period of time and subject to  
15 such conditions as the commission may specify, including  
16 requiring the certified teacher, administrator, or supervisor  
17 to complete additional appropriate college courses or work  
18 with another certified educator, with the administrative costs  
19 of monitoring the probation assessed to the educator placed on  
20 probation.

21           (e) Restriction of the authorized scope of practice of  
22 the teacher, administrator, or supervisor.

23           (f) Reprimand of the teacher, administrator, or  
24 supervisor in writing, with a copy to be placed in the  
25 certification file of such person.

26           (g) Imposition of an administrative sanction, upon a  
27 person whose teaching certificate has expired, for an act or  
28 acts committed while that person possessed a teaching  
29 certificate or an expired certificate subject to late renewal,  
30 which sanction bars that person from applying for a new  
31 certificate for a period of 10 years or less, or permanently.

1           (8) Violations of the provisions of probation shall  
2 result in an order to show cause issued by the clerk of the  
3 Education Practices Commission. Upon failure of the  
4 probationer, at the time and place stated in the order, to  
5 show cause satisfactorily to the Education Practices  
6 Commission why a penalty for violating probation should not be  
7 imposed, the Education Practices Commission shall impose  
8 whatever penalty is appropriate as established in s.  
9 1012.795(6). Any probation period will be tolled when an order  
10 to show cause has been issued until the issue is resolved by  
11 the Education Practices Commission.

12           (9) All moneys collected by, or awarded to, the  
13 commission as fees, fines, penalties, or costs shall be  
14 deposited into the Educational Certification and Service Trust  
15 Fund pursuant to s. 1012.59.

16           Section 759. Section 1012.797, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18           1012.797 Notification of district school  
19 superintendent of certain charges against or convictions of  
20 employees.--

21           (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 985.04(4) or  
22 any other provision of law to the contrary, a law enforcement  
23 agency shall, within 48 hours, notify the appropriate district  
24 school superintendent of the name and address of any employee  
25 of the school district who is charged with a felony or with a  
26 misdemeanor involving the abuse of a minor child or the sale  
27 or possession of a controlled substance. The notification  
28 shall include the specific charge for which the employee of  
29 the school district was arrested. Such notification shall  
30 include other education providers such as the Florida School  
31

1 for the Deaf and the Blind, university lab schools, and  
2 private elementary and secondary schools.

3 (2) Except to the extent necessary to protect the  
4 health, safety, and welfare of other students, the information  
5 obtained by the district school superintendent pursuant to  
6 this section may be released only to appropriate school  
7 personnel or as otherwise provided by law.

8 Section 760. Section 1012.798, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1012.798 Recovery network program for educators.--

11 (1) RECOVERY NETWORK ESTABLISHED.--There is created  
12 within the Department of Education, a recovery network program  
13 to assist educators who are impaired as a result of alcohol  
14 abuse, drug abuse, or a mental condition in obtaining  
15 treatment to permit their continued contribution to the  
16 education profession. Any person who holds certification  
17 issued by the department pursuant to s. 1012.56 is eligible  
18 for the assistance.

19 (2) STAFF.--

20 (a) The department shall employ an administrator and  
21 staff as are necessary to be assigned exclusively to the  
22 recovery network program.

23 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall establish the  
24 criteria for and appoint the staff of the program.

25 (c) The department may contract with other  
26 professionals to implement this section.

27 (3) PURPOSE.--The recovery network program shall  
28 assist educators in obtaining treatment and services from  
29 approved treatment providers, but each impaired educator must  
30 pay for his or her treatment under terms and conditions agreed  
31 upon by the impaired educator and the treatment provider. A

1 person who is admitted to the program must contract with the  
2 treatment provider and the program. The treatment contract  
3 must prescribe the type of treatment and the responsibilities  
4 of the impaired educator and of the provider and must provide  
5 that the impaired educator's progress will be monitored by the  
6 program.

7 (4) APPROVAL OF TREATMENT PROVIDERS.--The recovery  
8 network program shall locate, evaluate, and approve qualified  
9 treatment providers.

10 (5) RELATIONSHIP WITH EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION  
11 AND DEPARTMENT.--The recovery network program shall operate  
12 independently of, but may cooperate with, the Office of  
13 Professional Practices Services of the Department of Education  
14 and the Education Practices Commission. A person's  
15 participation in the program entitles the commissioner to  
16 enter into a deferred prosecution agreement pursuant to s.  
17 1012.796, or such participation may be considered a factor in  
18 mitigation of or a condition of disciplinary action against  
19 the person's certificate by the Education Practices Commission  
20 pursuant to s. 1012.795.

21 (6) PARTICIPATION.--The recovery network program shall  
22 operate independently of employee assistance programs operated  
23 by local school districts, and the powers and duties of school  
24 districts to make employment decisions, including disciplinary  
25 decisions, is not affected except as provided in this section:

26 (a) A person who is not subject to investigation or  
27 proceedings under ss. 1012.795 and 1012.796 may voluntarily  
28 seek assistance through a local school district employee  
29 assistance program for which he or she is eligible and through  
30 the recovery network, regardless of action taken against him  
31 or her by a school district. Voluntarily seeking assistance

1 alone does not subject a person to proceedings under ss.  
2 1012.795 and 1012.796.

3 (b) A person who is subject to investigation or  
4 proceedings under ss. 1012.795 and 1012.796 may be required to  
5 participate in the program. The program may approve a local  
6 employee assistance program as a treatment provider or as a  
7 means of securing a treatment provider. The program and the  
8 local school district shall cooperate so that the person may  
9 obtain treatment without limiting the school district's  
10 statutory powers and duties as an employer or the disciplinary  
11 procedures under ss. 1012.795 and 1012.796.

12 (c) A person who has not previously been under  
13 investigation by the department may be enrolled in a treatment  
14 program by the recovery network after an investigation has  
15 commenced, if the person:

16 1. Acknowledges his or her impairment.

17 2. Agrees to evaluation, as approved by the recovery  
18 network.

19 3. Agrees to enroll in an appropriate treatment  
20 program approved by the recovery network.

21 4. Executes releases for all medical and treatment  
22 records regarding his or her impairment and participation in a  
23 treatment program to the recovery network, pursuant to 42  
24 U.S.C. s. 290dd-3 and the federal regulations adopted  
25 thereunder.

26 5. Enters into a deferred prosecution agreement with  
27 the commissioner, which provides that no prosecution shall be  
28 instituted concerning the matters enumerated in the agreement  
29 if the person is properly enrolled in the treatment program  
30 and successfully completes the program as certified by the  
31 recovery network. The commissioner is under no obligation to

1 enter into a deferred prosecution agreement with the educator  
2 but may do so if he or she determines that it is in the best  
3 interest of the educational program of the state.

4 6. Has not previously entered a substance abuse  
5 program.

6 7. Is not being investigated for any action involving  
7 commission of a felony or violent act against another person.

8 8. Has not had multiple arrests for minor drug use,  
9 possession, or abuse of alcohol.

10 (7) REFERRAL TO NETWORK WHEN NO PROBABLE CAUSE IS  
11 DETERMINED.--If a complaint is made to the department against  
12 a teacher or an administrator pursuant to s. 1012.796 and a  
13 finding of no probable cause indicates that no concern other  
14 than impairment exists, the department shall inform the person  
15 of the availability of assistance provided by the recovery  
16 network program.

17 (8) ADMISSION.--A person who is referred or who  
18 requests admission to the recovery network program shall be  
19 temporarily admitted pending a finding that he or she has:

20 (a) Acknowledged his or her impairment problem.

21 (b) Agreed to evaluation as approved by the recovery  
22 network program.

23 (c) Voluntarily enrolled in an appropriate treatment  
24 program approved by the recovery network program.

25 (d) Voluntarily sought agreement from the school  
26 district for temporary leave or limitations on the scope of  
27 employment if the temporary leave or limitations are included  
28 in the treatment provider's recommendations; or voluntarily  
29 agreed to pursue the alternative treatment recommended by the  
30 treatment provider if the school district does not approve  
31

1 such temporary leave or limitations on the scope of  
2 employment.

3 (e) Executed releases to the recovery network program  
4 for all medical and treatment records regarding his or her  
5 impairment and participation in a treatment program pursuant  
6 to 42 U.S.C. s. 290dd-3 and the federal regulations adopted  
7 thereunder.

8 (9) DISCLOSURE OF MEDICAL RECORDS.--An approved  
9 treatment provider must disclose to the recovery network  
10 program all information in its possession which relates to a  
11 person's impairment and participation in the treatment  
12 program. Information obtained under this subsection is  
13 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I  
14 of the State Constitution. This exemption is necessary to  
15 promote the rehabilitation of impaired educators and to  
16 protect the privacy of treatment program participants. The  
17 failure to provide such information to the program is grounds  
18 for withdrawal of approval of a treatment provider. Medical  
19 records provided to the program may not be disclosed to any  
20 other person, except as authorized by law.

21 (10) DECLARATION OF INELIGIBILITY.--

22 (a) A person may be declared ineligible for further  
23 assistance from the recovery network program if he or she does  
24 not progress satisfactorily in a treatment program or leaves a  
25 prescribed program or course of treatment without the approval  
26 of the treatment provider.

27 (b) The determination of ineligibility must be made by  
28 the commissioner in cases referred to him or her by the  
29 program administrator. Before referring a case to the  
30 commissioner, the administrator must discuss the circumstances  
31 with the treatment provider. The commissioner may direct the

1 Office of Professional Practices Services to investigate the  
2 case and provide a report.

3 (c) If a treatment contract with the program is a  
4 condition of a deferred prosecution agreement, and the  
5 commissioner determines that the person is ineligible for  
6 further assistance, the commissioner may agree to modify the  
7 terms and conditions of the deferred prosecution agreement or  
8 may issue an administrative complaint, pursuant to s.  
9 1012.796, alleging the charges regarding which prosecution was  
10 deferred. The person may dispute the determination as an  
11 affirmative defense to the administrative complaint by  
12 including with his or her request for hearing on the  
13 administrative complaint a written statement setting forth the  
14 facts and circumstances that show that the determination of  
15 ineligibility was erroneous. If administrative proceedings  
16 regarding the administrative complaint, pursuant to ss.  
17 120.569 and 120.57, result in a finding that the determination  
18 of ineligibility was erroneous, the person is eligible to  
19 participate in the program. If the determination of  
20 ineligibility was the only reason for setting aside the  
21 deferred prosecution agreement and issuing the administrative  
22 complaint and the administrative proceedings result in a  
23 finding that the determination was erroneous, the complaint  
24 shall be dismissed and the deferred prosecution agreement  
25 reinstated without prejudice to the commissioner's right to  
26 reissue the administrative complaint for other breaches of the  
27 agreement.

28 (d) If a treatment contract with the program is a  
29 condition of a final order of the Education Practices  
30 Commission, the commissioner's determination of ineligibility  
31 constitutes a finding of probable cause that the person failed

1 to comply with the final order. The commissioner shall issue  
2 an administrative complaint, and the case shall proceed under  
3 ss. 1012.795 and 1012.796, in the same manner as cases based  
4 on a failure to comply with an order of the Education  
5 Practices Commission.

6 (e) If the person voluntarily entered into a treatment  
7 contract with the program, the commissioner shall issue a  
8 written notice stating the reasons for the determination of  
9 ineligibility. Within 20 days after the date of such notice,  
10 the person may contest the determination of ineligibility  
11 pursuant to ss. 120.569 and 120.57.

12 (11) MEDICAL RECORDS RELEASE.--Medical records  
13 released pursuant to paragraph (8)(e) may be disclosed to the  
14 commissioner, the Office of Professional Practices Services,  
15 and the Education Practices Commission only as required for  
16 purposes of this section, or as otherwise authorized by law.  
17 Further disclosure or release of the medical records may not  
18 be made except as authorized by law and in accordance with 42  
19 U.S.C. s. 290dd-2 and the federal regulations adopted  
20 thereunder. The medical records are confidential and exempt  
21 from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State  
22 Constitution.

23 (12) FEES.--The State Board of Education shall include  
24 in the fees established pursuant to s. 1012.59 an amount  
25 sufficient to implement the provisions of this section. The  
26 State Board of Education shall by rule establish procedures  
27 and additional standards for:

28 (a) Approving treatment providers, including  
29 appropriate qualifications and experience, amount of  
30 reasonable fees and charges, and quality and effectiveness of  
31 treatment programs provided.

1           (b) Admitting eligible persons to the program.

2           (c) Evaluating impaired persons by the recovery

3 network program.

4           Section 761. Section 1012.799, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1012.799 Reporting certain offenses.--Instructional  
7 personnel or administrative personnel having knowledge that a  
8 sexual battery has been committed by a student upon another  
9 student must report the offense to a law enforcement agency  
10 having jurisdiction over the school plant or over the place  
11 where the sexual battery occurred if not on the grounds of the  
12 school plant.

13           Section 762. Part IV of chapter 1012, Florida  
14 Statutes, shall be entitled "Public Postsecondary Educational  
15 Institutions; Personnel" and shall consist of ss.

16 1012.80-1012.97.

17           Section 763. Part IV.a. of chapter 1012, Florida  
18 Statutes, shall be entitled "General Provisions" and shall  
19 consist of ss. 1012.80-1012.801.

20           Section 764. Section 1012.80, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22           1012.80 Participation by employees in disruptive  
23 activities at public postsecondary educational institutions;  
24 penalties.--

25           (1) Any person who accepts the privilege extended by  
26 the laws of this state of employment at any public  
27 postsecondary educational institution shall, by so working at  
28 such institution, be deemed to have given his or her consent  
29 to the policies of that institution, the State Board of  
30 Education, and the laws of this state. Such policies shall

31

1 include prohibition against disruptive activities at public  
2 postsecondary educational institutions.

3 (2) After it has been determined that an employee of a  
4 public postsecondary educational institution has participated  
5 in disruptive activities, the institution may terminate the  
6 contract of the employee, and thereafter such person shall not  
7 be employed by any state public school or public postsecondary  
8 educational institution.

9 Section 765. Effective upon this act becoming a law,  
10 section 1012.801, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

11 1012.801 Employees of the Division of Colleges and  
12 Universities.--Employees of the Division of Colleges and  
13 Universities of the Department of Education who are  
14 participating in the State University Optional Retirement  
15 Program prior to June 30, 2002, shall be eligible to continue  
16 such participation as long as they remain employees of the  
17 Department of Education or a state university without a break  
18 in continuous service.

19 Section 766. Part IV.b. of chapter 1012, Florida  
20 Statutes, shall be entitled "Community Colleges; Personnel"  
21 and shall consist of ss. 1012.81-1012.88.

22 Section 767. Section 1012.81, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1012.81 Personnel records.--Rules of the State Board  
25 of Education shall prescribe the content and custody of  
26 limited-access records which a community college may maintain  
27 on its employees. Such records shall be limited to  
28 information reflecting evaluations of employee performance and  
29 shall be open to inspection only by the employee and by  
30 officials of the college who are responsible for supervision  
31 of the employee. Such limited-access employee records are

1 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).  
2 Except as required for use by the president in the discharge  
3 of his or her official responsibilities, the custodian of  
4 limited-access employee records may release information from  
5 such records only upon authorization in writing from the  
6 employee or the president or upon order of a court of  
7 competent jurisdiction.

8           Section 768. Section 1012.82, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10           1012.82 Teaching faculty; minimum teaching hours per  
11 week.--Each full-time member of the teaching faculty at any  
12 community college who is paid wholly from funds appropriated  
13 from the community college program fund shall teach a minimum  
14 of 15 classroom contact hours per week at such institution.  
15 However, the required classroom contact hours per week may be  
16 reduced upon approval of the president of the institution in  
17 direct proportion to specific duties and responsibilities  
18 assigned the faculty member by his or her departmental chair  
19 or other appropriate college administrator. Such specific  
20 duties may include specific research duties, specific duties  
21 associated with developing television, video tape, or other  
22 specifically assigned innovative teaching techniques or  
23 devices, or assigned responsibility for off-campus student  
24 internship or work-study programs. A "classroom contact hour"  
25 consists of a regularly scheduled classroom activity of not  
26 less than 50 minutes in a course of instruction which has been  
27 approved by the community college board of trustees. Any  
28 full-time faculty member who is paid partly from community  
29 college program funds and partly from other funds or  
30 appropriations shall teach a minimum number of classroom  
31 contact hours per week in such proportion to 15 classroom

1 contact hours as his or her salary paid from community college  
2 program funds bears to his or her total salary.

3 Section 769. Section 1012.83, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1012.83 Contracts with administrative and  
6 instructional staff.--Each person employed in an  
7 administrative or instructional capacity in a community  
8 college shall be entitled to a contract as provided by rules  
9 of the State Board of Education.

10 Section 770. Section 1012.84, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1012.84 Exemption from county civil service  
13 commissions.--

14 (1) Any community college located in a county which  
15 has either a budget commission or a civil service commission  
16 is exempt from the regulation, supervision, and control of any  
17 such commission.

18 (2) Any general or special law conflicting with this  
19 section is repealed to the extent that said law conflicts with  
20 this section.

21 Section 771. Section 1012.85, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23 1012.85 Payment of costs of civil actions against  
24 officers, employees, or agents of community college board of  
25 trustees.--

26 (1) Whenever any civil action has been brought against  
27 any officer of the community college board of trustees,  
28 including a board member, or any person employed by or agent  
29 of the community college board of trustees, of any community  
30 college for any act or omission arising out of and in the  
31 course of the performance of his or her duties and

1 responsibilities, the community college board of trustees may  
 2 defray all costs of defending such action, including  
 3 reasonable attorney's fees and expenses together with costs of  
 4 appeal, if any, and may save harmless and protect such person  
 5 from any financial loss resulting therefrom; and the community  
 6 college board of trustees may be self-insured, to enter into  
 7 risk management programs, or to purchase insurance for  
 8 whatever coverage it may choose, or to have any combination  
 9 thereof, to cover all such losses and expenses. However, any  
 10 attorney's fees paid from public funds for any officer,  
 11 employee, or agent who is found to be personally liable by  
 12 virtue of acting outside the scope of his or her employment or  
 13 acting in bad faith, with malicious purpose, or in a manner  
 14 exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights,  
 15 safety, or property may be recovered by the state, county,  
 16 municipality, or political subdivision in a civil action  
 17 against such officer, employee, or agent.

18 (2) Failure by a community college board of trustees  
 19 to perform any act authorized by this section shall not  
 20 constitute a cause of action against a community college or  
 21 its trustees, officers, employees, or agents.

22 Section 772. Section 1012.855, Florida Statutes, is  
 23 created to read:

24 1012.855 Employment of community college personnel;  
 25 discrimination in granting salary prohibited.--

26 (1)(a) Employment of all personnel in each community  
 27 college shall be upon recommendation of the president, subject  
 28 to rejection for cause by the community college board of  
 29 trustees; to the rules of the State Board of Education  
 30 relative to certification, tenure, leaves of absence of all  
 31 types, including sabbaticals, remuneration, and such other

1 conditions of employment as the State Board of Education deems  
2 necessary and proper; and to policies of the community college  
3 board of trustees not inconsistent with law.

4 (b) Any internal auditor employed by a community  
5 college shall be hired by the community college board of  
6 trustees and shall report directly to the board.

7 (2) Each community college board of trustees shall  
8 undertake a program to eradicate any discrimination on the  
9 basis of gender, race, or physical handicap in the granting of  
10 salaries to employees.

11 Section 773. Section 1012.86, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13 1012.86 Community college employment equity  
14 accountability program.--

15 (1) Each community college shall include in its annual  
16 equity update a plan for increasing the representation of  
17 women and minorities in senior-level administrative positions  
18 and in full-time faculty positions, and for increasing the  
19 representation of women and minorities who have attained  
20 continuing-contract status. Positions shall be defined in the  
21 personnel data element directory of the Department of  
22 Education. The plan must include specific measurable goals and  
23 objectives, specific strategies and timelines for  
24 accomplishing these goals and objectives, and comparable  
25 national standards as provided by the Department of Education.  
26 The goals and objectives shall be based on meeting or  
27 exceeding comparable national standards and shall be reviewed  
28 and recommended by the State Board of Education as  
29 appropriate. Such plans shall be maintained until appropriate  
30 representation has been achieved and maintained for at least 3  
31 consecutive reporting years.

1           (2)(a) On or before May 1 of each year, each community  
2 college president shall submit an annual employment  
3 accountability plan to the Commissioner of Education and the  
4 State Board of Education. The accountability plan must show  
5 faculty and administrator employment data according to  
6 requirements specified on the federal Equal Employment  
7 Opportunity (EE0-6) report.

8           (b) The plan must show the following information for  
9 those positions including, but not limited to:

10           1. Job classification title.

11           2. Gender.

12           3. Ethnicity.

13           4. Appointment status.

14           5. Salary information. At each community college,  
15 salary information shall also include the salary ranges in  
16 which new hires were employed compared to the salary ranges  
17 for employees with comparable experience and qualifications.

18           6. Other comparative information including, but not  
19 limited to, composite information regarding the total number  
20 of positions within the particular job title classification  
21 for the community college by race, gender, and salary range  
22 compared to the number of new hires.

23           7. A statement certifying diversity and balance in the  
24 gender and ethnic composition of the selection committee for  
25 each vacancy, including a brief description of guidelines used  
26 for ensuring balanced and diverse membership on selection and  
27 review committees.

28           (c) The annual employment accountability plan shall  
29 also include an analysis and an assessment of the community  
30 college's attainment of annual goals and of long-range goals  
31 for increasing the number of women and minorities in faculty

1 and senior-level administrative positions, and a corrective  
2 action plan for addressing underrepresentation.

3 (d) Each community college's employment accountability  
4 plan must also include:

5 1. The requirements for receiving a continuing  
6 contract.

7 2. A brief description of the process used to grant  
8 continuing-contract status.

9 3. A brief description of the process used to annually  
10 appraise each eligible faculty member of progress toward  
11 attainment of continuing-contract status.

12 (3) Community college presidents and the heads of each  
13 major administrative division shall be evaluated annually on  
14 the progress made toward meeting the goals and objectives of  
15 the community college's employment accountability plan.

16 (a) The community college presidents, or the  
17 presidents' designees, shall annually evaluate each department  
18 chairperson, dean, provost, and vice president in achieving  
19 the annual and long-term goals and objectives. A summary of  
20 the results of such evaluations shall be reported annually by  
21 the community college president to the community college board  
22 of trustees. Annual budget allocations by the community  
23 college board of trustees for positions and funding must take  
24 into consideration these evaluations.

25 (b) Community college boards of trustees shall  
26 annually evaluate the performance of the community college  
27 presidents in achieving the annual and long-term goals and  
28 objectives. A summary of the results of such evaluations shall  
29 be reported to the Commissioner of Education and the State  
30 Board of Education as part of the community college's annual  
31 employment accountability plan, and to the Legislature as part

1 of the annual equity progress report submitted by the State  
2 Board of Education.

3 (4) The State Board of Education shall submit an  
4 annual equity progress report to the President of the Senate  
5 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before  
6 January 1 of each year.

7 (5) Each community college shall develop a budgetary  
8 incentive plan to support and ensure attainment of the goals  
9 developed pursuant to this section. The plan shall specify,  
10 at a minimum, how resources shall be allocated to support the  
11 achievement of goals and the implementation of strategies in a  
12 timely manner. After prior review and approval by the  
13 community college president and the community college board of  
14 trustees, the plan shall be submitted as part of the annual  
15 employment accountability plan submitted by each community  
16 college to the State Board of Education.

17 (6) Subject to available funding, the Legislature  
18 shall provide an annual appropriation to the State Board of  
19 Education to be allocated to community college presidents,  
20 faculty, and administrative personnel to further enhance  
21 equity initiatives and related priorities that support the  
22 mission of colleges and departments in recognition of the  
23 attainment of the equity goals and objectives.

24 Section 774. Section 1012.865, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26 1012.865 Sick leave.--Each community college board of  
27 trustees shall adopt rules whereby any full-time employee who  
28 is unable to perform his or her duties at the community  
29 college on account of personal sickness, accident disability,  
30 or extended personal illness, or because of illness or death  
31 of the employee's father, mother, brother, sister, husband,

1 wife, child, or other close relative or member of the  
2 employee's own household, and who consequently has to be  
3 absent from work shall be granted leave of absence for  
4 sickness by the president or by the president's designated  
5 representative. The following provisions shall govern sick  
6 leave:

7 (1) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, unless the  
8 context otherwise requires, the term:

9 (a) "Educational support employee" means any person  
10 employed by a community college as an education or  
11 administrative paraprofessional; a member of the operations,  
12 maintenance, or comparable department; or a secretary,  
13 clerical, or comparable level support employee.

14 (b) "Instructional staff" shall be used synonymously  
15 with the word "teacher" or "faculty" and includes faculty  
16 members, librarians, counselors, and other comparable members  
17 engaged in an instructional capacity in the community college.

18 (2) EXTENT OF LEAVE WITH COMPENSATION.--

19 (a) Each full-time employee shall earn 1 day of sick  
20 leave with compensation for each calendar month or major  
21 fraction of a calendar month of service, not to exceed 12 days  
22 for each fiscal year. Such leave shall be taken only when  
23 necessary because of sickness as herein prescribed. Such sick  
24 leave shall be cumulative from year to year. Accumulated sick  
25 leave may be transferred from another Florida community  
26 college, the Florida Department of Education, a state  
27 university, a Florida district school board, or a state  
28 agency, provided that at least one-half of the sick leave  
29 accumulated at any time must have been established in the  
30 college in which such employee is currently employed.  
31

1       (b) A community college board of trustees may  
2 establish rules and prescribe procedures whereby a full-time  
3 employee may, at the beginning date of employment in any year,  
4 be credited with 12 days of sick leave with compensation in  
5 excess of the number of days the employee has earned. Upon  
6 termination of employment, the employee's final compensation  
7 shall be adjusted in an amount necessary to ensure that sick  
8 leave with compensation does not exceed the days of earned  
9 sick leave as provided herein.

10       (c) A community college board of trustees may  
11 establish rules and prescribe standards to permit a full-time  
12 employee to be absent no more than 4 days for personal  
13 reasons. However, such absences for personal reasons shall be  
14 charged only to accrued sick leave, and leave for personal  
15 reasons shall be noncumulative.

16       (d) A community college board of trustees may  
17 establish rules to provide terminal pay for accumulated sick  
18 leave to full-time instructional staff and educational support  
19 employees or to the employee's beneficiary if service is  
20 terminated by death. However, such terminal pay may not  
21 exceed an amount determined as follows:

22           1. During the first 3 years of service, the daily rate  
23 of pay multiplied by 35 percent times the number of days of  
24 accumulated sick leave.

25           2. During the next 3 years of service, the daily rate  
26 of pay multiplied by 40 percent times the number of days of  
27 accumulated sick leave.

28           3. During the next 3 years of service, the daily rate  
29 of pay multiplied by 45 percent times the number of days of  
30 accumulated sick leave.

31

1           4. During the 10th year of service, the daily rate of  
2 pay multiplied by 50 percent times the number of days of  
3 accumulated sick leave.

4           5. During the next 20 years of service, the daily rate  
5 of pay multiplied by 50 percent plus up to an additional 2.5  
6 percent per year for each year of service beyond 10 years,  
7 times the number of days of accumulated sick leave.

8  
9 If an employee receives terminal pay benefits based on unused  
10 sick leave credit, all unused sick leave credit shall become  
11 invalid; however, if an employee terminates his or her  
12 employment without receiving terminal pay benefits and is  
13 reemployed, his or her sick leave credit shall be reinstated.

14           (e) A community college board of trustees may, by  
15 rule, provide for terminal pay for accumulated unused sick  
16 leave to be paid to any full-time employee of a community  
17 college other than instructional staff or educational support  
18 employees. If termination of employment is by death of the  
19 employee, any terminal pay to which the employee may have been  
20 entitled shall be made to the employee's beneficiary.

21           1. For unused sick leave accumulated before July 1,  
22 2001, terminal pay shall be made pursuant to rules or policies  
23 of the board of trustees which were in effect on June 30,  
24 2001.

25           2. For unused sick leave accumulated on or after July  
26 1, 2001, terminal payment may not exceed an amount equal to  
27 one-fourth of the employee's unused sick leave or 60 days of  
28 the employee's pay, whichever amount is less.

29           3. If the employee had an accumulated sick leave  
30 balance of 60 days or more on June 30, 2001, sick leave earned  
31 after that date may not be accumulated for terminal pay

1 purposes until the accumulated leave balance as of June 30,  
2 2001, is less than 60 days.

3 (3) CLAIM MUST BE FILED.--Any full-time employee who  
4 finds it necessary to be absent from his or her duties because  
5 of illness as defined in this section shall notify the  
6 community college president or a college official designated  
7 by the president, if possible before the opening of college on  
8 the day on which the employee must be absent or during the  
9 day, except when he or she is absent for emergency reasons  
10 recognized by the community college board of trustees as  
11 valid. Any employee shall, before claiming and receiving  
12 compensation for the time absent from his or her duties while  
13 absent because of sick leave as prescribed in this section,  
14 make and file a written certificate which shall set forth the  
15 day or days absent, that such absence was necessary, and that  
16 he or she is entitled or not entitled to receive pay for such  
17 absence in accordance with the provisions of this section. The  
18 community college board of trustees may adopt rules under  
19 which the president may require a certificate of illness from  
20 a licensed physician or from the county health officer.

21 (4) COMPENSATION.--Any full-time employee who has  
22 unused sick leave credit shall receive full-time compensation  
23 for the time justifiably absent on sick leave; however, no  
24 compensation may be allowed beyond that provided in subsection  
25 (6).

26 (5) EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZED.--Community college boards  
27 of trustees may expend public funds for payment to employees  
28 on account of sickness. The expending and excluding of such  
29 funds shall be in compliance with rules adopted by the  
30 Department of Management Services pursuant to chapter 650.  
31

1           (6) SICK LEAVE POOL.--Notwithstanding any other  
2 provision of this section, a community college board of  
3 trustees may, by rule, based upon the maintenance of reliable  
4 and accurate records by the community college showing the  
5 amount of sick leave which has been accumulated and is unused  
6 by employees in accordance with this section, establish a plan  
7 allowing participating full-time employees of the community  
8 college to pool sick leave accrued and allowing any sick leave  
9 thus pooled to be disbursed to any participating employee who  
10 is in need of sick leave in excess of that amount he or she  
11 has personally accrued. Such rules shall include, but not be  
12 limited to, the following provisions:

13           (a) Participation in the sick leave pool shall at all  
14 times be voluntary on the part of employees.

15           (b) Any full-time employee shall be eligible for  
16 participation in the sick leave pool after 1 year of  
17 employment with the community college, provided such employee  
18 has accrued a minimum amount of unused sick leave, which  
19 minimum shall be established by rule.

20           (c) Any sick leave pooled pursuant to this section  
21 shall be removed from the personally accumulated sick leave  
22 balance of the employee donating such leave.

23           (d) Participating employees shall make equal  
24 contributions to the sick leave pool. There shall be  
25 established a maximum amount of sick leave which may be  
26 contributed to the pool by an employee. After the initial  
27 contribution which an employee makes upon electing to  
28 participate, no further contributions shall be required except  
29 as may be necessary to replenish the pool. Any such further  
30 contribution shall be equally required of all employees  
31 participating in the pool.

1       (e) Any sick leave time drawn from the pool by a  
2 participating employee must be used for that employee's  
3 personal illness, accident, or injury.

4       (f) A participating employee will not be eligible to  
5 use sick leave from the pool until all of his or her sick  
6 leave has been depleted. There shall be established a maximum  
7 number of days for which an employee may draw sick leave from  
8 the sick leave pool.

9       (g) A participating employee who uses sick leave from  
10 the pool will not be required to recontribute such sick leave  
11 to the pool, except as otherwise provided herein.

12       (h) A participating employee who chooses to no longer  
13 participate in the sick leave pool will not be eligible to  
14 withdraw any sick leave already contributed to the pool.

15       (i) Alleged abuse of the use of the sick leave pool  
16 shall be investigated, and, on a finding of wrongdoing, the  
17 employee shall repay all of the sick leave credits drawn from  
18 the sick leave pool and shall be subject to such other  
19 disciplinary action as is determined by the board to be  
20 appropriate. Rules adopted for the administration of this  
21 program shall provide for the investigation of the use of sick  
22 leave utilized by the participating employee in the sick leave  
23 pool.

24       Section 775. Section 1012.87, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26       1012.87 Retirement annuities.--Each community college  
27 board of trustees may purchase annuities for its community  
28 college personnel who have 25 or more years of creditable  
29 service and who have reached age 55 and have applied for  
30 retirement under the Florida Retirement System. No such  
31 annuity may provide for more than the total difference in

1 retirement income between the retirement benefit based on  
2 average monthly compensation and creditable service as of the  
3 member's early retirement date and the early retirement  
4 benefit. Community college boards of trustees may also  
5 purchase annuities for members of the Florida Retirement  
6 System who have out-of-state teaching service in another state  
7 or country which is documented as valid by the appropriate  
8 educational entity. Such annuities may be based on no more  
9 than 5 years of out-of-state teaching service and may equal,  
10 but not exceed, the benefits that would be payable under the  
11 Florida Retirement System if credit for out-of-state teaching  
12 was authorized under that system. Each community college board  
13 of trustees may invest funds, purchase annuities, or provide  
14 local supplemental retirement programs for purposes of  
15 providing retirement annuities for community college  
16 personnel. All such retirement annuities shall comply with s.  
17 14, Art. X of the State Constitution.

18           Section 776. Section 1012.875, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20           1012.875 Community College Optional Retirement  
21 Program.--Each community college may implement an optional  
22 retirement program, if such program is established therefor  
23 pursuant to s. 1001.64(20), under which annuity contracts  
24 providing retirement and death benefits may be purchased by,  
25 and on behalf of, eligible employees who participate in the  
26 program. Except as otherwise provided herein, this retirement  
27 program, which shall be known as the State Community College  
28 System Optional Retirement Program, may be implemented and  
29 administered only by an individual community college or by a  
30 consortium of community colleges.

31           (1) As used in this section, the term:

- 1           (a) "Activation" means the date upon which an optional  
2 retirement program is first made available by the program  
3 administrator to eligible employees.
- 4           (b) "College" means community colleges as defined in  
5 s. 1000.21.
- 6           (c) "Department" means the Department of Management  
7 Services.
- 8           (d) "Program administrator" means the individual  
9 college or consortium of colleges responsible for implementing  
10 and administering an optional retirement program.
- 11           (e) "Program participant" means an eligible employee  
12 who has elected to participate in an available optional  
13 retirement program as authorized by this section.
- 14           (2) Participation in the optional retirement program  
15 provided by this section is limited to employees who satisfy  
16 the criteria set forth in s. 121.051(2)(c).
- 17           (3)(a) With respect to any employee who is eligible to  
18 participate in the optional retirement program by reason of  
19 qualifying employment commencing before the program's  
20 activation:
- 21               1. The employee may elect to participate in the  
22 optional retirement program in lieu of participation in the  
23 Florida Retirement System. To become a program participant,  
24 the employee must file with the personnel officer of the  
25 college, within 60 days after the program's activation, both a  
26 written election on a form provided by the department and a  
27 completed application for an individual contract or  
28 certificate.
- 29               2. An employee's participation in the optional  
30 retirement program commences on the first day of the next full  
31 calendar month following the filing of the election and

1 completed application with the program administrator and  
2 receipt of such election by the department. An employee's  
3 membership in the Florida Retirement System terminates on this  
4 same date.

5 3. Any such employee who fails to make an election to  
6 participate in the optional retirement program within 60 days  
7 after its activation has elected to retain membership in the  
8 Florida Retirement System.

9 (b) With respect to any employee who becomes eligible  
10 to participate in an optional retirement program by reason of  
11 qualifying employment commencing on or after the program's  
12 activation:

13 1. The employee may elect to participate in the  
14 optional retirement program in lieu of participation in the  
15 Florida Retirement System. To become a program participant,  
16 the employee must file with the personnel officer of the  
17 college, within 60 days after commencing qualifying  
18 employment, both a written election on a form provided by the  
19 department and a completed application for an individual  
20 contract or certificate.

21 2. An employee's participation in the optional  
22 retirement program commences on the first day of the next full  
23 calendar month following the filing of the election and  
24 completed application with the program administrator and  
25 receipt of such election by the department. An employee's  
26 membership in the Florida Retirement System terminates on this  
27 same date.

28 3. If the employee makes an election to participate in  
29 the optional retirement program before the community college  
30 submits its initial payroll for the employee, participation in  
31

1 the optional retirement program commences on the first date of  
2 employment.

3 4. Any such employee who fails to make an election to  
4 participate in the optional retirement program within 60 days  
5 after commencing qualifying employment has elected to retain  
6 membership in the Florida Retirement System.

7 (c) Any employee who, on or after an optional  
8 retirement program's activation, becomes eligible to  
9 participate in the program by reason of a change in status due  
10 to the subsequent designation of the employee's position as  
11 one of those referenced in subsection (2), or due to the  
12 employee's appointment, promotion, transfer, or  
13 reclassification to a position referenced in subsection (2),  
14 must be notified by the community college of the employee's  
15 eligibility to participate in the optional retirement program  
16 in lieu of participation in the Florida Retirement System.  
17 These eligible employees are subject to the provisions of  
18 paragraph (b) and may elect to participate in the optional  
19 retirement program in the same manner as those employees  
20 described in paragraph (b), except that the 60-day election  
21 period commences upon the date notice of eligibility is  
22 received by the employee.

23 (d) Program participants must be fully and immediately  
24 vested in the optional retirement program.

25 (e) The election by an eligible employee to  
26 participate in the optional retirement program is irrevocable  
27 for so long as the employee continues to meet the eligibility  
28 requirements set forth in this section and in s.  
29 121.051(2)(c), except as provided in paragraph (i).

30 (f) If a program participant becomes ineligible to  
31 continue participating in the optional retirement program

1 pursuant to the criteria referenced in subsection (2), the  
2 employee becomes a member of the Florida Retirement System if  
3 eligible. The college must notify the department of an  
4 employee's change in eligibility status within 30 days after  
5 the event that makes the employee ineligible to continue  
6 participation in the optional retirement program.

7 (g) An eligible employee who is a member of the  
8 Florida Retirement System at the time of election to  
9 participate in the optional retirement program retains all  
10 retirement service credit earned under the Florida Retirement  
11 System at the rate earned. Additional service credit in the  
12 Florida Retirement System may not be earned while the employee  
13 participates in the optional retirement program, nor is the  
14 employee eligible for disability retirement under the Florida  
15 Retirement System.

16 (h) A program participant may not simultaneously  
17 participate in any other state-administered retirement system,  
18 plan, or class.

19 (i) Except as provided in s. 121.052(6)(d), a program  
20 participant who is or who becomes dually employed in two or  
21 more positions covered by the Florida Retirement System, one  
22 of which is eligible for an optional retirement program  
23 pursuant to this section and one of which is not, is subject  
24 to the dual employment provisions of chapter 121.

25 (4)(a) Each college must contribute on behalf of each  
26 program participant an amount equal to 10.43 percent of the  
27 participant's gross monthly compensation. The college shall  
28 deduct an amount approved by the community college to provide  
29 for the administration of the optional retirement program.  
30 Payment of this contribution must be made either directly by  
31 the community college or through the program administrator to

1 the designated company contracting for payment of benefits to  
2 the program participant.

3 (b) Each community college must contribute on behalf  
4 of each program participant an amount equal to the unfunded  
5 actuarial accrued liability portion of the employer  
6 contribution which would be required if the program  
7 participant were a member of the Regular Class of the Florida  
8 Retirement System. Payment of this contribution must be made  
9 directly by the college to the department for deposit in the  
10 Florida Retirement System Trust Fund.

11 (c) Each program participant who has executed an  
12 annuity contract may contribute by way of salary reduction or  
13 deduction a percentage of the program participant's gross  
14 compensation, but this percentage may not exceed the  
15 corresponding percentage contributed by the community college  
16 to the optional retirement program. Payment of this  
17 contribution may be made either directly by the college or  
18 through the program administrator to the designated company  
19 contracting for payment of benefits to the program  
20 participant.

21 (d) Contributions to an optional retirement program by  
22 a college or a program participant are in addition to, and  
23 have no effect upon, contributions required now or in future  
24 by the federal Social Security Act.

25 (5)(a) The benefits to be provided to program  
26 participants must be provided through individual contracts or  
27 group annuity contracts, which may be fixed, variable, or  
28 both. Each individual contract or certificate must state the  
29 type of annuity contract on its face page, and must include at  
30 least a statement of ownership, the contract benefits, annuity  
31

1 income options, limitations, expense charges, and surrender  
2 charges, if any.

3 (b) Benefits are payable under the optional retirement  
4 program to program participants or their beneficiaries, and  
5 the benefits must be paid only by the designated company in  
6 accordance with the terms of the annuity contracts applicable  
7 to the program participant, provided that benefits funded by  
8 employer contributions are payable only as a lifetime annuity  
9 to the program participant, except for:

10 1. A lump-sum payment to the program participant's  
11 beneficiary or estate upon the death of the program  
12 participant; or

13 2. A cash-out of a de minimis account upon the request  
14 of a former program participant who has been terminated for a  
15 minimum of 6 months from the employment that caused the  
16 participant to be eligible for participation. A de minimis  
17 account is an account with a designated company containing  
18 employer contributions and accumulated earnings of not more  
19 than \$3,500. The cash-out must be a complete liquidation of  
20 the account balance with that designated company and is  
21 subject to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

22 (c) The benefits payable to any person under the  
23 optional retirement program, and any contribution accumulated  
24 under the program, are not subject to assignment, execution,  
25 attachment, or to any legal process whatsoever.

26 (6)(a) The optional retirement program authorized by  
27 this section must be implemented and administered by the  
28 program administrator under s. 403(b) of the Internal Revenue  
29 Code. The program administrator has the express authority to  
30 contract with a third party to fulfill any of the program  
31 administrator's duties.

1           (b) The program administrator shall solicit  
2 competitive bids or issue a request for proposal and select no  
3 more than four companies from which annuity contracts may be  
4 purchased under the optional retirement program. In making  
5 these selections, the program administrator shall consider the  
6 following factors:  
7           1. The financial soundness of the company.  
8           2. The extent of the company's experience in providing  
9 annuity contracts to fund retirement programs.  
10           3. The nature and extent of the rights and benefits  
11 provided to program participants in relation to the premiums  
12 paid.  
13           4. The suitability of the rights and benefits provided  
14 to the needs of eligible employees and the interests of the  
15 college in the recruitment and retention of employees.  
16  
17 In lieu of soliciting competitive bids or issuing a request  
18 for proposals, the program administrator may authorize the  
19 purchase of annuity contracts under the optional retirement  
20 program from those companies currently selected by the  
21 department to offer such contracts through the State  
22 University System Optional Retirement Program, as set forth in  
23 s. 121.35.  
24           (c) Optional retirement program annuity contracts must  
25 be approved in form and content by the program administrator  
26 in order to qualify. The program administrator may use the  
27 same annuity contracts currently used within the State  
28 University System Optional Retirement Program, as set forth in  
29 s. 121.35.  
30           (d) The provision of each annuity contract applicable  
31 to a program participant must be contained in a written

1 program description that includes a report of pertinent  
2 financial and actuarial information on the solvency and  
3 actuarial soundness of the program and the benefits applicable  
4 to the program participant. The company must furnish the  
5 description annually to the program administrator, and to each  
6 program participant upon commencement of participation in the  
7 program and annually thereafter.

8 (e) The program administrator must ensure that each  
9 program participant is provided annually with an accounting of  
10 the total contributions and the annual contributions made by  
11 and on the behalf of the program participant.

12 Section 777. Section 1012.88, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14 1012.88 Community college police.--

15 (1) Each community college is permitted and empowered  
16 to employ police officers for the community college, who must  
17 be designated community college police.

18 (2) Each community college police officer is a law  
19 enforcement officer of the state and a conservator of the  
20 peace who has the authority to arrest, in accordance with the  
21 laws of this state, any person for a violation of state law or  
22 applicable county or municipal ordinance if that violation  
23 occurs on or in any property or facilities of the community  
24 college by which he or she is employed or any property or  
25 facilities of a direct-support organization of such community  
26 college. A community college police officer may also arrest a  
27 person off campus for a violation committed on campus after a  
28 hot pursuit of that person that began on any such property or  
29 facilities. A community college police officer may bear arms  
30 in the performance of his or her duties and carry out a search  
31 pursuant to a search warrant on the campus where he or she is

1 employed. Community college police, upon request of the  
2 sheriff or local police authority, may serve subpoenas or  
3 other legal process and may make arrests of persons against  
4 whom arrest warrants have been issued or against whom charges  
5 have been made for violations of federal or state laws or  
6 county or municipal ordinances.

7 (3) Community college police shall promptly deliver  
8 all persons arrested and charged with felonies to the sheriff  
9 of the county within which the community college is located  
10 and all persons arrested and charged with misdemeanors to the  
11 applicable authority as provided by law, but otherwise to the  
12 sheriff of the county in which the community college is  
13 located.

14 (4) Community college police must meet the minimum  
15 standards established by the Police Standards and Training  
16 Commission of the Department of Law Enforcement and chapter  
17 943 for law enforcement officers. Each community college  
18 police officer must, before entering into the performance of  
19 his or her duties, take the oath of office established by the  
20 community college. Each community college that employs police  
21 officers may obtain and approve a bond on each police officer,  
22 conditioned upon the officer's faithful performance of his or  
23 her duties, which bond must be payable to the Governor. The  
24 community college may determine the amount of the bond. In  
25 determining the amount of the bond, the community college may  
26 consider the amount of money or property likely to be in the  
27 custody of the officer at any one time. The community college  
28 shall provide a uniform set of identifying credentials to each  
29 community college police officer it employs.

30 (5) In performance of any of the powers, duties, and  
31 functions authorized by law, community college police have the

1 same rights, protections, and immunities afforded other law  
 2 enforcement officers.

3 (6) The community college, with the approval of the  
 4 Department of Law Enforcement, shall adopt rules, including,  
 5 without limitation, rules for the appointment, employment, and  
 6 removal of community college police in accordance with the  
 7 state Career Service System and shall establish in writing a  
 8 policy manual, that includes, without limitation, procedures  
 9 for managing routine law enforcement situations and emergency  
 10 law enforcement situations. The community college shall  
 11 furnish a copy of the policy manual to each of the police  
 12 officers it employs.

13 Section 778. Part IV.c. of chapter 1012, Florida  
 14 Statutes, shall be entitled "Universities; Personnel" and  
 15 shall consist of ss. 1012.91-1012.97.

16 Section 779. Section 1012.91, Florida Statutes, is  
 17 created to read:

18 1012.91 Personnel records.--

19 (1) Each university board of trustees shall adopt  
 20 rules prescribing the content and custody of limited-access  
 21 records that the university may maintain on its employees.  
 22 Such limited-access records are confidential and exempt from  
 23 the provisions of s. 119.07(1). Such records are limited to  
 24 the following:

25 (a) Records containing information reflecting academic  
 26 evaluations of employee performance shall be open to  
 27 inspection only by the employee and by officials of the  
 28 university responsible for supervision of the employee.

29 (b) Records maintained for the purposes of any  
 30 investigation of employee misconduct, including but not  
 31 limited to a complaint against an employee and all information

1 obtained pursuant to the investigation of such complaint,  
2 shall be confidential until the investigation ceases to be  
3 active or until the university provides written notice to the  
4 employee who is the subject of the complaint that the  
5 university has either:

6 1. Concluded the investigation with a finding not to  
7 proceed with disciplinary action;

8 2. Concluded the investigation with a finding to  
9 proceed with disciplinary action; or

10 3. Issued a letter of discipline.

11  
12 For the purpose of this paragraph, an investigation shall be  
13 considered active as long as it is continuing with a  
14 reasonable, good faith anticipation that a finding will be  
15 made in the foreseeable future. An investigation shall be  
16 presumed to be inactive if no finding is made within 90 days  
17 after the complaint is filed.

18 (c) Records maintained for the purposes of any  
19 disciplinary proceeding brought against an employee shall be  
20 confidential until a final decision is made in the proceeding.  
21 The record of any disciplinary proceeding, including any  
22 evidence presented, shall be open to inspection by the  
23 employee at all times.

24 (d) Records maintained for the purposes of any  
25 grievance proceeding brought by an employee for enforcement of  
26 a collective bargaining agreement or contract shall be  
27 confidential and shall be open to inspection only by the  
28 employee and by officials of the university conducting the  
29 grievance proceeding until a final decision is made in the  
30 proceeding.

31

1           (2) Notwithstanding the foregoing, any records or  
2 portions thereof which are otherwise confidential by law shall  
3 continue to be exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1). In  
4 addition, for sexual harassment investigations, portions of  
5 such records which identify the complainant, a witness, or  
6 information which could reasonably lead to the identification  
7 of the complainant or a witness are limited-access records.

8           (3) Except as required for use by the president in the  
9 discharge of his or her official responsibilities, the  
10 custodian of limited-access records may release information  
11 from such records only upon authorization in writing from the  
12 employee or upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

13           (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1),  
14 records comprising the common core items contained in the  
15 State University System Student Assessment of Instruction or  
16 comparable instrument may not be prescribed as limited-access  
17 records.

18           (5) This section shall apply to records created after  
19 July 1, 1995.

20           Section 780. Section 1012.92, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22           1012.92 Personnel codes of conduct; disciplinary  
23 measures; rulemaking authority.--

24           (1) Each university board of trustees may adopt, by  
25 rule, codes of conduct and appropriate penalties for  
26 violations of rules by employees, to be administered by the  
27 university. Such penalties, unless otherwise provided by law,  
28 may include: reprimand; restitution; fines; restrictions on  
29 the use of or removal from university facilities; educational  
30 training or counseling requirements; and the imposition of  
31

1 probation, suspension, dismissal, demotion, or other  
2 appropriate disciplinary action.

3 (2) Sanctions authorized by university codes of  
4 conduct may be imposed only for acts or omissions in violation  
5 of rules adopted by the university, including rules adopted  
6 under this section, rules of the State Board of Education,  
7 county and municipal ordinances, and the laws of this state,  
8 the United States, or any other state.

9 (3) The university board of trustees shall adopt rules  
10 for the lawful discipline of any employee who intentionally  
11 acts to impair, interfere with, or obstruct the orderly  
12 conduct, processes, and functions of a state university. Said  
13 rules may apply to acts conducted on or off campus when  
14 relevant to such orderly conduct, processes, and functions.

15 Section 781. Section 1012.93, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17 1012.93 Faculty members; test of spoken English.--The  
18 State Board of Education shall adopt rules requiring that all  
19 faculty members in each state university and New College,  
20 other than those persons who teach courses that are conducted  
21 primarily in a foreign language, be proficient in the oral use  
22 of English, as determined by a satisfactory grade on the "Test  
23 of Spoken English" of the Educational Testing Service or a  
24 similar test approved by the state board.

25 Section 782. Section 1012.94, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 1012.94 Evaluations of faculty members; report.--

28 (1) For the purpose of evaluating faculty members,  
29 each university board of trustees shall adopt rules for the  
30 assignment of duties and responsibilities to faculty members.  
31 These assigned duties or responsibilities shall be conveyed to

1 each faculty member at the beginning of each academic term, in  
2 writing, by his or her departmental chair or other appropriate  
3 university administrator making the assignment. In evaluating  
4 the competencies of a faculty member, primary assessment shall  
5 be in terms of his or her performance of the assigned duties  
6 and responsibilities, and such evaluation shall be given  
7 adequate consideration for the purpose of salary adjustments,  
8 promotions, reemployment, and tenure. A faculty member who is  
9 assigned full-time teaching duties as provided by law shall be  
10 rewarded with salary adjustments, promotions, reemployment, or  
11 tenure for meritorious teaching and other scholarly activities  
12 related thereto.

13 (2) The State Board of Education shall establish  
14 criteria for evaluating the quantity and quality of service to  
15 public schools by university faculty members and shall require  
16 consideration of this service in promotion, tenure, and other  
17 reward measures. Each university board of trustees shall  
18 ensure that the following policies are implemented:

19 (a) Flexible criteria for rewarding faculty members,  
20 consistent with the educational goals and objectives of the  
21 university, shall be established, which criteria shall include  
22 quality teaching and service to public schools as major  
23 factors in determining salary adjustments, promotions,  
24 reemployment, or tenure.

25 (b) Measures shall be taken to increase the  
26 recognition, reinforcements, and rewards given quality  
27 teaching and service to public schools. Such measures might  
28 include grants for professional development, curriculum  
29 improvement, and instructional innovation, as well as awards  
30 of varying kinds for meritorious teaching.

31

1           (c) The means of identifying and evaluating quality  
2 teachers and outstanding service to public schools shall be  
3 determined in accordance with established guidelines of the  
4 university.

5           (3) The chief academic officer at each state  
6 university and New College shall disseminate information to  
7 all faculty members which clearly states that service to  
8 public schools is one of the criteria used to determine salary  
9 adjustments, promotions, reemployment, and tenure for faculty  
10 members.

11           Section 783. Section 1012.945, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13           1012.945 Required number of classroom teaching hours  
14 for university faculty members.--

15           (1) As used in this section:

16           (a) "State funds" means those funds appropriated  
17 annually in the General Appropriations Act.

18           (b) "Classroom contact hour" means a regularly  
19 scheduled 1-hour period of classroom activity in a course of  
20 instruction which has been approved by the university.

21           (2) Each full-time equivalent teaching faculty member  
22 at a university who is paid wholly from state funds shall  
23 teach a minimum of 12 classroom contact hours per week at such  
24 university. However, any faculty member who is assigned by his  
25 or her departmental chair or other appropriate university  
26 administrator professional responsibilities and duties in  
27 furtherance of the mission of the university shall teach a  
28 minimum number of classroom contact hours in proportion to 12  
29 classroom hours per week as such especially assigned  
30 mentioned duties and responsibilities bear to 12  
31 classroom contact hours per week. Any full-time faculty member

1 who is paid partly from state funds and partly from other  
 2 funds or appropriations shall teach a minimum number of  
 3 classroom contact hours in such proportion to 12 classroom  
 4 contact hours per week as his or her salary paid from state  
 5 funds bears to his or her total salary. In determining the  
 6 appropriate hourly weighting of assigned duties other than  
 7 classroom contact hours, the universities shall develop and  
 8 apply a formula designed to equate the time required for  
 9 nonclassroom duties with classroom contact hours. "Full-time  
 10 equivalent teaching faculty member" shall be interpreted to  
 11 mean all faculty personnel budgeted in the instruction and  
 12 research portion of the budget, exclusive of those full-time  
 13 equivalent positions assigned to research, public service,  
 14 administrative duties, and academic advising. Full-time  
 15 administrators, librarians, and counselors shall be exempt  
 16 from the provisions of this section; and colleges of medicine  
 17 and law and others which are required for purposes of  
 18 accreditation to meet national standards prescribed by the  
 19 American Medical Association, the American Bar Association, or  
 20 other professional associations shall be exempt from the  
 21 provisions of this section to the extent that the requirements  
 22 of this section differ from the requirements of accreditation.

23 Section 784. Section 1012.95, Florida Statutes, is  
 24 created to read:

25 1012.95 University employment equity accountability  
 26 program.--

27 (1) Each state university and New College shall  
 28 maintain an annual equity plan for appropriate representation  
 29 of women and minorities in senior-level administrative  
 30 positions, within tenure-track faculty, and within  
 31 faculty-granted tenure. Such plan shall be maintained until

1 appropriate representation has been achieved. As used in this  
2 subsection, the term:

3 (a) "Appropriate representation" means category  
4 employment representation that at least meets comparable  
5 national standards for at least two consecutive reporting  
6 periods.

7 (b) "Category" means major executive, administrative,  
8 and professional grouping, including senior-level  
9 administrative and professional positions, senior academic  
10 administrative-level positions, and tenure-track faculty.

11 (2)(a) By April 1 of each year, each state university  
12 president shall submit an annual equity report to the  
13 Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education.  
14 The equity report shall consist of a status update, an  
15 analysis, and a status report of selected personnel  
16 transactions. As used in this paragraph, the term, "selected  
17 personnel transactions" means new hires in, promotions into,  
18 tenure actions in, and terminations from a category. Each  
19 university shall provide the following information for the  
20 selected personnel transactions including, but not limited to:

- 21 1. Job classification title.
- 22 2. Gender.
- 23 3. Race.
- 24 4. Appointment status.

25  
26 The status update shall assess underrepresentation in each  
27 category. The status report shall consist of current category  
28 employment representation, comparable national standards, an  
29 evaluation of representation, and annual goals to address  
30 underrepresentation.  
31

1           (b) After 1 year of implementation of a plan, and  
2 annually thereafter, for those categories in which prior year  
3 goals were not achieved, each university shall provide, in its  
4 annual equity report, a narrative explanation and a plan for  
5 achievement of equity. The plan shall include guidelines for  
6 ensuring balanced membership on selection committees and  
7 specific steps for developing a diverse pool of candidates for  
8 each vacancy in the category. The plan shall also include a  
9 systematic process by which those responsible for hiring are  
10 provided information and are evaluated regarding their  
11 responsibilities pursuant to this section.

12           (c) The equity report shall include an analysis and  
13 assessment of the university's accomplishment of annual goals,  
14 as specified in the university's affirmative action plan, for  
15 increasing the representation of women and minorities in  
16 tenure-earning and senior-level administrative positions.

17           (d) The equity report shall also include the current  
18 rank, race, and gender of faculty eligible for tenure in a  
19 category. In addition, each university shall report  
20 representation of the pool of tenure-eligible faculty at each  
21 stage of the transaction process and provide certification  
22 that each eligible faculty member was apprised annually of  
23 progress toward tenure. Each university shall also report on  
24 the dissemination of standards for achieving tenure; racial  
25 and gender composition of committees reviewing recommendations  
26 at each transaction level; and dissemination of guidelines for  
27 equitable distribution of assignments.

28           (3)(a) A factor in the evaluation of university  
29 presidents, vice presidents, deans, and chairpersons shall be  
30 their annual progress in achieving the annual and long-range  
31 hiring and promotional goals and objectives, as specified in

1 the university's equity plan and affirmative action plan.  
2 Annual budget allocations for positions and funding shall be  
3 based on this evaluation. A summary of such evaluations shall  
4 be submitted to the Commissioner of Education and the State  
5 Board of Education as part of the university's annual equity  
6 report.

7 (b) The university boards of trustees shall annually  
8 evaluate the performance of the university presidents in  
9 achieving the annual equity goals and objectives. A summary of  
10 the results of such evaluations shall be included as part of  
11 the annual equity progress report submitted by the university  
12 boards of trustees to the Legislature and the State Board of  
13 Education.

14 (4) The State Board of Education shall submit an  
15 annual equity progress report to the President of the Senate  
16 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before  
17 August 1 of each year.

18 (5) Each university shall develop a budgetary  
19 incentive plan to support and ensure attainment of the goals  
20 developed pursuant to this section. The plan shall specify, at  
21 a minimum, how resources shall be allocated to support the  
22 achievement of goals and the implementation of strategies in a  
23 timely manner. After prior review and approval by the  
24 university president and the university board of trustees, the  
25 plan shall be submitted as part of the annual equity report  
26 submitted by each university to the State Board of Education.

27 (6) Relevant components of each university's  
28 affirmative action plan may be used to satisfy the  
29 requirements of this section.

30 (7) Subject to available funding, the Legislature  
31 shall provide an annual appropriation to be allocated to the

1 universities to further enhance equity initiatives and related  
2 priorities that support the mission of departments, divisions,  
3 or colleges in recognition of the attainment of equity goals  
4 and objectives.

5 Section 785. Section 1012.96, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1012.96 IFAS extension personnel; federal health  
8 insurance programs notwithstanding the provisions of s.  
9 110.123.--The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at  
10 the University of Florida may pay the employer's share of  
11 premiums to the Federal Health Benefits Insurance Program from  
12 its appropriated budget for any cooperative extension employee  
13 of the institute having both state and federal appointments  
14 and participating in the Federal Civil Service Retirement  
15 System.

16 Section 786. Section 1012.965, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18 1012.965 Payment of costs of civil action against  
19 employees.--

20 (1) An employee or agent under the right of control of  
21 a university board of trustees who, pursuant to the university  
22 board's policies or rules, renders medical care or treatment  
23 at any hospital or health care facility with which the  
24 university board maintains an affiliation agreement whereby  
25 the hospital or health care facility provides to the  
26 university board a clinical setting for health care education,  
27 research, and services, shall not be deemed to be an agent of  
28 any person other than the university board in any civil action  
29 resulting from any act or omission of the employee or agent  
30 while rendering said medical care or treatment. For this  
31 subsection to apply, the patient shall be provided separate

1 written conspicuous notice by the university board of trustees  
2 or by the hospital or health care facility, and shall  
3 acknowledge receipt of this notice, in writing, unless  
4 impractical by reason of an emergency, either personally or  
5 through another person authorized to give consent for him or  
6 her, that he or she will receive care provided by university  
7 board's employees and liability, if any, that may arise from  
8 that care is limited as provided by law. Compliance by a  
9 hospital or health care facility with the requirements of  
10 chapter 395 or s. 766.110(1) shall not be used as evidence in  
11 any civil action to establish an employment or agency  
12 relationship between the hospital or health care facility and  
13 an employee or agent of the university board of trustees  
14 providing services within the hospital or health care  
15 facility.

16 (2) All faculty physicians employed by a university  
17 board of trustees who are subject to the requirements of s.  
18 456.013 shall complete their risk management continuing  
19 education on issues specific to academic medicine. Such  
20 continuing education shall include instruction for the  
21 supervision of resident physicians as required by the  
22 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. The  
23 boards described in s. 456.013 shall adopt rules to implement  
24 the provisions of this subsection.

25 (3) There are appropriated out of any funds available  
26 to a university, not subject to the obligation of contract,  
27 covenant, or trust, the amounts necessary to carry out the  
28 purposes of this section.

29 (4) Failure of a university board of trustees or an  
30 affiliated health care provider to do any act authorized by  
31 this section shall not constitute a cause of action against

1 the university board, or an affiliated health care provider,  
2 or any of their members, officers, or employees.

3 Section 787. Section 1012.97, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1012.97 University police.--

6 (1) Each university is empowered and directed to  
7 provide for police officers for the university, and such  
8 police officers shall hereafter be known and designated as the  
9 "university police."

10 (2) The university police are hereby declared to be  
11 law enforcement officers of the state and conservators of the  
12 peace with the right to arrest, in accordance with the laws of  
13 this state, any person for violation of state law or  
14 applicable county or city ordinances when such violations  
15 occur on any property or facilities that are under the  
16 guidance, supervision, regulation, or control of the state  
17 university or a direct-support organization of such  
18 university, except that arrest may be made off campus when hot  
19 pursuit originates on any such property or facilities. Such  
20 officers shall have full authority to bear arms in the  
21 performance of their duties and to execute search warrants  
22 within their territorial jurisdiction. University police, when  
23 requested by the sheriff or local police authority, may serve  
24 subpoenas or other legal process and may make arrest of any  
25 person against whom a warrant has been issued or any charge  
26 has been made of violation of federal or state laws or county  
27 or city ordinances.

28 (3) University police shall promptly deliver all  
29 persons arrested and charged with a felony to the sheriff of  
30 the county within which the university is located, and all  
31 persons arrested and charged with misdemeanors shall be

1 delivered to the applicable authority as may be provided by  
2 law, but otherwise to the sheriff of the county in which the  
3 university is located.

4 (4) University police must meet the minimum standards  
5 established by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training  
6 Commission and chapter 943. Each police officer shall, before  
7 entering into the performance of his or her duties, take the  
8 oath of office as established by the university; and the  
9 university may obtain and approve a bond on each officer,  
10 payable to the Governor and his or her successors in office,  
11 conditioned on the faithful performance of the duties of such  
12 university police officer. The university may determine the  
13 amount of the bond. In determining the amount of the bond, the  
14 university may consider the amount of money or property likely  
15 to be in the custody of the officer at any one time. The  
16 university shall provide a uniform set of identification  
17 credentials for each university police officer.

18 (5) In performance of any of the powers, duties, and  
19 functions authorized by law or this section, university police  
20 shall have the same rights, protections, and immunities  
21 afforded other peace or law enforcement officers.

22 (6) The university, in concurrence with the Department  
23 of Law Enforcement, shall adopt rules, including, but not  
24 limited to, the appointment, employment, and removal of  
25 university police and, further, establish in writing a policy  
26 manual, including, but not limited to, routine and emergency  
27 law enforcement situations. A policy manual shall be furnished  
28 to each university police officer.

29 Section 788. Part V of chapter 1012, Florida Statutes,  
30 shall be entitled "Professional Development" and shall consist  
31 of ss. 1012.98-1012.985.

1 Section 789. Section 1012.98, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1012.98 School Community Professional Development  
4 Act.--

5 (1) The Department of Education, public postsecondary  
6 educational institutions, public school districts, and public  
7 schools in this state shall collaborate to establish a  
8 coordinated system of professional development. The purpose of  
9 the professional development system is to enable the school  
10 community to meet state and local student achievement  
11 standards and the state education goals and to succeed in  
12 school improvement as described in s. 1000.03.

13 (2) The school community includes administrative  
14 personnel, managers, instructional personnel, support  
15 personnel, members of district school boards, members of  
16 school advisory councils, parents, business partners, and  
17 personnel that provide health and social services to school  
18 children. School districts may identify and include  
19 additional members of the school community in the professional  
20 development activities required by this section.

21 (3) The activities designed to implement this section  
22 must:

23 (a) Increase the success of educators in guiding  
24 student learning and development so as to implement state and  
25 local educational standards, goals, and initiatives.

26 (b) Assist the school community in providing  
27 stimulating educational activities that encourage and motivate  
28 students to achieve at the highest levels and to become active  
29 learners.

30 (c) Provide continuous support for all education  
31 professionals as well as temporary intervention for education

1 professionals who need improvement in knowledge, skills, and  
2 performance.

3 (4) The Department of Education, school districts,  
4 schools, community colleges, and state universities share the  
5 responsibilities described in this section. These  
6 responsibilities include the following:

7 (a) The department shall develop and disseminate to  
8 the school community model professional development methods  
9 and programs that have demonstrated success in meeting  
10 identified student needs. The Commissioner of Education shall  
11 use data on student achievement to identify student needs. The  
12 methods of dissemination must include a statewide performance  
13 support system, a database of exemplary professional  
14 development activities, a listing of available professional  
15 development resources, training programs, and technical  
16 assistance.

17 (b) Each school district shall develop a professional  
18 development system. The system shall be developed in  
19 consultation with teachers and representatives of community  
20 college and university faculty, community agencies, and other  
21 interested citizen groups to establish policy and procedures  
22 to guide the operation of the district professional  
23 development program. The professional development system  
24 must:

25 1. Be approved by the department. All substantial  
26 revisions to the system shall be submitted to the department  
27 for review for continued approval.

28 2. Require the use of student achievement data; school  
29 discipline data; school environment surveys; assessments of  
30 parental satisfaction; performance appraisal data of teachers,  
31 managers, and administrative personnel; and other performance

1 indicators to identify school and student needs that can be  
2 met by improved professional performance.

3 3. Provide inservice activities coupled with followup  
4 support that are appropriate to accomplish district-level and  
5 school-level improvement goals and standards. The inservice  
6 activities for instructional personnel shall primarily focus  
7 on subject content and teaching methods, including technology,  
8 as related to the Sunshine State Standards, assessment and  
9 data analysis, classroom management, and school safety.

10 4. Include a master plan for inservice activities,  
11 pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education, for all  
12 district employees from all fund sources. The master plan  
13 shall be updated annually by September 1 using criteria for  
14 continued approval as specified by rules of the State Board of  
15 Education. Written verification that the inservice plan meets  
16 all requirements of this section must be submitted annually to  
17 the commissioner by October 1.

18 5. Require each school principal to establish and  
19 maintain an individual professional development plan for each  
20 instructional employee assigned to the school. The individual  
21 professional development plan must:

22 a. Be related to specific performance data for the  
23 students to whom the teacher is assigned.

24 b. Define the inservice objectives and specific  
25 measurable improvements expected in student performance as a  
26 result of the inservice activity.

27 c. Include an evaluation component that determines the  
28 effectiveness of the professional development plan.

29 6. Include inservice activities for school  
30 administrative personnel that address updated skills necessary  
31 for effective school management and instructional leadership.

1           7. Provide for systematic consultation with regional  
2 and state personnel designated to provide technical assistance  
3 and evaluation of local professional development programs.

4           8. Provide for delivery of professional development by  
5 distance learning and other technology-based delivery systems  
6 to reach more educators at lower costs.

7           9. Provide for the continuous evaluation of the  
8 quality and effectiveness of professional development programs  
9 in order to eliminate ineffective programs and strategies and  
10 to expand effective ones. Evaluations must consider the impact  
11 of such activities on the performance of participating  
12 educators and their students' achievement and behavior.

13           (c) Each community college and state university shall  
14 assist the department, school districts, and schools in the  
15 design, delivery, and evaluation of professional development  
16 activities. This assistance must include active participation  
17 in state and local activities required by the professional  
18 development system.

19           (5)(a) The Department of Education shall provide a  
20 system for the recruitment, preparation, and professional  
21 development of school administrative personnel. This system  
22 shall:

23           1. Identify the knowledge, competencies, and skills  
24 necessary for effective school management and instructional  
25 leadership that align with student performance standards and  
26 accountability measures.

27           2. Include performance evaluation methods.

28           3. Provide for alternate means for preparation of  
29 school administrative personnel which may include programs  
30 designed by school districts and postsecondary educational  
31 institutions pursuant to guidelines developed by the

1 commissioner. Such preparation programs shall be approved by  
2 the Department of Education.

3 4. Provide for the hiring of qualified out-of-state  
4 school administrative personnel.

5 5. Provide advanced educational opportunities for  
6 school-based instructional leaders.

7 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a task  
8 force that includes a district school superintendent, a  
9 district school board member, a principal, an assistant  
10 principal, a teacher, a dean of a college of education, and  
11 parents. The task force shall convene periodically to provide  
12 recommendations to the department in the areas of recruitment,  
13 certification, preparation, professional development, and  
14 evaluation of school administrators.

15 (6) Each district school board shall provide funding  
16 for the professional development system as required by s.  
17 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act, and shall direct  
18 expenditures from other funding sources to strengthen the  
19 system and make it uniform and coherent. A school district  
20 may coordinate its professional development program with that  
21 of another district, with an educational consortium, or with a  
22 community college or university, especially in preparing and  
23 educating personnel. Each district school board shall make  
24 available inservice activities to instructional personnel of  
25 nonpublic schools in the district and the state certified  
26 teachers who are not employed by the district school board on  
27 a fee basis not to exceed the cost of the activity per all  
28 participants.

29 (7) An organization of private schools which has no  
30 fewer than 10 member schools in this state, which publishes  
31 and files with the Department of Education copies of its

1 standards, and the member schools of which comply with the  
2 provisions of part II of chapter 1003, relating to compulsory  
3 school attendance, may also develop a professional development  
4 system that includes a master plan for inservice activities.  
5 The system and inservice plan must be submitted to the  
6 commissioner for approval pursuant to rules of the State Board  
7 of Education.

8 (8) The Department of Education shall design methods  
9 by which the state and district school boards may evaluate and  
10 improve the professional development system. The evaluation  
11 must include an annual assessment of data that indicate  
12 progress or lack of progress of all students. If the review of  
13 the data indicates progress, the department shall identify the  
14 best practices that contributed to the progress. If the review  
15 of the data indicates a lack of progress, the department shall  
16 investigate the causes of the lack of progress, provide  
17 technical assistance, and require the school district to  
18 employ a different approach to professional development. The  
19 department shall report annually to the State Board of  
20 Education and the Legislature any school district that, in the  
21 determination of the department, has failed to provide an  
22 adequate professional development system. This report must  
23 include the results of the department's investigation and of  
24 any intervention provided.

25 (9) The State Board of Education may adopt rules  
26 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this  
27 section.

28 (10) This section does not limit or discourage a  
29 district school board from contracting with independent  
30 entities for professional development services and inservice  
31 education if the district school board believes that, through

1 such a contract, a better product can be acquired or its goals  
2 for education improvement can be better met.

3 (11) For teachers, managers, and administrative  
4 personnel who have been evaluated as less than satisfactory, a  
5 district school board shall require participation in specific  
6 professional development programs as part of the improvement  
7 prescription.

8 Section 790. Section 1012.985, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1012.985 Statewide system for inservice professional  
11 development.--The intent of this section is to establish a  
12 statewide system of professional development that provides a  
13 wide range of targeted inservice training to teachers,  
14 managers, and administrative personnel designed to upgrade  
15 skills and knowledge needed to reach world class standards in  
16 education. The system shall consist of a network of  
17 professional development academies in each region of the state  
18 that are operated in partnership with area business partners  
19 to develop and deliver high-quality training programs  
20 purchased by school districts. The academies shall be  
21 established to meet the human resource development needs of  
22 professional educators, schools, and school districts. Funds  
23 appropriated for the initiation of professional development  
24 academies shall be allocated by the Commissioner of Education,  
25 unless otherwise provided in an appropriations act. To be  
26 eligible for startup funds, the academy must:

27 (1) Be established by the collaborative efforts of one  
28 or more district school boards, members of the business  
29 community, and the postsecondary educational institutions  
30 which may award college credits for courses taught at the  
31 academy.

1           (2) Demonstrate the capacity to provide effective  
2 training to improve teaching skills in the areas of elementary  
3 reading and mathematics, the use of instructional technology,  
4 high school algebra, and classroom management, and to deliver  
5 such training using face-to-face, distance learning, and  
6 individualized computer-based delivery systems.

7           (3) Propose a plan for responding in an effective and  
8 timely manner to the professional development needs of  
9 teachers, managers, administrative personnel, schools, and  
10 school districts relating to improving student achievement and  
11 meeting state and local education goals.

12           (4) Demonstrate the ability to provide high-quality  
13 trainers and training, appropriate followup and coaching for  
14 all participants, and support school personnel in positively  
15 impacting student performance.

16           (5) Be operated under contract with its public  
17 partners and governed by an independent board of directors,  
18 which should include at least one district school  
19 superintendent and one district school board chair from the  
20 participating school districts, the president of the  
21 collective bargaining unit that represents the majority of the  
22 region's teachers, and at least three individuals who are not  
23 employees or elected or appointed officials of the  
24 participating school districts. Regional educational consortia  
25 as defined in s. 1001.451 satisfy the requirements of this  
26 subsection.

27           (6) Be financed during the first year of operation by  
28 an equal or greater match from private funding sources and  
29 demonstrate the ability to be self-supporting within 1 year  
30 after opening through fees for services, grants, or private  
31 contributions. Regional educational consortia as defined in s.

1 1001.451 which serve rural areas of critical economic concern  
2 are exempt from the funding match required by this subsection.

3 (7) Own or lease a facility that can be used to  
4 deliver training onsite and through distance learning and  
5 other technology-based delivery systems. The participating  
6 district school boards may lease a site or facility to the  
7 academy for a nominal fee and may pay all or part of the costs  
8 of renovating a facility to accommodate the academy. The  
9 academy is responsible for all operational, maintenance, and  
10 repair costs.

11 (8) Provide professional development services for the  
12 participating school districts as specified in the contract  
13 and may provide professional development services to other  
14 school districts, private schools, and individuals on a  
15 fee-for-services basis.

16 Section 791. Part VI of chapter 1012, Florida  
17 Statutes, shall be entitled "Interstate Compact on  
18 Qualifications of Educational Personnel" and shall consist of  
19 ss. 1012.99-1012.992.

20 Section 792. Section 1012.99, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22 1012.99 Interstate agreement on qualifications of  
23 educational personnel.--The interstate agreement on  
24 qualifications of educational personnel is hereby enacted into  
25 law and entered into with all jurisdictions legally joining  
26 therein, in form substantially as follows:

27  
28 ARTICLE I

29  
30 PURPOSE, FINDINGS, AND POLICY  
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DEFINITIONS

As used in this agreement and contracts made pursuant to it, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

1. "Educational personnel" means persons who must meet requirements pursuant to state law as a condition of employment in educational programs.

2. "Designated state official" means the education official of a state selected by that state to negotiate and enter into, on behalf of this state, contracts pursuant to this agreement.

3. "Accept," or any variant thereof, means to recognize and give effect to one or more determinations of another state relating to the qualifications of educational personnel in lieu of making or requiring a like determination that would otherwise be required by or pursuant to the laws of a receiving state.

4. "State" means a state, territory, or possession of the United States; the district of Columbia; or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

5. "Originating state" means a state and the subdivision thereof, if any, whose determination that certain educational personnel are qualified to be employed for specific duties in schools is acceptable in accordance with the terms of a contract made pursuant to Article III.

6. "Receiving state" means a state and the subdivisions thereof which accept educational personnel in accordance with the terms of a contract made pursuant to Article III.

ARTICLE III

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INTERSTATE EDUCATIONAL

PERSONNEL CONTRACTS

1. The designated state official of a party state may make one or more contracts on behalf of his or her state with one or more other party states providing for the acceptance of educational personnel. Any such contract for the period of its duration shall be applicable to and binding on the states whose designated state officials enter into it, and the subdivisions of those states, with the same force and effect as if incorporated in this agreement. A designated state official may enter into a contract pursuant to this article only with states in which he or she finds that there are programs of education, certification standards or other acceptable qualifications that assure preparation or qualification of educational personnel on a basis sufficiently comparable, even though not identical to that prevailing in his or her own state.

2. Any such contract shall provide for:

(a) Its duration.

(b) The criteria to be applied by an originating state in qualifying educational personnel for acceptance by a receiving state.

(c) Such waivers, substitutions, and conditional acceptances as shall aid the practical effectuation of the contract without sacrifice of basic educational standards.

(d) Any other necessary matters.

3. No contract made pursuant to this agreement shall be for a term longer than five years but any such contract may be renewed for like or lesser periods.

1           4. Any contract dealing with acceptance of educational  
2 personnel on the basis of their having completed an  
3 educational program shall specify the earliest date or dates  
4 on which originating state approval of the program or programs  
5 involved can have occurred. No contract made pursuant to this  
6 agreement shall require acceptance by a receiving state or any  
7 persons qualified because of successful completion of a  
8 program prior to January 1, 1954.

9           5. The certification or other acceptance of a person  
10 who has been accepted pursuant to the terms of a contract  
11 shall not be revoked or otherwise impaired because the  
12 contract has expired or been terminated. However, any  
13 certificate or other qualifying document may be revoked or  
14 suspended on any ground which would be sufficient for  
15 revocation or suspension of a certificate or other qualifying  
16 document initially granted or approved in the receiving state.

17           6. A contract committee composed of the designated  
18 state officials of the contracting states or their  
19 representatives shall keep the contract under continuous  
20 review, study means of improving its administration, and  
21 report no less frequently than once a year to the heads of the  
22 appropriate education agencies of the contracting states.

23  
24                                   ARTICLE IV

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26                   APPROVED AND ACCEPTED PROGRAMS

27           1. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to  
28 repeal or otherwise modify any law or regulation of a party  
29 state relating to the approval of programs of educational  
30 preparation having effect solely on the qualification of  
31 educational personnel within that state.



1 Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to prevent  
2 or inhibit other arrangements or practices of any party state  
3 or states to facilitate the interchange of educational  
4 personnel.

5  
6 ARTICLE VIII

7  
8 EFFECT AND WITHDRAWAL

9 1. This agreement shall become effective when enacted  
10 into law by two states. Thereafter it shall become effective  
11 as to any state upon its enactment of this agreement.

12 2. Any party state may withdraw from this agreement by  
13 enacting a statute repealing the same, but no such withdrawal  
14 shall take effect until one year after the governor of the  
15 withdrawing state has given notice in writing of the  
16 withdrawal to the governors of all other party states.

17 3. No withdrawal shall relieve the withdrawing state  
18 of any obligation imposed upon it by a contract to which it is  
19 a party. The duration of contracts and the methods and  
20 conditions of withdrawal therefrom shall be those specified in  
21 their terms.

22  
23 ARTICLE IX

24  
25 CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

26 This agreement shall be liberally construed so as to  
27 effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this  
28 agreement shall be severable and if any phrase, clause,  
29 sentence or provision of this agreement is declared to be  
30 contrary to the constitution of any state or of the United  
31 States, or the application thereof to any government, agency,

1 person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the  
2 remainder of this agreement and the applicability thereof to  
3 any government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be  
4 affected thereby. If this agreement shall be held contrary to  
5 the constitution of any state participating therein, the  
6 agreement shall remain in full force and effect as to the  
7 state affected as to all severable matters.

8 Section 793. Section 1012.991, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1012.991 Commissioner designated official.--For the  
11 purposes of the agreement set forth in Article IX, the  
12 "designated state official" for this state shall be the  
13 Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner of Education shall  
14 enter into contracts pursuant to Article III of the agreement  
15 only with the approval of the specific texts thereof by the  
16 State Board of Education.

17 Section 794. Section 1012.992, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1012.992 Copies of contracts with other states;  
20 depository.--Two copies of all contracts made on behalf of  
21 this state pursuant to the agreement set forth in Article IX  
22 shall be kept on file in the office of the Commissioner of  
23 Education and in the office of the Department of State. The  
24 Department of Education shall publish all such contracts in  
25 convenient form.

26 Section 795. Chapter 1013, Florida Statutes, shall be  
27 entitled "Educational Facilities" and shall consist of ss.  
28 1013.01-1013.82.

29 Section 796. Part I of chapter 1013, Florida Statutes,  
30 shall be entitled "Functions; Department of Education" and  
31 shall consist of ss. 1013.01-1013.05.

1           Section 797. Section 1013.01, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1013.01 Definitions.--The following terms shall be  
4 defined as follows for the purpose of this chapter:

5           (1) "Ancillary plant" is comprised of the building,  
6 site, and site improvements necessary to provide such  
7 facilities as vehicle maintenance, warehouses, maintenance, or  
8 administrative buildings necessary to provide support services  
9 to an educational program.

10           (2) "Auxiliary facility" means the spaces located at  
11 educational plants which are not designed for student occupant  
12 stations.

13           (3) "Board," unless otherwise specified, means a  
14 district school board, a community college board of trustees,  
15 a university board of trustees, and the Board of Trustees for  
16 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. The term  
17 "board" does not include the State Board of Education.

18           (4) "Capital project," for the purpose of s. 9(a)(2),  
19 Art. XII of the State Constitution, as amended, means sums of  
20 money appropriated from the Public Education Capital Outlay  
21 and Debt Service Trust Fund to the state system of public  
22 education and other educational agencies as authorized by the  
23 Legislature.

24           (5) "Core facilities" means the media center,  
25 cafeteria, toilet facilities, and circulation space of an  
26 educational plant.

27           (6) "Educational facilities" means the buildings and  
28 equipment, structures, and special educational use areas that  
29 are built, installed, or established to serve primarily the  
30 educational purposes and secondarily the social and  
31 recreational purposes of the community and which may lawfully

1 be used as authorized by the Florida Statutes and approved by  
2 boards.

3 (7) "Educational plant" comprises the educational  
4 facilities, site, and site improvements necessary to  
5 accommodate students, faculty, administrators, staff, and the  
6 activities of the educational program of each plant.

7 (8) "Educational plant survey" means a systematic  
8 study of present educational and ancillary plants and the  
9 determination of future needs to provide an appropriate  
10 educational program and services for each student based on  
11 projected capital outlay FTE's approved by the Department of  
12 Education.

13 (9) "Feasibility study" means the examination and  
14 analysis of information related to projected educational  
15 facilities to determine whether they are reasonable and  
16 possible.

17 (10) "Long-range planning" means devising a systematic  
18 method based on educational information and needs, carefully  
19 analyzed, to provide the facilities to meet the goals and  
20 objectives of the educational agency for a period of 5 years.

21 (11) "Low-energy usage features" means engineering  
22 features or devices that supplant or minimize the consumption  
23 of fossil fuels by heating equipment and cooling equipment.  
24 Such features may include, but are not limited to, high  
25 efficiency chillers and boilers, thermal storage tanks, solar  
26 energy systems, waste heat recovery systems, and facility load  
27 management systems.

28 (12) "Maintenance and repair" means the upkeep of  
29 educational and ancillary plants, including, but not limited  
30 to, roof or roofing replacement short of complete replacement  
31 of membrane or structure; repainting of interior or exterior

1 surfaces; resurfacing of floors; repair or replacement of  
2 glass; repair of hardware, furniture, equipment, electrical  
3 fixtures, and plumbing fixtures; and repair or resurfacing of  
4 parking lots, roads, and walkways. The term "maintenance and  
5 repair" does not include custodial or groundskeeping  
6 functions, or renovation except for the replacement of  
7 equipment with new equipment of equal systems meeting current  
8 code requirements, provided that the replacement item neither  
9 places increased demand upon utilities services or structural  
10 supports nor adversely affects the function of safety to life  
11 systems.

12 (13) "Need determination" means the identification of  
13 types and amounts of educational facilities necessary to  
14 accommodate the educational programs, student population,  
15 faculty, administrators, staff, and auxiliary and ancillary  
16 services of an educational agency.

17 (14) "New construction" means any construction of a  
18 building or unit of a building in which the entire work is new  
19 or an entirely new addition connected to an existing building  
20 or which adds additional square footage to the space  
21 inventory.

22 (15) "Passive design elements" means architectural  
23 features that minimize heat gain, heat loss, and the use of  
24 heating and cooling equipment when ambient conditions are  
25 extreme and that permit use of the facility without heating or  
26 air-conditioning when ambient conditions are moderate. Such  
27 features may include, but are not limited to, building  
28 orientation, landscaping, earth bermings, insulation, thermal  
29 windows and doors, overhangs, skylights, thermal chimneys, and  
30 other design arrangements.

31

1           (16) "Public education capital outlay (PECO) funded  
2 projects" means site acquisition, renovation, remodeling,  
3 construction projects, and site improvements necessary to  
4 accommodate buildings, equipment, other structures, and  
5 special educational use areas that are built, installed, or  
6 established to serve primarily the educational instructional  
7 program of the district school board, community college board  
8 of trustees, or university board of trustees.

9           (17) "Remodeling" means the changing of existing  
10 facilities by rearrangement of spaces and their use and  
11 includes, but is not limited to, the conversion of two  
12 classrooms to a science laboratory or the conversion of a  
13 closed plan arrangement to an open plan configuration.

14           (18) "Renovation" means the rejuvenating or upgrading  
15 of existing facilities by installation or replacement of  
16 materials and equipment and includes, but is not limited to,  
17 interior or exterior reconditioning of facilities and spaces;  
18 air-conditioning, heating, or ventilating equipment; fire  
19 alarm systems; emergency lighting; electrical systems; and  
20 complete roofing or roof replacement, including replacement of  
21 membrane or structure. As used in this subsection, the term  
22 "materials" does not include instructional materials.

23           (19) "Satisfactory educational facility" means a  
24 facility that has been recommended for continued use by an  
25 educational plant survey or that has been classified as  
26 satisfactory in the state inventory of educational facilities.

27           (20) "Site" means a space of ground occupied or to be  
28 occupied by an educational facility or program.

29           (21) "Site development" means work that must be  
30 performed on an unimproved site in order to make it usable for  
31

1 the desired purpose or work incidental to new construction or  
2 to make an addition usable.

3 (22) "Site improvement" means work that must be  
4 performed on an existing site to improve its utilization,  
5 correct health and safety deficiencies, meet special program  
6 needs, or provide additional service areas.

7 (23) "Site improvement incident to construction" means  
8 the work that must be performed on a site as an accompaniment  
9 to the construction of an educational facility.

10 (24) "Satellite facility" means the buildings and  
11 equipment, structures, and special educational use areas that  
12 are built, installed, or established by private business or  
13 industry in accordance with chapter 6A-2, Florida  
14 Administrative Code, to be used exclusively for educational  
15 purposes to serve primarily the students of its employees and  
16 that are staffed professionally by the district school board.

17 Section 798. Section 1013.02, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1013.02 Purpose; rules.--

20 (1) The purpose of this chapter is to authorize state  
21 and local officials to cooperate in establishing and  
22 maintaining educational plants that will provide for public  
23 educational needs throughout the state.

24 (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
25 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the  
26 provisions of this chapter.

27 Section 799. Section 1013.03, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1013.03 Functions of the department.--The functions of  
30 the Department of Education as it pertains to educational  
31

1 facilities shall include, but not be limited to, the  
2 following:

3 (1) Establish recommended minimum and maximum square  
4 footage standards for different functions and areas and  
5 procedures for determining the gross square footage for each  
6 educational facility to be funded in whole or in part by the  
7 state, including public broadcasting stations but excluding  
8 postsecondary special purpose laboratory space. The gross  
9 square footage determination standards may be exceeded when  
10 the core facility space of an educational facility is  
11 constructed or renovated to accommodate the future addition of  
12 classrooms to meet projected increases in student enrollment.  
13 The department shall encourage multiple use of facilities and  
14 spaces in educational plants.

15 (2) Establish, for the purpose of determining need,  
16 equitably uniform utilization standards for all types of like  
17 space, regardless of the level of education. These standards  
18 shall also establish, for postsecondary education classrooms,  
19 a minimum room utilization rate of 40 hours per week and a  
20 minimum station utilization rate of 60 percent. These rates  
21 shall be subject to increase based on national norms for  
22 utilization of postsecondary education classrooms.

23 (3) Require boards to submit other educational plant  
24 inventories data and statistical data or information relevant  
25 to construction, capital improvements, and related costs.

26 (4) Require each board and other appropriate agencies  
27 to submit complete and accurate financial data as to the  
28 amounts of funds from all sources that are available and spent  
29 for construction and capital improvements. The commissioner  
30 shall prescribe the format and the date for the submission of  
31 this data and any other educational facilities data. If any

1 district does not submit the required educational facilities  
2 fiscal data by the prescribed date, the Commissioner of  
3 Education shall notify the district school board of this fact  
4 and, if appropriate action is not taken to immediately submit  
5 the required report, the district school board shall be  
6 directed to proceed pursuant to the provisions of s.  
7 1001.42(11)(b). If any community college or university does  
8 not submit the required educational facilities fiscal data by  
9 the prescribed date, the same policy prescribed in this  
10 subsection for school districts shall be implemented.

11 (5) Administer, under the supervision of the  
12 Commissioner of Education, the Public Education Capital Outlay  
13 and Debt Service Trust Fund and the School District and  
14 Community College District Capital Outlay and Debt Service  
15 Trust Fund.

16 (6) Develop, review, update, revise, and recommend a  
17 mandatory portion of the Florida Building Code for educational  
18 facilities construction and capital improvement by community  
19 college boards and district school boards.

20 (7) Provide training, technical assistance, and  
21 building code interpretation for requirements of the mandatory  
22 Florida Building Code for the educational facilities  
23 construction and capital improvement programs of the community  
24 college boards and district school boards and, upon request,  
25 approve phase III construction documents for remodeling,  
26 renovation, or new construction of educational plants or  
27 ancillary facilities, except that university boards of  
28 trustees shall approve specifications and construction  
29 documents for their respective institutions. The Department of  
30 Management Services may, upon request, provide similar  
31 services for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and

1 shall use the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire  
2 Prevention Code.

3 (8) Provide minimum criteria, procedures, and training  
4 to boards to conduct educational plant surveys and document  
5 the determination of future needs.

6 (9) Make available to boards technical assistance,  
7 awareness training, and research and technical publications  
8 relating to lifesafety, casualty, sanitation, environmental,  
9 maintenance, and custodial issues; and, as needed, technical  
10 assistance for survey, planning, design, construction,  
11 operation, and evaluation of educational and ancillary  
12 facilities and plants, facilities administrative procedures  
13 review, and training for new administrators.

14 (10)(a) Review and validate surveys proposed or  
15 amended by the boards and recommend to the Commissioner of  
16 Education, for approval, surveys that meet the requirements of  
17 this chapter.

18 1. The term "validate" as applied to surveys by school  
19 districts means to review inventory data as submitted to the  
20 department by district school boards; provide for review and  
21 inspection, where required, of student stations and aggregate  
22 square feet of inventory changed from satisfactory to  
23 unsatisfactory or changed from unsatisfactory to satisfactory;  
24 compare new school inventory to allocation limits provided by  
25 this chapter; review cost projections for conformity with cost  
26 limits set by s. 1013.64(6); compare total capital outlay  
27 full-time equivalent enrollment projections in the survey with  
28 the department's projections; review facilities lists to  
29 verify that student station and auxiliary facility space  
30 allocations do not exceed the limits provided by this chapter  
31 and related rules; review and confirm the application of

1 uniform facility utilization factors, where provided by this  
2 chapter or related rules; utilize the documentation of  
3 programs offered per site, as submitted by the board, to  
4 analyze facility needs; confirm that need projections for  
5 career and technical and adult educational programs comply  
6 with needs documented by the Office of Workforce and Economic  
7 Development; and confirm the assignment of full-time student  
8 stations to all space except auxiliary facilities, which, for  
9 purposes of exemption from student station assignment, include  
10 the following:

- 11 a. Cafeterias.
- 12 b. Multipurpose dining areas.
- 13 c. Media centers.
- 14 d. Auditoriums.
- 15 e. Administration.
- 16 f. Elementary, middle, and high school resource rooms,  
17 up to the number of such rooms recommended for the applicable  
18 occupant and space design capacity of the educational plant in  
19 the State Requirements for Educational Facilities, beyond  
20 which student stations must be assigned.
- 21 g. Elementary school skills labs, up to the number of  
22 such rooms recommended for the applicable occupant and space  
23 design capacity of the educational plant in the State  
24 Requirements for Educational Facilities, beyond which student  
25 stations must be assigned.
- 26 h. Elementary school art and music rooms.

27 2. The term "validate" as applied to surveys by  
28 community colleges and universities means to review and  
29 document the approval of each new site and official  
30 designation, where applicable; review the inventory database  
31 as submitted by each board to the department, including

1 noncareer and technical, and total capital outlay full-time  
2 equivalent enrollment projections per site and per college;  
3 provide for the review and inspection, where required, of  
4 student stations and aggregate square feet of space changed  
5 from satisfactory to unsatisfactory; utilize and review the  
6 documentation of programs offered per site submitted by the  
7 boards as accurate for analysis of space requirements and  
8 needs; confirm that needs projected for career and technical  
9 and adult educational programs comply with needs documented by  
10 the Office of Workforce and Economic Development; compare new  
11 facility inventory to allocations limits as provided in this  
12 chapter; review cost projections for conformity with state  
13 averages or limits designated by this chapter; compare student  
14 enrollment projections in the survey to the department's  
15 projections; review facilities lists to verify that area  
16 allocations and space factors for generating space needs do  
17 not exceed the limits as provided by this chapter and related  
18 rules; confirm the application of facility utilization factors  
19 as provided by this chapter and related rules; and review, as  
20 submitted, documentation of how survey recommendations will  
21 implement the detail of current campus master plans and  
22 integrate with local comprehensive plans and development  
23 regulations.

24 (b) Recommend priority of projects to be funded for  
25 approval by the state board, when required by law.

26 (11) Prepare the commissioner's comprehensive fixed  
27 capital outlay legislative budget request and provide annually  
28 an estimate of the funds available for developing required  
29 3-year priority lists. This amount shall be based upon the  
30 average percentage for the 5 prior years of funds appropriated  
31 by the Legislature for fixed capital outlay to each level of

1 public education: public schools, community colleges, and  
2 universities.

3 (12) Perform any other functions that may be involved  
4 in educational facilities construction and capital improvement  
5 which shall ensure that the intent of the Legislature is  
6 implemented.

7 Section 800. Section 1013.04, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9 1013.04 School district facilities work program  
10 performance and productivity standards; development;  
11 measurement; application.--

12 (1) The Office of Educational Facilities and SMART  
13 Schools Clearinghouse shall develop and adopt measures for  
14 evaluating the performance and productivity of school district  
15 facilities work programs. The measures may be both  
16 quantitative and qualitative and must, to the maximum extent  
17 practical, assess those factors that are within the districts'  
18 control. The measures must, at a minimum, assess performance  
19 in the following areas:

20 (a) Frugal production of high-quality projects.

21 (b) Efficient finance and administration.

22 (c) Optimal school and classroom size and utilization  
23 rate.

24 (d) Safety.

25 (e) Core facility space needs and cost-effective  
26 capacity improvements that consider demographic projections.

27 (f) Level of district local effort.

28 (2) The office shall establish annual performance  
29 objectives and standards that can be used to evaluate district  
30 performance and productivity.

31

1           (3) The office shall conduct ongoing evaluations of  
 2 district educational facilities program performance and  
 3 productivity, using the measures adopted under this section.  
 4 If, using these measures, the office finds that a district  
 5 failed to perform satisfactorily, the office must recommend to  
 6 the district school board actions to be taken to improve the  
 7 district's performance.

8           Section 801. Section 1013.05, Florida Statutes, is  
 9 created to read:

10           1013.05 Office of Educational Facilities and SMART  
 11 (Soundly Made, Accountable, Reasonable, and Thrifty) Schools  
 12 Clearinghouse.--

13           (1) The SMART Schools Clearinghouse is established to  
 14 assist school districts that seek to access School  
 15 Infrastructure Thrift (SIT) Program awards pursuant to ss.  
 16 1013.42 and 1013.72 or effort index grants pursuant to s.  
 17 1013.73. The office must use expedited procedures in providing  
 18 such assistance.

19           (2) The office shall prioritize school district SIT  
 20 Program awards based on a review of the district facilities  
 21 work programs and proposed construction projects.

22           Section 802. Part II of chapter 1013, Florida  
 23 Statutes, shall be entitled "Use and Management of Educational  
 24 Facilities" and shall consist of ss. 1013.10-1013.28.

25           Section 803. Section 1013.10, Florida Statutes, is  
 26 created to read:

27           1013.10 Use of buildings and grounds.--The board may  
 28 permit the use of educational facilities and grounds for any  
 29 legal assembly or for community use centers or may permit the  
 30 same to be used as voting places in any primary, regular, or  
 31 special election. The board shall adopt rules or policies and

1 procedures necessary to protect educational facilities and  
2 grounds when used for such purposes.

3 Section 804. Section 1013.11, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1013.11 Postsecondary institutions assessment of  
6 physical plant safety.--The president of each postsecondary  
7 institution shall conduct or cause to be conducted an annual  
8 assessment of physical plant safety. An annual report shall  
9 incorporate the findings obtained through such assessment and  
10 recommendations for the improvement of safety on each campus.  
11 The annual report shall be submitted to the respective  
12 governing or licensing board of jurisdiction no later than  
13 January 1 of each year. Each board shall compile the  
14 individual institutional reports and convey the aggregate  
15 institutional reports to the Commissioner of Education. The  
16 Commissioner of Education shall convey these reports and the  
17 reports required in s. 1008.48 to the President of the Senate  
18 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than  
19 March 1 of each year.

20 Section 805. Section 1013.12, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22 1013.12 Safety and sanitation standards and inspection  
23 of property.--The State Board of Education shall adopt and  
24 administer rules prescribing standards for the safety and  
25 health of occupants of educational and ancillary plants as a  
26 part of State Requirements for Educational Facilities or the  
27 Florida Building Code for educational facilities construction  
28 as provided in s. 1013.37, the provisions of chapter 633 to  
29 the contrary notwithstanding. These standards must be used by  
30 all public agencies when inspecting public educational and  
31 ancillary plants. In accordance with such standards, each

1 board shall prescribe policies and procedures establishing a  
2 comprehensive program of safety and sanitation for the  
3 protection of occupants of public educational and ancillary  
4 plants. Such policies must contain procedures for periodic  
5 inspections as prescribed herein and for withdrawal of any  
6 educational and ancillary plant, or portion thereof, from use  
7 until unsafe or unsanitary conditions are corrected or  
8 removed.

9 (1) PERIODIC INSPECTION OF PROPERTY BY DISTRICT SCHOOL  
10 BOARDS.--

11 (a) Each board shall provide for periodic inspection  
12 of each educational and ancillary plant at least once during  
13 each fiscal year to determine compliance with standards of  
14 sanitation and casualty safety prescribed in the rules of the  
15 State Board of Education.

16 (b) Firesafety inspections of each educational and  
17 ancillary plant must be made annually by persons certified by  
18 the Division of State Fire Marshal to be eligible to conduct  
19 firesafety inspections in public educational and ancillary  
20 plants.

21 (c) In each firesafety inspection report, the board  
22 shall include a plan of action and a schedule for the  
23 correction of each deficiency. If immediate life-threatening  
24 deficiencies are noted in any inspection, the board shall  
25 either take action to promptly correct the deficiencies or  
26 withdraw the educational or ancillary plant from use until  
27 such time as the deficiencies are corrected.

28 (2) INSPECTION OF EDUCATIONAL PROPERTY BY OTHER PUBLIC  
29 AGENCIES.--

30 (a) A safety or sanitation inspection of any  
31 educational or ancillary plant may be made at any time by the

1 Department of Education or any other state or local agency  
2 authorized or required to conduct such inspections by either  
3 general or special law. Each agency conducting inspections  
4 shall use the standards adopted by the Commissioner of  
5 Education in lieu of, and to the exclusion of, any other  
6 inspection standards prescribed either by statute or  
7 administrative rule, the provisions of chapter 633 to the  
8 contrary notwithstanding. The agency shall submit a copy of  
9 the inspection report to the board.

10 (b) In addition to district school board inspections,  
11 the applicable local fire control authority shall also  
12 annually inspect district school board educational facilities  
13 within its fire control district, using the standards adopted  
14 by the Commissioner of Education. Reports shall be filed with  
15 the district school board, and a copy shall be on file with  
16 the local site administrator.

17 (3) CORRECTIVE ACTION.--Upon failure of the board to  
18 take corrective action within a reasonable time, the agency  
19 making the inspection may request the commissioner to:

20 (a) Order that appropriate action be taken to correct  
21 all deficiencies in accordance with a schedule determined  
22 jointly by the inspecting authority and the board; in  
23 developing the schedule, consideration must be given to the  
24 seriousness of the deficiencies and the ability of the board  
25 to obtain the necessary funds; or

26 (b) After 30 calendar days' notice to the board, order  
27 all or a portion of the educational or ancillary plant  
28 withdrawn from use until the deficiencies are corrected.

29 (4) INSPECTIONS OF PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION  
30 FACILITIES.--Firesafety inspections of community college and  
31

1 university facilities shall comply with State Board of  
2 Education rules.

3 Section 806. Section 1013.13, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5 1013.13 Coordination of school safety information;  
6 construction design documents.--

7 (1) Each district school superintendent must provide  
8 to the law enforcement agency and fire department that has  
9 jurisdiction over each educational facility a copy of the  
10 floor plans and other relevant documents for each educational  
11 facility in the district, as defined in s. 1013.01. After the  
12 initial submission of the floor plans and other relevant  
13 documents, the district superintendent of schools shall  
14 submit, by October 1 of each year, revised floor plans and  
15 other relevant documents for each educational facility in the  
16 district that was modified during the preceding year.

17 (2) Each community college president must provide to  
18 the law enforcement agency and fire department that has  
19 jurisdiction over the community college a copy of the floor  
20 plans and other relevant documents for each educational  
21 facility as defined in s. 1013.01. After the initial  
22 submission of the floor plans and other relevant documents,  
23 the community college president shall submit, by October 1 of  
24 each year, revised floor plans and other relevant documents  
25 for each educational facility that was modified during the  
26 preceding year.

27 Section 807. Section 1013.14, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1013.14 Proposed purchase of real property by a board;  
30 confidentiality of records; procedure.--

31

1           (1)(a) In any case in which a board, pursuant to the  
2 provisions of this chapter, seeks to acquire by purchase any  
3 real property for educational purposes, every appraisal,  
4 offer, or counteroffer must be in writing and is exempt from  
5 the provisions of s. 119.07(1) until an option contract is  
6 executed or, if no option contract is executed, until 30 days  
7 before a contract or agreement for purchase is considered for  
8 approval by the board. If a contract or agreement for purchase  
9 is not submitted to the board for approval, the exemption from  
10 s. 119.07(1) shall expire 30 days after the termination of  
11 negotiations. The board shall maintain complete and accurate  
12 records of every such appraisal, offer, and counteroffer. For  
13 the purposes of this section, the term "option contract" means  
14 an agreement by the board to purchase a piece of property,  
15 subject to the approval of the board at a public meeting after  
16 30 days' public notice.

17           (b) Prior to acquisition of the property, the board  
18 shall obtain at least one appraisal by an appraiser approved  
19 pursuant to s. 253.025(6)(b) for each purchase in an amount  
20 greater than \$100,000 and not more than \$500,000. For each  
21 purchase in an amount in excess of \$500,000, the board shall  
22 obtain at least two appraisals by appraisers approved pursuant  
23 to s. 253.025(6)(b). If the agreed to purchase price exceeds  
24 the average appraised value, the board is required to approve  
25 the purchase by an extraordinary vote.

26           (2) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as  
27 providing an exemption from, or an exception to, s. 286.011.

28           Section 808. Section 1013.15, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30           1013.15 Lease, rental, and lease-purchase of  
31 educational facilities and sites.--

1           (1) A board may lease any land, facilities, or  
2 educational plants owned by it to any person or entity for  
3 such term, for such rent, and upon such terms and conditions  
4 as the board determines to be in its best interests; any such  
5 lease may provide for the optional or binding purchase of the  
6 land, facilities, or educational plants by the lessee upon  
7 such terms and conditions as the board determines are in its  
8 best interests. A determination that any such land, facility,  
9 or educational plant so leased is unnecessary for educational  
10 purposes is not a prerequisite to the leasing or  
11 lease-purchase of such land, facility, or educational plant.  
12 Prior to entering into or executing any such lease, a board  
13 shall consider approval of the lease or lease-purchase  
14 agreement at a public meeting, at which a copy of the proposed  
15 agreement in its final form shall be available for inspection  
16 and review by the public, after due notice as required by law.

17           (2)(a) A district school board may rent or lease  
18 educational facilities and sites as defined in s. 1013.01.  
19 Educational facilities and sites rented or leased for 1 year  
20 or less shall be funded through the operations budget or funds  
21 derived from millage proceeds pursuant to s. 1011.71(2). A  
22 lease contract for 1 year or less, when extended or renewed  
23 beyond a year, becomes a multiple-year lease. Operational  
24 funds or funds derived from millage proceeds pursuant to s.  
25 1011.71(2) may be authorized to be expended for multiple-year  
26 leases. All leased facilities and sites must be inspected  
27 prior to occupancy by the authority having jurisdiction.

28           1. All newly leased spaces must be inspected and  
29 brought into compliance with the Florida Building Code  
30 pursuant to chapter 553 and the life safety codes pursuant to  
31 chapter 633, prior to occupancy, using the board's operations

1 budget or funds derived from millage proceeds pursuant to s.  
2 1011.71(2).

3 2. Plans for renovation or remodeling of leased space  
4 shall conform to the Florida Building Code and the Florida  
5 Fire Prevention Code for educational occupancies or other  
6 occupancies, as appropriate and as required in chapters 553  
7 and 633, prior to occupancy.

8 3. All leased facilities must be inspected annually  
9 for firesafety deficiencies in accordance with the applicable  
10 code and have corrections made in accordance with s. 1013.12.  
11 Operational funds or funds derived from millage proceeds  
12 pursuant to s. 1011.71(2) may be used to correct deficiencies  
13 in leased space.

14 4. When the board declares that a public emergency  
15 exists, it may take up to 30 days to bring the leased facility  
16 into compliance with the requirements of State Board of  
17 Education rules.

18 (b) A board is authorized to lease-purchase  
19 educational facilities and sites as defined in s. 1013.01. The  
20 lease-purchase of educational facilities and sites shall be as  
21 required by s. 1013.37, shall be advertised for and receive  
22 competitive proposals and be awarded to the best proposer, and  
23 shall be funded using current or other funds specifically  
24 authorized by law to be used for such purpose.

25 1. A district school board, by itself, or through a  
26 direct-support organization formed pursuant to s. 1013.77 or  
27 nonprofit educational organization or a consortium of district  
28 school boards, may, in developing a lease-purchase of  
29 educational facilities and sites provide for separately  
30 advertising for and receiving competitive bids or proposals on  
31 the construction of facilities and the selection of financing

1 to provide the lowest cost funding available, so long as the  
2 board determines that such process would best serve the public  
3 interest and the pledged revenues are limited to those  
4 authorized in s. 1011.71(2)(e).

5 2. All activities and information, including lists of  
6 individual participants, associated with agreements made  
7 pursuant to this section shall be subject to the provisions of  
8 chapter 119 and s. 286.011.

9 (c)1. The term of any lease-purchase agreement,  
10 including the initial term and any subsequent renewals, shall  
11 not exceed the useful life of the educational facilities and  
12 sites for which the agreement is made, or 30 years, whichever  
13 is less.

14 2. The initial term or any renewal term of any  
15 lease-purchase agreement shall expire on June 30 of each  
16 fiscal year, but may be automatically renewed annually,  
17 subject to a board making sufficient annual appropriations  
18 therefor. Under no circumstances shall the failure of a board  
19 to renew a lease-purchase agreement constitute a default or  
20 require payment of any penalty or in any way limit the right  
21 of a board to purchase or utilize educational facilities and  
22 sites similar in function to the educational facilities and  
23 sites that are the subject of the said lease-purchase  
24 agreement. Educational facilities and sites being acquired  
25 pursuant to a lease-purchase agreement shall be exempt from ad  
26 valorem taxation.

27 3. No lease-purchase agreement entered into pursuant  
28 to this subsection shall constitute a debt, liability, or  
29 obligation of the state or a board or shall be a pledge of the  
30 faith and credit of the state or a board.

31

1           4. Any lease-purchase agreement entered into pursuant  
2 to this subsection shall stipulate an annual rate which may  
3 consist of a principal component and an interest component,  
4 provided that the maximum interest rate of any interest  
5 component payable under any such lease-purchase agreement, or  
6 any participation or certificated portion thereof, shall be  
7 calculated in accordance with and be governed by the  
8 provisions of s. 215.84.

9           (3) Lease agreements entered into by university boards  
10 of trustees shall comply with the provisions of s. 1013.171.

11           (4)(a) A board may rent or lease existing buildings,  
12 or space within existing buildings, originally constructed or  
13 used for purposes other than education, for conversion to use  
14 as educational facilities. Such buildings rented or leased for  
15 1 year or less shall be funded through the operations budget  
16 or funds derived from millage pursuant to s. 1011.71(2). A  
17 rental agreement or lease contract for 1 year or less, when  
18 extended or renewed beyond a year, becomes a multiple-year  
19 rental or lease. Operational funds or funds derived from  
20 millage proceeds pursuant to s. 1011.71(2) may be authorized  
21 to be expended for multiple-year rentals or leases.

22 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, if a  
23 building was constructed in conformance with all applicable  
24 building and life safety codes, it shall be deemed to meet the  
25 requirements for use and occupancy as an educational facility  
26 subject only to the provisions of this subsection.

27           (b) Prior to occupying a rented or a leased existing  
28 building, or space within an existing building, pursuant to  
29 this subsection, a school board shall, in a public meeting,  
30 adopt a resolution certifying that the following circumstances  
31 apply to the building proposed for occupancy:

- 1           1. Growth among the school-age population in the  
2 school district has created a need for new educational  
3 facilities in a neighborhood where there is little or no  
4 vacant land.
- 5           2. There exists a supply of vacant space in existing  
6 buildings that meet state minimum building and life safety  
7 codes.
- 8           3. Acquisition and conversion to use as educational  
9 facilities of an existing building or buildings is a  
10 cost-saving means of providing the needed classroom space as  
11 determined by the difference between the cost of new  
12 construction, including land acquisition and preparation and,  
13 if applicable, demolition of existing structures, and the cost  
14 of acquisition through rental or lease and conversion of an  
15 existing building or buildings.
- 16           4. The building has been examined for suitability,  
17 safety, and conformance with state minimum building and life  
18 safety codes. The building examination shall consist, at a  
19 minimum, of a review of existing documents, building site  
20 reconnaissance, and analysis of the building conducted by, or  
21 under the responsible charge of, a licensed structural  
22 engineer.
- 23           5. A certificate of evaluation has been issued by an  
24 appropriately licensed design professional which states that,  
25 based on available documents, building site reconnaissance,  
26 current knowledge, and design judgment in the professional's  
27 opinion, the building meets the requirements of state minimum  
28 building and life safety codes, provides safe egress of  
29 occupants from the building, provides adequate firesafety, and  
30 does not pose a substantial threat to life to persons who  
31 would occupy the building for classroom use.

1           6. The plans for conversion of the building were  
 2 prepared by an appropriate design professional licensed in  
 3 this state and the work of conversion was performed by  
 4 contractors licensed in this state.

5           7. The conversion of the building was observed by an  
 6 appropriate design professional licensed in this state.

7           8. The building has been reviewed, inspected, and  
 8 granted a certificate of occupancy by the local building  
 9 department.

10           9. All ceilings, light fixtures, ducts, and registers  
 11 within the area to be occupied for classroom purposes were  
 12 constructed or have been reconstructed to meet state minimum  
 13 requirements.

14           Section 809. Section 1013.16, Florida Statutes, is  
 15 created to read:

16           1013.16 Construction of facilities on leased property;  
 17 conditions.--

18           (1) A board may construct or place educational  
 19 facilities and ancillary facilities on land that is owned by  
 20 any person after the board has acquired from the owner of the  
 21 land a long-term lease for the use of this land for a period  
 22 of not less than 40 years or the life expectancy of the  
 23 permanent facilities constructed thereon, whichever is longer.

24           (2) A board may enter into a short-term lease for the  
 25 use of land owned by any person on which temporary or  
 26 relocatable facilities are to be utilized.

27           Section 810. Section 1013.17, Florida Statutes, is  
 28 created to read:

29           1013.17 University leasing in affiliated research and  
 30 development park.--A university is exempt from the  
 31 requirements of s. 255.25(3), (4), and (8) when leasing

1 educational facilities in a research and development park with  
2 which the university is affiliated and when the State Board of  
3 Education certifies in writing that the leasing of said  
4 educational facilities is in the best interests of the  
5 university and that the exemption from competitive bid  
6 requirements would not be detrimental to the state.

7 Section 811. Section 1013.171, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9 1013.171 University lease agreements; land,  
10 facilities.--

11 (1) Each university is authorized to negotiate and  
12 enter into agreements to lease land under its jurisdiction to  
13 for-profit and nonprofit corporations, registered by the  
14 Secretary of State to do business in this state, for the  
15 purpose of erecting thereon facilities and accommodations  
16 necessary and desirable to serve the needs and purposes of the  
17 university, as determined by the systemwide strategic plan  
18 adopted by the State Board of Education. Such agreement will  
19 be for a term not in excess of 99 years or the life expectancy  
20 of the permanent facilities constructed thereon, whichever is  
21 shorter, and shall include as a part of the consideration  
22 provisions for the eventual ownership of the completed  
23 facilities by the state. The Board of Trustees of the Internal  
24 Improvement Trust Fund upon request of the university shall  
25 lease any such property to the university for sublease as  
26 heretofore provided.

27 (2) Each university board of trustees is authorized to  
28 enter into agreements with for-profit and nonprofit  
29 corporations, registered by the Secretary of State to do  
30 business in this state, whereby income-producing buildings,  
31 improvements, and facilities necessary and desirable to serve

1 the needs and purposes of the university, as determined by the  
2 systemwide strategic plan adopted by the State Board of  
3 Education, are acquired by purchase or lease-purchase by the  
4 university. When such agreements provide for lease-purchase of  
5 facilities erected on land that is not under the jurisdiction  
6 of the university, the agreement shall include as a part of  
7 the consideration provisions for the eventual ownership of the  
8 land and facility by the state. Agreements for lease-purchase  
9 shall not exceed 30 years or the life expectancy of the  
10 permanent facility constructed, whichever is shorter.  
11 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, the  
12 university board of trustees may enter into an agreement for  
13 the lease-purchase of a facility under this section for a term  
14 greater than 1 year. Each university board of trustees is  
15 authorized to use any auxiliary trust funds, available and not  
16 otherwise obligated, to pay rent to the owner should income  
17 from the facilities not be sufficient in any debt payment  
18 period. The trust funds used for payment of rent shall be  
19 reimbursed as soon as possible to the extent that income from  
20 the facilities exceeds the amount necessary for such debt  
21 payment.

22 (3) Each university board of trustees may:

23 (a) Construct educational facilities on land that is  
24 owned by a direct-support organization, as defined in s.  
25 1004.28, or a governmental agency at the federal, state,  
26 county, or municipal level, if the university has acquired a  
27 long-term lease for the use of the land. The lease must be for  
28 at least 40 years or the expected time the facilities to be  
29 constructed on the land are expected to remain in a condition  
30 acceptable for use, whichever is longer.

31

1           (b) Acquire a short-term lease from one of the  
2 entities listed in paragraph (a) for the use of land, if  
3 adequate temporary or relocatable facilities are available on  
4 the land.

5           (c) Enter into a short-term lease for the use of land  
6 and buildings upon which capital improvements may be made.

7  
8 If sufficient land is not available from any of the entities  
9 listed in paragraph (a), a university may acquire a short-term  
10 lease from a private landowner or developer.

11           (4) Agreements as provided in this section shall be  
12 entered into with an offeror resulting from publicly announced  
13 competitive bids or proposals, except that the university may  
14 enter into an agreement with an entity enumerated in paragraph  
15 (3)(a) for leasing land or with a direct-support organization  
16 as provided in s. 1004.28, which shall enter into subsequent  
17 agreements for financing and constructing the project after  
18 receiving competitive bids or proposals. Any facility  
19 constructed, lease-purchased, or purchased under such  
20 agreements, whether erected on land under the jurisdiction of  
21 the university or not, shall conform to the construction  
22 standards and codes applicable to university facilities. Each  
23 university board of trustees shall adopt such rules as are  
24 necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities imposed  
25 by this section.

26           (5) Agreements executed by the State Board of  
27 Education prior to January 1, 1980, for the purposes listed  
28 herein shall be validated, and said board's capacity to act in  
29 such cases ratified and confirmed.

30           Section 812. Section 1013.18, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1013.18 Radio and television facilities.--

2           (1) A board may acquire, by purchase, license,  
3 permanent easement, or gift, suitable lands and other  
4 facilities, either within or without the boundaries of the  
5 district, for use in providing educational radio or television  
6 transmitting sites and may erect such buildings, antennas,  
7 transmission equipment, towers, or other structures as are  
8 necessary to accomplish the purposes of this section.

9           (2) Fixed capital outlay budget requests for public  
10 broadcasting stations and instructional television and radio  
11 facilities shall be submitted pursuant to s. 1013.60. The  
12 commissioner may include any recommendations for these  
13 purposes in the legislative budget request for fixed capital  
14 outlay.

15           Section 813. Section 1013.19, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17           1013.19 Purchase, conveyance, or encumbrance of  
18 property interests above surface of land; joint-occupancy  
19 structures.--For the purpose of implementing jointly financed  
20 construction project agreements, or for the construction of  
21 combined occupancy structures, any board may purchase, own,  
22 convey, sell, lease, or encumber airspace or any other  
23 interests in property above the surface of the land, provided  
24 the lease of airspace for nonpublic use is for such reasonable  
25 rent, length of term, and conditions as the board in its  
26 discretion may determine. All proceeds from such sale or lease  
27 shall be used by the board or boards receiving the proceeds  
28 solely for fixed capital outlay purposes. These purposes may  
29 include the renovation or remodeling of existing facilities  
30 owned by the board or the construction of new facilities;  
31 however, for a community college board or university board,

1 such new facility must be authorized by the Legislature. It is  
2 declared that the use of such rental by the board for public  
3 purposes in accordance with its statutory authority is a  
4 public use. Airspace or any other interest in property held by  
5 the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund  
6 or the State Board of Education may not be divested or  
7 conveyed without approval of the respective board. Any  
8 building, including any building or facility component that is  
9 common to both nonpublic and educational portions thereof,  
10 constructed in airspace that is sold or leased for nonpublic  
11 use pursuant to this section is subject to all applicable  
12 state, county, and municipal regulations pertaining to land  
13 use, zoning, construction of buildings, fire protection,  
14 health, and safety to the same extent and in the same manner  
15 as such regulations would be applicable to the construction of  
16 a building for nonpublic use on the appurtenant land beneath  
17 the subject airspace. Any educational facility constructed or  
18 leased as a part of a joint-occupancy facility is subject to  
19 all rules and requirements of the respective boards or  
20 departments having jurisdiction over educational facilities.

21 Section 814. Effective upon this act becoming a law,  
22 section 1013.20, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

23 1013.20 Standards for relocatables used as classroom  
24 space; inspections.--

25 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
26 establishing standards for relocatables intended for long-term  
27 use as classroom space at a public elementary school, middle  
28 school, or high school. "Long-term use" means the use of  
29 relocatables at the same educational plant for a period of 4  
30 years or more. Each relocatable acquired by a district school  
31 board after the effective date of the rules and intended for

1 long-term use must comply with the standards. District school  
2 boards shall submit a plan for the use of existing  
3 relocatables within the 5-year work program to be reviewed and  
4 approved by the commissioner by January 1, 2003. A progress  
5 report shall be provided by the commissioner to the Speaker of  
6 the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate  
7 each January thereafter. Relocatables that fail to meet the  
8 standards after completion of the approved plan may not be  
9 used as classrooms. The standards shall protect the health,  
10 safety, and welfare of occupants by requiring compliance with  
11 the Florida Building Code or the State Requirements for  
12 Educational Facilities for existing relocatables, as  
13 applicable, to ensure the safety and stability of construction  
14 and onsite installation; fire and moisture protection; air  
15 quality and ventilation; appropriate wind resistance; and  
16 compliance with the requirements of the Americans with  
17 Disabilities Act of 1990. If appropriate and where  
18 relocatables are not scheduled for replacement, the standards  
19 must also require relocatables to provide access to the same  
20 technologies available to similar classrooms within the main  
21 school facility and, if appropriate, and where relocatables  
22 are not scheduled for replacement, to be accessible by  
23 adequate covered walkways. A relocatable that is subject to  
24 this section and does not meet the standards shall not be  
25 reported as providing satisfactory student stations in the  
26 Florida Inventory of School Houses.

27 (2) Annual inspections for all satisfactory  
28 relocatables designed for classroom use or being occupied by  
29 students are required for: foundations; tie-downs; structural  
30 integrity; weatherproofing; HVAC; electrical; plumbing, if  
31 applicable; firesafety; and accessibility. Reports shall be

1 filed with the district school board and posted in each  
2 respective relocatable in order to facilitate corrective  
3 action.

4 Section 815. Section 1013.21, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1013.21 Reduction of relocatable facilities in use.--

7 (1)(a) It is a goal of the Legislature that all school  
8 districts shall provide a quality educational environment for  
9 their students such that, by July 1, 2003, student stations in  
10 relocatable facilities exceeding 20 years of age and in use by  
11 a district during the 1998-1999 fiscal year shall be removed  
12 and the number of all other relocatable student stations at  
13 over-capacity schools during that fiscal year shall be  
14 decreased by half. The Legislature finds, however, that  
15 necessary maintenance of existing facilities and public school  
16 enrollment growth impair the ability of some districts to  
17 achieve the goal of this section within 5 years. Therefore,  
18 the Legislature is increasing its commitment to school funding  
19 in this act, in part to help districts reduce the number of  
20 temporary, relocatable student stations at over-capacity  
21 schools. The Legislature intends that local school districts  
22 also increase their investment toward meeting this goal. Each  
23 district's progress toward meeting this goal shall be measured  
24 annually by comparing district facilities work programs for  
25 replacing relocatables with the state capital outlay  
26 projections for education prepared by the Office of  
27 Educational Facilities and SMART Schools Clearinghouse.  
28 District facilities work programs shall be monitored by the  
29 SMART Schools Clearinghouse to measure the commitment of local  
30 school districts toward this goal.

31

1           **(b) For the purposes of this section, an**  
 2 **"over-capacity school" means a school the capital outlay FTE**  
 3 **enrollment of which exceeds 100 percent of the space and**  
 4 **occupant design capacity of its nonrelocatable facilities.**  
 5 **However, if a school's initial design incorporated relocatable**  
 6 **or modular instructional space, an "over-capacity school"**  
 7 **shall mean a school the capital outlay FTE enrollment of which**  
 8 **exceeds 100 percent of the space and occupant design capacity**  
 9 **of its core facilities.**

10           **(2) In accordance with the legislative goal described**  
 11 **in subsection (1), any relocatables purchased with money**  
 12 **appropriated pursuant to chapter 97-384, Laws of Florida,**  
 13 **shall be counted at actual student capacity for purposes of s.**  
 14 **1013.31 for the life cycle of the relocatable.**

15           Section 816. Section 1013.22, Florida Statutes, is  
 16 created to read:

17           **1013.22 Obscenity on educational buildings or**  
 18 **vehicles.--Whoever willfully cuts, paints, pastes, marks, or**  
 19 **defaces by writing or in any other manner any educational**  
 20 **building, furniture, apparatus, appliance, outbuilding,**  
 21 **ground, fence, tree, post, vehicle, or other educational**  
 22 **property with an obscene word, image, or device commits a**  
 23  **misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.**  
 24 **775.082 or s. 775.083. This section shall not apply to any**  
 25 **student in grades K-12 subject to the discipline of a district**  
 26 **school board.**

27           Section 817. Section 1013.23, Florida Statutes, is  
 28 created to read:

29           **1013.23 Energy efficiency contracting.--**

30           **(1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Legislature finds that**  
 31 **investment in energy conservation measures in educational**

1 facilities can reduce the amount of energy consumed and  
2 produce immediate and long-term savings. It is the policy of  
3 this state to encourage school districts, community colleges,  
4 and state universities to invest in energy conservation  
5 measures that reduce energy consumption, produce a cost  
6 savings, and improve the quality of indoor air in facilities,  
7 and, when economically feasible, to build, operate, maintain,  
8 or renovate educational facilities in such a manner so as to  
9 minimize energy consumption and maximize energy savings. It is  
10 further the policy of this state to encourage school  
11 districts, community colleges, and state universities to  
12 reinvest any energy savings resulting from energy conservation  
13 measures into additional energy conservation efforts.

14 (2) DEFINITIONS.--For purposes of this section, the  
15 term:

16 (a) "Energy conservation measure" means a training  
17 program, facility alteration, or equipment to be used in new  
18 construction, including an addition to an existing facility,  
19 that reduces energy costs, and includes, but is not limited  
20 to:

21 1. Insulation of the facility structure and systems  
22 within the facility.

23 2. Storm windows and doors, caulking or  
24 weatherstripping, multi-glazed windows and doors,  
25 heat-absorbing, or heat-reflective, glazed and coated window  
26 and door systems, additional glazing, reductions in glass  
27 area, and other window and door system modifications that  
28 reduce energy consumption.

29 3. Automatic energy control systems.

30 4. Heating, ventilating, or air-conditioning system  
31 modifications or replacements.

- 1           5. Replacement or modifications of lighting fixtures  
2 to increase the energy efficiency of the lighting system  
3 which, at a minimum, shall conform to the Florida Building  
4 Code.
- 5           6. Energy recovery systems.
- 6           7. Cogeneration systems that produce steam or forms of  
7 energy such as heat, as well as electricity, for use primarily  
8 within a facility or complex of facilities.
- 9           8. Energy conservation measures that provide long-term  
10 operating cost reductions and significantly reduce Btu  
11 consumed.
- 12           9. Renewable energy systems, such as solar, biomass,  
13 and wind.
- 14           10. Devices which reduce water consumption or sewer  
15 charges.
- 16           (b) "Energy cost savings" means:
- 17           1. A measured reduction in fuel, energy, or operation  
18 and maintenance costs created from the implementation of one  
19 or more energy conservation measures when compared with an  
20 established baseline for previous fuel, energy, or operation  
21 and maintenance costs; or
- 22           2. For new construction, a projected reduction in  
23 fuel, energy, or operation and maintenance costs created from  
24 the implementation of one or more energy conservation measures  
25 when compared with the projected fuel, energy, or operation  
26 and maintenance costs for equipment if the minimum standards  
27 of the Florida Building Code for educational facilities  
28 construction were implemented and signed and sealed by a  
29 registered professional engineer.
- 30           (c) "Energy performance-based contract" means a  
31 contract for the evaluation, recommendation, and

1 implementation of energy conservation measures which includes,  
2 at a minimum:

3 1. The design and installation of equipment to  
4 implement one or more of such measures, and, if applicable,  
5 operation and maintenance of such measures.

6 2. The amount of any actual annual savings. This  
7 amount must meet or exceed total annual contract payments made  
8 by the district school board, community college board of  
9 trustees, or state university board of trustees for such  
10 contract.

11 3. Financing charges to be incurred by the district  
12 school board, community college board of trustees, or state  
13 university board of trustees over the life of the contract.

14 (d) "Energy performance contractor" means a person or  
15 business licensed pursuant to chapter 471, chapter 481, or  
16 chapter 489 and experienced in the analysis, design,  
17 implementation, and installation of energy conservation  
18 measures through the implementation of energy  
19 performance-based contracts.

20 (3) ENERGY PERFORMANCE-BASED CONTRACT PROCEDURES.--  
21 (a) A district school board, community college board  
22 of trustees, or state university board of trustees may enter  
23 into an energy performance-based contract with an energy  
24 performance contractor to significantly reduce energy or  
25 operating costs of an educational facility through one or more  
26 energy conservation measures.

27 (b) The energy performance contractor shall be  
28 selected in compliance with s. 287.055; except that in a case  
29 where a district school board, community college board of  
30 trustees, or state university board of trustees determines  
31 that fewer than three firms are qualified to perform the

1 required services, the requirement for agency selection of  
2 three firms, as provided in s. 287.055(4)(b), shall not apply  
3 and the bid requirements of s. 287.057 shall not apply.

4 (c) Before entering into a contract pursuant to this  
5 section, the district school board, community college board of  
6 trustees, or state university board of trustees shall provide  
7 published notice of the meeting in which it proposes to award  
8 the contract, the names of the parties to the proposed  
9 contract, and the contract's purpose.

10 (d) Prior to the design and installation of the energy  
11 conservation measure, the district school board, community  
12 college board of trustees, or state university board of  
13 trustees must obtain from the energy performance contractor a  
14 report that discloses all costs associated with the energy  
15 conservation measure and provides an estimate of the amount of  
16 the energy cost savings. The report must be reviewed by either  
17 the Department of Education or the Department of Management  
18 Services or signed and sealed by a registered professional  
19 engineer.

20 (e) A district school board, community college board  
21 of trustees, or state university board of trustees may enter  
22 into an energy performance-based contract with an energy  
23 performance contractor if, after review of the report required  
24 by paragraph (d), it finds that the amount it would spend on  
25 the energy conservation measures recommended in the report  
26 will not exceed the amount to be saved in energy and operation  
27 costs over 20 years from the date of installation, based on  
28 life-cycle costing calculations, if the recommendations in the  
29 report were followed and if the energy performance contractor  
30 provides a written guarantee that the energy or operating cost  
31 savings will meet or exceed the costs of the system. The

1 contract may provide for payments over a period of time not to  
2 exceed 20 years.

3 (f) A district school board, community college board  
4 of trustees, or state university board of trustees may enter  
5 into an installment payment contract for the purchase and  
6 installation of energy conservation measures. The contract  
7 shall provide for payments of not less than one-twentieth of  
8 the price to be paid within 2 years from the date of the  
9 complete installation and acceptance by the district school  
10 board, community college board of trustees, or state  
11 university board of trustees, and the remaining costs to be  
12 paid at least quarterly, not to exceed a 20-year term based on  
13 life-cycle costing calculations.

14 (g) Energy performance-based contracts may extend  
15 beyond the fiscal year in which they become effective;  
16 however, the term of any contract shall expire at the end of  
17 each fiscal year and may be automatically renewed annually up  
18 to 20 years, subject to a district school board, community  
19 college board of trustees, or state university board of  
20 trustees making sufficient annual appropriations based upon  
21 continued realized energy cost savings. Such contracts shall  
22 stipulate that the agreement does not constitute a debt,  
23 liability, or obligation of the state or a district school  
24 board, community college board of trustees, or state  
25 university board of trustees, or a pledge of the faith and  
26 credit of the state or a district school board, community  
27 college board of trustees, or state university board of  
28 trustees.

29 (4) CONTRACT PROVISIONS.--

30 (a) An energy performance-based contract shall include  
31 a guarantee by the energy performance contractor that annual

1 energy cost savings will meet or exceed the amortized cost of  
2 energy conservation measures.

3 (b) The contract shall provide that all payments,  
4 except obligations on termination of the contract before its  
5 expiration, are to be made over time, but not to exceed 20  
6 years from the date of complete installation and acceptance by  
7 the district school board, community college board of  
8 trustees, or state university board of trustees, and that the  
9 annual savings are guaranteed to the extent necessary to make  
10 annual payments to satisfy the contract.

11 (c) The contract must require that the energy  
12 performance contractor to whom the contract is awarded provide  
13 a 100-percent public construction bond to the district school  
14 board, community college board of trustees, or state  
15 university board of trustees for its faithful performance, as  
16 required by s. 255.05.

17 (d) The contract shall require the energy performance  
18 contractor to provide to the district school board, community  
19 college board of trustees, or state university board of  
20 trustees an annual reconciliation of the guaranteed energy  
21 cost savings. The energy performance contractor shall be  
22 liable for any annual savings shortfall which may occur. In  
23 the event that such reconciliation reveals an excess in annual  
24 energy cost savings, such excess savings shall not be used to  
25 cover potential energy cost savings shortages in subsequent  
26 contract years.

27 Section 818. Section 1013.24, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29 1013.24 Right of eminent domain.--There is conferred  
30 upon the district school boards in the state the authority and  
31 right to take private property for any public school purpose

1 or use when, in the opinion of the school board, such property  
2 is needed in the operation of any or all of the public schools  
3 within the district, including property needed for any school  
4 purpose or use in any school district or districts within the  
5 county. The absolute fee simple title to all property so  
6 taken and acquired shall vest in the district school board,  
7 unless the school board seeks to appropriate a particular  
8 right or estate in such property.

9           Section 819. Section 1013.25, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11           1013.25 When university or community college board of  
12 trustees may exercise power of eminent domain.--Whenever it  
13 becomes necessary for the welfare and convenience of any of  
14 its institutions or divisions to acquire private property for  
15 the use of such institutions, and this cannot be acquired by  
16 agreement satisfactory to a university or community college  
17 board of trustees and the parties interested in, or the owners  
18 of, the private property, the board of trustees may exercise  
19 the power of eminent domain after receiving approval therefor  
20 from the State Board of Education and may then proceed to  
21 condemn the property in the manner provided by chapter 73 or  
22 chapter 74.

23           Section 820. Section 1013.26, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25           1013.26 Department of Legal Affairs to represent  
26 university board in condemnation proceedings.--Any suits or  
27 actions brought by a university board of trustees to condemn  
28 property, as provided in s. 1013.25, shall be brought in the  
29 name of the university board of trustees, and the Department  
30 of Legal Affairs shall conduct the proceedings for, and act as  
31 the counsel of, the university board of trustees.

1 Section 821. Section 1013.27, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1013.27 Purchase of land by municipality.--Any  
4 municipality wherein a community college as defined by s.  
5 1004.65 is situated may purchase land with municipal funds and  
6 to donate and convey the land or any other land to the  
7 community college board of trustees.

8 Section 822. Section 1013.28, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1013.28 Disposal of property.--

11 (1) REAL PROPERTY.--Subject to rules of the State  
12 Board of Education, a board may dispose of any land or real  
13 property that is, by resolution of the board, determined to be  
14 unnecessary for educational purposes as recommended in an  
15 educational plant survey. A board shall take diligent measures  
16 to dispose of educational property only in the best interests  
17 of the public. However, appraisals may be obtained by the  
18 board prior to or simultaneously with the receipt of bids.

19 (2) TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.--Tangible personal  
20 property which has been properly classified as surplus by a  
21 district school board or community college board of trustees  
22 shall be disposed of in accordance with the procedure  
23 established by chapter 274 and by a university board of  
24 trustees by chapter 273. However, the provisions of chapter  
25 274 shall not be applicable to a motor vehicle used in driver  
26 education to which title is obtained for a token amount from  
27 an automobile dealer or manufacturer. In such cases, the  
28 disposal of the vehicle shall be as prescribed in the  
29 contractual agreement between the automotive agency or  
30 manufacturer and the board.

31

1           Section 823. Part III of chapter 1013, Florida  
2 Statutes, shall be entitled "Planning and Construction of  
3 Educational Facilities" and shall consist of ss.  
4 1013.30-1013.54.

5           Section 824. Part III.a. of chapter 1013, Florida  
6 Statutes, shall be entitled "Campus Master Plans and  
7 Educational Plant Surveys" and shall consist of ss.  
8 1013.30-1013.365.

9           Section 825. Section 1013.30, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11           1013.30 University campus master plans and campus  
12 development agreements.--

13           (1) This section contains provisions for campus  
14 planning and concurrency management that supersede the  
15 requirements of part II of chapter 163, except when stated  
16 otherwise in this section. These special growth management  
17 provisions are adopted in recognition of the unique  
18 relationship between university campuses and the local  
19 governments in which they are located. While the campuses  
20 provide research and educational benefits of statewide and  
21 national importance, and further provide substantial  
22 educational, economic, and cultural benefits to their host  
23 local governments, they may also have an adverse impact on the  
24 public facilities and services and natural resources of host  
25 governments. On balance, however, universities should be  
26 considered as vital public facilities of the state and local  
27 governments. The intent of this section is to address this  
28 unique relationship by providing for the preparation of campus  
29 master plans and associated campus development agreements.

30           (2) As used in this section:  
31

- 1           (a) "Affected local government" means a unit of local  
2 government that provides public services to or is responsible  
3 for maintaining facilities within a campus of an institution  
4 or is directly affected by development that is proposed for a  
5 campus.
- 6           (b) "Affected person" means a host local government;  
7 an affected local government; any state, regional, or federal  
8 agency; or a person who resides, owns property, or owns or  
9 operates a business within the boundaries of a host local  
10 government or affected local government.
- 11           (c) "Host local government" means a local government  
12 within the jurisdiction of which all or part of a campus of an  
13 institution is located, but does not include a county if no  
14 part of an institution is located within its unincorporated  
15 area.
- 16           (d) "Institution" means a university.
- 17           (3) Each university board of trustees shall prepare  
18 and adopt a campus master plan for the university. The master  
19 plan must identify general land uses and address the need for  
20 and plans for provision of roads, parking, public  
21 transportation, solid waste, drainage, sewer, potable water,  
22 and recreation and open space during the coming 10 to 20  
23 years. The plans must contain elements relating to future land  
24 use, intergovernmental coordination, capital improvements,  
25 recreation and open space, general infrastructure, housing,  
26 and conservation. Each element must address compatibility with  
27 the surrounding community. The master plan must identify  
28 specific land uses, location of structures, densities and  
29 intensities of use, and contain standards for onsite  
30 development, site design, environmental management, and the  
31 preservation of historic and archaeological resources. The

1 transportation element must address reasonable transportation  
2 demand management techniques to minimize offsite impacts where  
3 possible. Data and analyses on which the elements are based  
4 must include, at a minimum: the characteristics of vacant  
5 lands; projected impacts of development on onsite and offsite  
6 infrastructure, public services, and natural resources;  
7 student enrollment projections; student housing needs; and the  
8 need for academic and support facilities. Master plans must be  
9 updated at least every 5 years.

10 (4) Campus master plans may contain additional  
11 elements at the discretion of the State Board of Education;  
12 however, such elements are not subject to review under this  
13 section. These additional elements may include the academic  
14 mission of the institution, academic program, utilities,  
15 public safety, architectural design, landscape architectural  
16 design, and facilities maintenance.

17 (5) Subject to the right of the university board of  
18 trustees to initiate the dispute resolution provisions of  
19 subsection (8), a campus master plan must not be in conflict  
20 with the comprehensive plan of the host local government and  
21 the comprehensive plan of any affected local governments. A  
22 campus master plan must be consistent with the state  
23 comprehensive plan.

24 (6) Before a campus master plan is adopted, a copy of  
25 the draft master plan must be sent for review to the host and  
26 any affected local governments, the state land planning  
27 agency, the Department of Environmental Protection, the  
28 Department of Transportation, the Department of State, the  
29 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the applicable  
30 water management district and regional planning council. These  
31 agencies must be given 90 days after receipt of the campus

1 master plans in which to conduct their review and provide  
2 comments to the university board of trustees. The commencement  
3 of this review period must be advertised in newspapers of  
4 general circulation within the host local government and any  
5 affected local government to allow for public comment.  
6 Following receipt and consideration of all comments, and the  
7 holding of at least two public hearings within the host  
8 jurisdiction, the university board of trustees shall adopt the  
9 campus master plan. It is the intent of the Legislature that  
10 the university board of trustees comply with the notice  
11 requirements set forth in s. 163.3184(15) to ensure full  
12 public participation in this planning process. Campus master  
13 plans developed under this section are not rules and are not  
14 subject to chapter 120 except as otherwise provided in this  
15 section.

16 (7) Notice that the campus master plan has been  
17 adopted must be forwarded within 45 days after its adoption to  
18 any affected person that submitted comments on the draft  
19 campus master plan. The notice must state how and where a copy  
20 of the master plan may be obtained or inspected. Within 30  
21 days after receipt of the notice of adoption of the campus  
22 master plan, or 30 days after the date the adopted plan is  
23 available for review, whichever is later, an affected person  
24 who submitted comments on the draft master plan may petition  
25 the university board of trustees, challenging the campus  
26 master plan as not being in compliance with this section or  
27 any rule adopted under this section. The petition must state  
28 each objection, identify its source, and provide a recommended  
29 action. A petition filed by an affected local government may  
30 raise only those issues directly pertaining to the public  
31 facilities or services that the affected local government

1 provides to or maintains within the campus or to the direct  
2 impact that campus development would have on the affected  
3 local government.

4 (8) Following receipt of a petition, the petitioning  
5 party or parties and the university board of trustees shall  
6 mediate the issues in dispute as follows:

7 (a) The parties have 60 days to resolve the issues in  
8 dispute. Other affected parties that submitted comments on the  
9 draft campus master plan must be given the opportunity to  
10 participate in these and subsequent proceedings.

11 (b) If resolution of the matter cannot be achieved  
12 within 60 days, the issues must be submitted to the state land  
13 planning agency. The state land planning agency has 60 days to  
14 hold informal hearings, if necessary, identify the issues  
15 remaining in dispute, prepare a record of the proceedings, and  
16 submit the matter to the Administration Commission for final  
17 action. The report to the Administration Commission must list  
18 each issue in dispute, describe the nature and basis for each  
19 dispute, identify alternative resolutions of the dispute, and  
20 make recommendations.

21 (c) After receiving the report from the state land  
22 planning agency, the Administration Commission shall take  
23 action to resolve the issues in dispute. In deciding upon a  
24 proper resolution, the Administration Commission shall  
25 consider the nature of the issues in dispute, the compliance  
26 of the parties with this section, the extent of the conflict  
27 between the parties, the comparative hardships, and the public  
28 interest involved. If the Administration Commission  
29 incorporates in its final order a term or condition that  
30 specifically requires the university board of trustees or a  
31 local government to amend or modify its plan, the university

1 board of trustees shall have a reasonable period of time to  
2 amend or modify its plan, and a local government shall  
3 initiate the required plan amendment, which shall be exempt  
4 from the requirements of s. 163.3187(1). Any required  
5 amendment to a local government comprehensive plan must be  
6 limited in scope so as to only relate to specific impacts  
7 attributable to the campus development. The final order of the  
8 Administration Commission is subject to judicial review as  
9 provided in s. 120.68.

10 (9) An amendment to a campus master plan must be  
11 reviewed and adopted under subsections (6)-(8) if such  
12 amendment, alone or in conjunction with other amendments,  
13 would:

14 (a) Increase density or intensity of use of land on  
15 the campus by more than 10 percent;

16 (b) Decrease the amount of natural areas, open space,  
17 or buffers on the campus by more than 10 percent; or

18 (c) Rearrange land uses in a manner that will increase  
19 the impact of any proposed campus development by more than 10  
20 percent on a road or on another public facility or service  
21 provided or maintained by the state, the county, the host  
22 local government, or any affected local government.

23 (10) Upon adoption of a campus master plan, the  
24 university board of trustees shall draft a proposed campus  
25 development agreement for each local government and send it to  
26 the local government within 270 days after the adoption of the  
27 relevant campus master plan.

28 (11) At a minimum, each campus development agreement:

29 (a) Must identify the geographic area of the campus  
30 and local government covered by the campus development  
31 agreement.

- 1           **(b) Must establish its duration, which must be at**  
2 **least 5 years and not more than 10 years.**
- 3           **(c) Must address public facilities and services**  
4 **including roads, sanitary sewer, solid waste, drainage,**  
5 **potable water, parks and recreation, and public**  
6 **transportation.**
- 7           **(d) Must, for each of the facilities and services**  
8 **listed in paragraph (c), identify the level-of-service**  
9 **standard established by the applicable local government,**  
10 **identify the entity that will provide the service to the**  
11 **campus, and describe any financial arrangements between the**  
12 **State Board of Education and other entities relating to the**  
13 **provision of the facility or service.**
- 14           **(e) Must, for each of the facilities and services**  
15 **listed in paragraph (c), determine the impact of existing and**  
16 **proposed campus development reasonably expected over the term**  
17 **of the campus development agreement on each service or**  
18 **facility and any deficiencies in such service or facility**  
19 **which the proposed campus development will create or to which**  
20 **it will contribute.**
- 21           **(f) May, if proposed by the university board of**  
22 **trustees, address the issues prescribed in paragraphs (d) and**  
23 **(e) with regard to additional facilities and services,**  
24 **including, but not limited to, electricity, nonpotable water,**  
25 **law enforcement, fire and emergency rescue, gas, and**  
26 **telephone.**
- 27           **(g) Must, to the extent it addresses issues addressed**  
28 **in the campus master plan and host local government**  
29 **comprehensive plan, be consistent with the adopted campus**  
30 **master plan and host local government comprehensive plan.**  
31

1           (12)(a) Each proposed campus development agreement  
2 must clearly identify the lands to which the university board  
3 of trustees intends the campus development agreement to apply.

4           (b) Such land may include:

5           1. Land to be purchased by the university board of  
6 trustees and if purchased with state appropriated funds titled  
7 in the name of the board of trustees of the Internal  
8 Improvement Trust Fund for use by an institution over the life  
9 of the campus development agreement.

10           2. Land not owned by the board of trustees of the  
11 Internal Improvement Trust Fund if the university board of  
12 trustees intends to undertake development activities on the  
13 land during the term of the campus development agreement.

14           (c) Land owned by the Board of Trustees of the  
15 Internal Improvement Trust Fund for lease to the State Board  
16 of Education acting on behalf of the institution may be  
17 excluded, but any development activity undertaken on excluded  
18 land is subject to part II of chapter 163.

19           (13) With regard to the impact of campus development  
20 on the facilities and services listed in paragraph (11)(c),  
21 the following applies:

22           (a) All improvements to facilities or services which  
23 are necessary to eliminate the deficiencies identified in  
24 paragraph (11)(e) must be specifically listed in the campus  
25 development agreement.

26           (b) The university board of trustees' fair share of  
27 the cost of the measures identified in paragraph (a) must be  
28 stated in the campus development agreement. In determining the  
29 fair share, the effect of any demand management techniques,  
30 which may include such techniques as flexible work hours and  
31

1 carpooling, that are used by the State Board of Education to  
2 minimize the offsite impacts shall be considered.

3 (c) The university board of trustees is responsible  
4 for paying the fair share identified in paragraph (b), and it  
5 may do so by:

6 1. Paying a fair share of each of the improvements  
7 identified in paragraph (a); or  
8 2. Taking on full responsibility for the improvements,  
9 selected from the list of improvements identified in paragraph  
10 (a), and agreed to between the host local government and the  
11 State Board of Education, the total cost of which equals the  
12 contribution identified in paragraph (b).

13 (d) All concurrency management responsibilities of the  
14 university board of trustees are fulfilled if the university  
15 board of trustees expends the total amount of funds identified  
16 in paragraph (b) notwithstanding that the university board of  
17 trustees may not have undertaken or made contributions to some  
18 of the measures identified in paragraph (a).

19 (e) Capital projects included in the campus  
20 development agreement may be used by the local government for  
21 the concurrency management purposes.

22 (f) Funds provided by universities in accordance with  
23 campus development agreements are subject to appropriation by  
24 the Legislature. A development authorized by a campus  
25 development agreement may not be built until the funds to be  
26 provided pursuant to paragraph (b) are appropriated by the  
27 Legislature.

28 (14) A campus development agreement may not address or  
29 include any standards or requirements for onsite development,  
30 including environmental management requirements or  
31 requirements for site preparation.

1           (15) Once the university board of trustees and host  
2 local government agree on the provisions of the campus  
3 development agreement, the campus development agreement shall  
4 be executed by the university board of trustees and the host  
5 local government in a manner consistent with the requirements  
6 of s. 163.3225. Once the campus development agreement is  
7 executed, it is binding upon the university board of trustees  
8 and host local government. A copy of the executed campus  
9 development agreement must be sent to the state land planning  
10 agency within 14 days after the date of execution.

11           (16) If, within 180 days following the host local  
12 government's receipt of the proposed campus development  
13 agreement, the university board of trustees and host local  
14 government cannot reach agreement on the provisions of the  
15 campus development agreement, the following procedures for  
16 resolving the matter must be followed:

17           (a) The matter must be submitted to the state land  
18 planning agency, which has 60 days to hold informal hearings,  
19 if necessary, and identify the issues remaining in dispute,  
20 prepare a record of the proceedings, and submit the matter to  
21 the Administration Commission for final action. The report to  
22 the Administration Commission must list each issue in dispute,  
23 describe the nature and basis for each dispute, identify  
24 alternative resolutions of each dispute, and make  
25 recommendations.

26           (b) After receiving the report from the state land  
27 planning agency, the Administration Commission shall take  
28 action to resolve the issues in dispute. In deciding upon a  
29 proper resolution, the Administration Commission shall  
30 consider the nature of the issues in dispute, the compliance  
31 of the parties with this section, the extent of the conflict

1 between the parties, the comparative hardships, and the public  
2 interest involved. In resolving the matter, the Administration  
3 Commission may prescribe, by order, the contents of the campus  
4 development agreement.

5 (17) Disputes that arise in the implementation of an  
6 executed campus development agreement must be resolved as  
7 follows:

8 (a) Each party shall select one mediator and notify  
9 the other in writing of the selection. Thereafter, within 15  
10 days after their selection, the two mediators selected by the  
11 parties shall select a neutral, third mediator to complete the  
12 mediation panel.

13 (b) Each party is responsible for all costs and fees  
14 payable to the mediator selected by it and shall equally bear  
15 responsibility for the costs and fees payable to the third  
16 mediator for services rendered and costs expended in  
17 connection with resolving disputes pursuant to the campus  
18 development agreement.

19 (c) Within 10 days after the selection of the  
20 mediation panel, proceedings must be convened by the panel to  
21 resolve the issues in dispute.

22 (d) Within 60 days after the convening of the panel,  
23 the panel shall issue a report containing a recommended  
24 resolution of the issues in dispute.

25 (e) If either the university board of trustees or  
26 local government rejects the recommended resolution of the  
27 issues in dispute, the disputed issues must be resolved  
28 pursuant to the procedures provided by subsection (16).

29 (18) Once the campus development agreement is  
30 executed, all campus development may proceed without further  
31 review by the host local government if it is consistent with

1 the adopted campus master plan and associated campus  
2 development agreement.

3 (19) A campus development agreement may be amended  
4 under subsections (10)-(16):

5 (a) In conjunction with any amendment to the campus  
6 master plan subject to the requirements in subsection (9).

7 (b) If either party delays by more than 12 months the  
8 construction of a capital improvement identified in the  
9 agreement.

10 (20) Any party to a campus development agreement or  
11 aggrieved or adversely affected person, as defined in s.  
12 163.3215(2), may file an action for injunctive relief in the  
13 circuit court where the host local government is located to  
14 enforce the terms of a campus development agreement or to  
15 challenge compliance of the agreement with this section. This  
16 action shall be the sole and exclusive remedy of an adversely  
17 affected person other than a party to the agreement to enforce  
18 any rights or obligations arising from a development  
19 agreement.

20 (21) State and regional environmental program  
21 requirements remain applicable, except that this section  
22 supersedes all other sections of part II of chapter 163 and s.  
23 380.06 except as provided in this section.

24 (22) In consultation with the state land planning  
25 agency, the State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
26 implementing subsections (3)-(6). The rules must set specific  
27 schedules and procedures for the development and adoption of  
28 campus master plans.

29 (23) Until the campus master plan and campus  
30 development agreement for an institution have been finalized,  
31 any dispute between the university board of trustees and a

1 local government relating to campus development for that  
2 institution shall be resolved by the process established in  
3 subsection (8).

4 Section 826. Section 1013.31, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6 1013.31 Educational plant survey; localized need  
7 assessment; PECO project funding.--

8 (1) At least every 5 years, each board shall arrange  
9 for an educational plant survey, to aid in formulating plans  
10 for housing the educational program and student population,  
11 faculty, administrators, staff, and auxiliary and ancillary  
12 services of the district or campus, including consideration of  
13 the local comprehensive plan. The Office of Workforce and  
14 Economic Development shall document the need for additional  
15 career and adult education programs and the continuation of  
16 existing programs before facility construction or renovation  
17 related to career or adult education may be included in the  
18 educational plant survey of a school district or community  
19 college that delivers career or adult education programs.  
20 Information used by the Office of Workforce and Economic  
21 Development to establish facility needs must include, but need  
22 not be limited to, labor market data, needs analysis, and  
23 information submitted by the school district or community  
24 college.

25 (a) Survey preparation and required data.--Each survey  
26 shall be conducted by the board or an agency employed by the  
27 board. Surveys shall be reviewed and approved by the board,  
28 and a file copy shall be submitted to the commissioner. The  
29 survey report shall include at least an inventory of existing  
30 educational and ancillary plants; recommendations for existing  
31 educational and ancillary plants; recommendations for new

1 educational or ancillary plants, including the general  
2 location of each in coordination with the land use plan;  
3 campus master plan update and detail for community colleges;  
4 the utilization of school plants based on an extended school  
5 day or year-round operation; and such other information as may  
6 be required by the rules of the State Board of Education. This  
7 report may be amended, if conditions warrant, at the request  
8 of the board or commissioner.

9 (b) Required need assessment criteria for district,  
10 community college, and state university plant surveys.--Each  
11 educational plant survey completed must use uniform data  
12 sources and criteria specified in this paragraph. Each revised  
13 educational plant survey and each new educational plant survey  
14 supersedes previous surveys.

15 1. Each school district's educational plant survey  
16 must reflect the capacity of existing satisfactory facilities  
17 as reported in the Florida Inventory of School Houses.  
18 Projections of facility space needs may not exceed the norm  
19 space and occupant design criteria established by the State  
20 Requirements for Educational Facilities. Existing and  
21 projected capital outlay full-time equivalent student  
22 enrollment must be consistent with data prepared by the  
23 department and must include all enrollment used in the  
24 calculation of the distribution formula in s. 1013.64(3). To  
25 insure that the data reported to the Department of Education  
26 as required by this section is correct, the department shall  
27 annually conduct an onsite review of 5 percent of the  
28 facilities reported for each school district completing a new  
29 survey that year. If the department's review finds the data  
30 reported by a district is less than 95 percent accurate,  
31 within one year from the time of notification by the

1 department the district must submit revised reports correcting  
2 its data. If a district fails to correct its reports, the  
3 commissioner may direct that future fixed capital outlay funds  
4 be withheld until such time as the district has corrected its  
5 reports so that they are not less than 95 percent accurate.  
6 All satisfactory relocatable classrooms, including those  
7 owned, lease-purchased, or leased by the school district,  
8 shall be included in the school district inventory of gross  
9 capacity of facilities and must be counted at actual student  
10 capacity for purposes of the inventory. For future needs  
11 determination, student capacity shall not be assigned to any  
12 relocatable classroom that is scheduled for elimination or  
13 replacement with a permanent educational facility in the  
14 adopted 5-year educational plant survey and in the district  
15 facilities work program adopted under s. 1013.35. Those  
16 relocatables clearly identified and scheduled for replacement  
17 in a school board adopted financially feasible 5-year district  
18 facilities work program shall be counted at zero capacity at  
19 the time the work program is adopted and approved by the  
20 school board. However, if the district facilities work program  
21 is changed or altered and the relocatables are not replaced as  
22 scheduled in the work program, they must then be reentered  
23 into the system for counting at actual capacity. Relocatables  
24 may not be perpetually added to the work program and  
25 continually extended for purposes of circumventing the intent  
26 of this section. All remaining relocatable classrooms,  
27 including those owned, lease-purchased, or leased by the  
28 school district, shall be counted at actual student capacity.  
29 The educational plant survey shall identify the number of  
30 relocatable student stations scheduled for replacement during  
31 the 5-year survey period and the total dollar amount needed

1 for that replacement. All district educational plant surveys  
2 shall include information on leased space used for conducting  
3 the district's instructional program, in accordance with the  
4 recommendations of the department's report authorized in s.  
5 1013.15. A definition of satisfactory relocatable classrooms  
6 shall be established by rule of the State Board of Education.

7 2. Each survey of a special facility, joint-use  
8 facility, or cooperative career and technical education  
9 facility must be based on capital outlay full-time equivalent  
10 student enrollment data prepared by the department for school  
11 districts, community colleges, and universities. A survey of  
12 space needs of a joint-use facility shall be based upon the  
13 respective space needs of the school districts, community  
14 colleges, and universities, as appropriate. Projections of a  
15 school district's facility space needs may not exceed the norm  
16 space and occupant design criteria established by the State  
17 Requirements for Educational Facilities.

18 3. Each community college's survey must reflect the  
19 capacity of existing facilities as specified in the inventory  
20 maintained by the Department of Education. Projections of  
21 facility space needs must comply with standards for  
22 determining space needs as specified by rule of the State  
23 Board of Education. The 5-year projection of capital outlay  
24 student enrollment must be consistent with the annual report  
25 of capital outlay full-time student enrollment prepared by the  
26 Department of Education.

27 4. Each state university's survey must reflect the  
28 capacity of existing facilities as specified in the inventory  
29 maintained and validated by the Department of Education.  
30 Projections of facility space needs must be consistent with  
31 standards for determining space needs approved by the

1 Department of Education. The projected capital outlay  
2 full-time equivalent student enrollment must be consistent  
3 with the 5-year planned enrollment cycle for the State  
4 University System approved by the Department of Education.

5 5. The educational plant survey of a school district,  
6 community college, or state university may include space needs  
7 that deviate from approved standards for determining space  
8 needs if the deviation is justified by the district or  
9 institution and approved by the department as necessary for  
10 the delivery of an approved educational program.

11 (c) Review and validation.--The department shall  
12 review and validate the surveys of school districts, community  
13 colleges, and universities, and any amendments thereto for  
14 compliance with the requirements of this chapter and, when  
15 required by the State Constitution, shall recommend those in  
16 compliance for approval by the State Board of Education.  
17 Annually, the department shall perform an in-depth analysis of  
18 a representative sample of each survey of recommended needs  
19 for five districts selected by the commissioner from among  
20 districts with the largest need-to-revenue ratio. For the  
21 purpose of this subsection, the need-to-revenue ratio is  
22 determined by dividing the total 5-year cost of projects  
23 listed on the district survey by the total 5-year fixed  
24 capital outlay revenue projections from state and local  
25 sources as determined by the department. The commissioner may  
26 direct fixed capital outlay funds to be withheld from  
27 districts until such time as the survey accurately projects  
28 facilities needs.

29 (2) Only the district school superintendent, community  
30 college president, or university president shall certify to  
31

1 the department a project's compliance with the requirements  
2 for expenditure of PECO funds prior to release of funds.

3 (a) Upon request for release of PECO funds for  
4 planning purposes, certification must be made to the  
5 department that the need and location of the facility are in  
6 compliance with the board-approved survey recommendations and  
7 that the project meets the definition of a PECO project and  
8 the limiting criteria for expenditures of PECO funding.

9 (b) Upon request for release of construction funds,  
10 certification must be made to the department that the need and  
11 location of the facility are in compliance with the  
12 board-approved survey recommendations, that the project meets  
13 the definition of a PECO project and the limiting criteria for  
14 expenditures of PECO funding, and that the construction  
15 documents meet the requirements of the Florida Building Code  
16 for educational facilities construction or other applicable  
17 codes as authorized in this chapter.

18 Section 827. Section 1013.32, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1013.32 Exception to recommendations in educational  
21 plant survey.--An exception to the recommendations in the  
22 educational plant survey may be allowed if a board considers  
23 that it will be advantageous to the welfare of the educational  
24 system or that it will make possible a substantial saving of  
25 funds. A board, upon determining that an exception is  
26 warranted, must present a full statement, in writing, setting  
27 forth all the facts to the Commissioner of Education.

28 Section 828. Section 1013.33, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30 1013.33 Coordination of planning with local governing  
31 bodies.--

1           (1) It is the policy of this state to require the  
2 coordination of planning between boards and local governing  
3 bodies to ensure that plans for the construction and opening  
4 of public educational facilities are facilitated and  
5 coordinated in time and place with plans for residential  
6 development, concurrently with other necessary services. Such  
7 planning shall include the integration of the educational  
8 plant survey and applicable policies and procedures of a board  
9 with the local comprehensive plan and land development  
10 regulations of local governing bodies. The planning must  
11 include the consideration of allowing students to attend the  
12 school located nearest their homes when a new housing  
13 development is constructed near a county boundary and it is  
14 more feasible to transport the students a short distance to an  
15 existing facility in an adjacent county than to construct a  
16 new facility or transport students longer distances in their  
17 county of residence. The planning must also consider the  
18 effects of the location of public education facilities,  
19 including the feasibility of keeping central city facilities  
20 viable, in order to encourage central city redevelopment and  
21 the efficient use of infrastructure and to discourage  
22 uncontrolled urban sprawl.

23           (2) A board and the local governing body must share  
24 and coordinate information related to existing and planned  
25 school facilities; proposals for development, redevelopment,  
26 or additional development; and infrastructure required to  
27 support the school facilities, concurrent with proposed  
28 development. A school board shall use Department of Education  
29 enrollment projections when preparing the 5-year district  
30 facilities work program pursuant to s. 1013.35, and a school  
31 board shall affirmatively demonstrate in the educational

1 facilities report consideration of local governments'  
2 population projections to ensure that the 5-year work program  
3 not only reflects enrollment projections but also considers  
4 applicable municipal and county growth and development  
5 projections. A school board is precluded from siting a new  
6 school in a jurisdiction where the school board has failed to  
7 provide the annual educational facilities report for the prior  
8 year required pursuant to s. 1013.34 unless the failure is  
9 corrected.

10 (3) The location of educational facilities shall be  
11 consistent with the comprehensive plan of the appropriate  
12 local governing body developed under part II of chapter 163  
13 and the plan's implementing land development regulations, to  
14 the extent that the regulations are not in conflict with or  
15 the subject regulated is not specifically addressed by this  
16 chapter or the state requirements for educational facilities,  
17 unless mutually agreed by the local government and the board.

18 (4) To improve coordination relative to potential  
19 educational facility sites, a board shall provide written  
20 notice to the local government that has regulatory authority  
21 over the use of the land at least 60 days prior to acquiring  
22 or leasing property that may be used for a new public  
23 educational facility. The local government, upon receipt of  
24 this notice, shall notify the board within 45 days if the site  
25 proposed for acquisition or lease is consistent with the land  
26 use categories and policies of the local government's  
27 comprehensive plan. This preliminary notice does not  
28 constitute the local government's determination of consistency  
29 pursuant to subsection (5).

30 (5) As early in the design phase as feasible, but at  
31 least before commencing construction of a new public

1 educational facility, the local governing body that regulates  
2 the use of land shall determine, in writing within 90 days  
3 after receiving the necessary information and a school board's  
4 request for a determination, whether a proposed educational  
5 facility is consistent with the local comprehensive plan and  
6 local land development regulations, to the extent that the  
7 regulations are not in conflict with or the subject regulated  
8 is not specifically addressed by this chapter or the Florida  
9 Building Code for educational facilities and construction,  
10 unless mutually agreed. If the determination is affirmative,  
11 school construction may proceed and further local government  
12 approvals are not required, except as provided in this  
13 section. Failure of the local governing body to make a  
14 determination in writing within 90 days after a district  
15 school board's request for a determination of consistency  
16 shall be considered an approval of the district school board's  
17 application. Campus master plans and development agreements  
18 must comply with the provisions of ss. 1013.30 and 1013.63.

19 (6) A local governing body may not deny the site  
20 applicant based on adequacy of the site plan as it relates  
21 solely to the needs of the school. If the site is consistent  
22 with the comprehensive plan's future land use policies and  
23 categories in which public schools are identified as allowable  
24 uses, the local government may not deny the application but it  
25 may impose reasonable development standards and conditions in  
26 accordance with s. 1013.51(1) and consider the site plan and  
27 its adequacy as it relates to environmental concerns, health,  
28 safety and welfare, and effects on adjacent property.  
29 Standards and conditions may not be imposed which conflict  
30 with those established in this chapter or the State Uniform  
31 Building Code, unless mutually agreed.

1           (7) This section does not prohibit a local governing  
2 body and district school board from agreeing and establishing  
3 an alternative process for reviewing a proposed educational  
4 facility and site plan, and offsite impacts.

5           (8) Existing schools shall be considered consistent  
6 with the applicable local government comprehensive plan  
7 adopted under part II of chapter 163. The collocation of a new  
8 proposed public educational facility with an existing public  
9 educational facility, or the expansion of an existing public  
10 educational facility is not inconsistent with the local  
11 comprehensive plan, if the site is consistent with the  
12 comprehensive plan's future land use policies and categories  
13 in which public schools are identified as allowable uses, and  
14 levels of service adopted by the local government for any  
15 facilities affected by the proposed location for the new  
16 facility are maintained. If a board submits an application to  
17 expand an existing school site, the local governing body may  
18 impose reasonable development standards and conditions on the  
19 expansion only, and in a manner consistent with s. 1013.51(1).  
20 Standards and conditions may not be imposed which conflict  
21 with those established in this chapter or the State Uniform  
22 Building Code, unless mutually agreed. Local government review  
23 or approval is not required for:

24           (a) The placement of temporary or portable classroom  
25 facilities; or

26           (b) Proposed renovation or construction on existing  
27 school sites, with the exception of construction that changes  
28 the primary use of a facility, includes stadiums, or results  
29 in a greater than 5 percent increase in student capacity, or  
30 as mutually agreed.

31

1           Section 829. Section 1013.34, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3           1013.34 General educational facilities report.--

4           (1) It is the policy of the state to foster  
5 coordination between district school boards and the local  
6 general-purpose governments as those local general-purpose  
7 governments develop and implement plans under the Local  
8 Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development  
9 Regulation Act, part II of chapter 163.

10           (2) Each district school board shall submit annually  
11 on October 1 to each local government within the school  
12 board's jurisdiction a general educational facilities report.  
13 The general educational facilities report must contain  
14 information detailing existing educational facilities and  
15 their locations and projected needs. The report must also  
16 contain the board's capital improvement plan, including  
17 planned facilities with funding over the next 3 years, and the  
18 educational facilities representing the district's unmet need.  
19 The school board shall also provide a copy of its educational  
20 plan survey to each local government at least once every 5  
21 years.

22           Section 830. Section 1013.35, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24           1013.35 School district facilities work program;  
25 definitions; preparation, adoption, and amendment; long-term  
26 work programs.--

27           (1) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

28           (a) "Adopted district facilities work program" means  
29 the 5-year work program adopted by the district school board  
30 as provided in subsection (3).

31

1           (b) "Tentative district facilities work program" means  
 2 the 5-year listing of capital outlay projects required:

3           1. To properly maintain the educational plant and  
 4 ancillary facilities of the district.

5           2. To provide an adequate number of satisfactory  
 6 student stations for the projected student enrollment of the  
 7 district in K-12 programs in accordance with the goal in s.  
 8 1013.21.

9           (2) PREPARATION OF TENTATIVE DISTRICT FACILITIES WORK  
 10 PROGRAM.--

11           (a) Annually, prior to the adoption of the district  
 12 school budget, each district school board shall prepare a  
 13 tentative district facilities work program that includes:

14           1. A schedule of major repair and renovation projects  
 15 necessary to maintain the educational plant and ancillary  
 16 facilities of the district.

17           2. A schedule of capital outlay projects necessary to  
 18 ensure the availability of satisfactory student stations for  
 19 the projected student enrollment in K-12 programs. This  
 20 schedule shall consider:

21           a. The locations, capacities, and planned utilization  
 22 rates of current educational facilities of the district.

23           b. The proposed locations of planned facilities.

24           c. Plans for the use and location of relocatable  
 25 facilities, leased facilities, and charter school facilities.

26           d. Plans for multitrack scheduling, grade level  
 27 organization, block scheduling, or other alternatives that  
 28 reduce the need for permanent student stations.

29           e. Information concerning average class size and  
 30 utilization rate by grade level within the district that will  
 31 result if the tentative district facilities work program is

1 fully implemented. The average shall not include exceptional  
2 student education classes or prekindergarten classes.

3 f. The number and percentage of district students  
4 planned to be educated in relocatable facilities during each  
5 year of the tentative district facilities work program.

6 g. Plans for the closure of any school, including  
7 plans for disposition of the facility or usage of facility  
8 space, and anticipated revenues.

9 3. The projected cost for each project identified in  
10 the tentative district facilities work program. For proposed  
11 projects for new student stations, a schedule shall be  
12 prepared comparing the planned cost and square footage for  
13 each new student station, by elementary, middle, and high  
14 school levels, to the low, average, and high cost of  
15 facilities constructed throughout the state during the most  
16 recent fiscal year for which data is available from the  
17 Department of Education.

18 4. A schedule of estimated capital outlay revenues  
19 from each currently approved source which is estimated to be  
20 available for expenditure on the projects included in the  
21 tentative district facilities work program.

22 5. A schedule indicating which projects included in  
23 the tentative district facilities work program will be funded  
24 from current revenues projected in subparagraph 4.

25 6. A schedule of options for the generation of  
26 additional revenues by the district for expenditure on  
27 projects identified in the tentative district facilities work  
28 program which are not funded under subparagraph 5. Additional  
29 anticipated revenues may include effort index grants, SIT  
30 Program awards, and Classrooms First funds.

31

1           **(b) To the extent available, the tentative district**  
 2 **facilities work program shall be based on information produced**  
 3 **by the demographic, revenue, and education estimating**  
 4 **conferences pursuant to s. 216.136.**

5           **(c) Provision shall be made for public comment**  
 6 **concerning the tentative district facilities work program.**

7           **(3) ADOPTED DISTRICT FACILITIES WORK**  
 8 **PROGRAM.--Annually, the district school board shall consider**  
 9 **and adopt the tentative district facilities work program**  
 10 **completed pursuant to subsection (2). Upon giving proper**  
 11 **public notice and opportunity for public comment, the district**  
 12 **school board may amend the program to revise the priority of**  
 13 **projects, to add or delete projects, to reflect the impact of**  
 14 **change orders, or to reflect the approval of new revenue**  
 15 **sources which may become available. The adopted district**  
 16 **facilities work program shall:**

17           **(a) Be a complete, balanced capital outlay financial**  
 18 **plan for the district.**

19           **(b) Set forth the proposed commitments and planned**  
 20 **expenditures of the district to address the educational**  
 21 **facilities needs of its students and to adequately provide for**  
 22 **the maintenance of the educational plant and ancillary**  
 23 **facilities.**

24           **(4) EXECUTION OF ADOPTED DISTRICT FACILITIES WORK**  
 25 **PROGRAM.--The first year of the adopted district facilities**  
 26 **work program shall constitute the capital outlay budget**  
 27 **required in s. 1013.61. The adopted district facilities work**  
 28 **program shall include the information required in**  
 29 **subparagraphs (2)(a)1., 2., and 3., based upon projects**  
 30 **actually funded in the program.**

31

1           (5) 10-YEAR AND 20-YEAR WORK PROGRAMS.--In addition to  
2 the adopted district facilities work program covering the  
3 5-year work program, the district school board shall adopt  
4 annually a 10-year and a 20-year work program which include  
5 the information set forth in subsection (2), but based upon  
6 enrollment projections and facility needs for the 10-year and  
7 20-year periods. It is recognized that the projections in the  
8 10-year and 20-year timeframes are tentative and should be  
9 used only for general planning purposes.

10           Section 831. Section 1013.36, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12           1013.36 Site planning and selection.--

13           (1) Before acquiring property for sites, each district  
14 school board and community college board of trustees shall  
15 determine the location of proposed educational centers or  
16 campuses. In making this determination, the board shall  
17 consider existing and anticipated site needs and the most  
18 economical and practicable locations of sites. The board shall  
19 coordinate with the long-range or comprehensive plans of  
20 local, regional, and state governmental agencies to assure the  
21 compatibility of such plans with site planning. Boards are  
22 encouraged to locate educational facilities proximate to urban  
23 residential areas to the extent possible, and shall seek to  
24 collocate educational facilities with other public facilities,  
25 such as parks, libraries, and community centers, to the extent  
26 possible.

27           (2) Each new site selected must be adequate in size to  
28 meet the educational needs of the students to be served on  
29 that site by the original educational facility or future  
30 expansions of the facility through renovation or the addition  
31 of relocatables. The State Board of Education shall prescribe

1 by rule recommended sizes for new sites according to  
2 categories of students to be housed and other appropriate  
3 factors determined by the state board. Less-than-recommended  
4 site sizes are allowed if the board recommends such a site and  
5 finds that it can provide an appropriate and equitable  
6 educational program on the site.

7 (3) Sites recommended for purchase or purchased must  
8 meet standards prescribed in law and such supplementary  
9 standards as the State Board of Education prescribes to  
10 promote the educational interests of the students. Each site  
11 must be well drained and suitable for outdoor educational  
12 purposes as appropriate for the educational program. As  
13 provided in s. 333.03, the site must not be located within any  
14 path of flight approach of any airport. Insofar as is  
15 practicable, the site must not adjoin a right-of-way of any  
16 railroad or through highway and must not be adjacent to any  
17 factory or other property from which noise, odors, or other  
18 disturbances, or at which conditions, would be likely to  
19 interfere with the educational program.

20 (4) It shall be the responsibility of the board to  
21 provide adequate notice to appropriate municipal, county,  
22 regional, and state governmental agencies for requested  
23 traffic control and safety devices so they can be installed  
24 and operating prior to the first day of classes or to satisfy  
25 itself that every reasonable effort has been made in  
26 sufficient time to secure the installation and operation of  
27 such necessary devices prior to the first day of classes. It  
28 shall also be the responsibility of the board to review  
29 annually traffic control and safety device needs and to  
30 request all necessary changes indicated by such review.

31

1           (5) Each board may request county and municipal  
2 governments to construct and maintain sidewalks and bicycle  
3 trails within a 2-mile radius of each educational facility  
4 within the jurisdiction of the local government. When a board  
5 discovers or is aware of an existing hazard on or near a  
6 public sidewalk, street, or highway within a 2-mile radius of  
7 a school site and the hazard endangers the life or threatens  
8 the health or safety of students who walk, ride bicycles, or  
9 are transported regularly between their homes and the school  
10 in which they are enrolled, the board shall, within 24 hours  
11 after discovering or becoming aware of the hazard, excluding  
12 Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, report such hazard to  
13 the governmental entity within the jurisdiction of which the  
14 hazard is located. Within 5 days after receiving notification  
15 by the board, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal  
16 holidays, the governmental entity shall investigate the  
17 hazardous condition and either correct it or provide such  
18 precautions as are practicable to safeguard students until the  
19 hazard can be permanently corrected. However, if the  
20 governmental entity that has jurisdiction determines upon  
21 investigation that it is impracticable to correct the hazard,  
22 or if the entity determines that the reported condition does  
23 not endanger the life or threaten the health or safety of  
24 students, the entity shall, within 5 days after notification  
25 by the board, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal  
26 holidays, inform the board in writing of its reasons for not  
27 correcting the condition. The governmental entity, to the  
28 extent allowed by law, shall indemnify the board from any  
29 liability with respect to accidents or injuries, if any,  
30 arising out of the hazardous condition.  
31

1           Section 832. Section 1013.365, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:  
3           1013.365 Schools on contaminated site prohibited.--  
4           (1) DEFINITIONS.--For purposes of this section, the  
5 following terms shall have the same meaning as provided in the  
6 definitions in s. 376.301: "contaminant," "contaminated  
7 site," "discharge," "engineering controls," "hazardous  
8 substances," "institutional controls," "pollutants," and "site  
9 rehabilitation."  
10           (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Legislature finds:  
11           (a) Steps should be taken to eliminate or reduce the  
12 risk to student health posed by attendance at K-12 schools  
13 located on or adjacent to a contaminated site.  
14           (b) District school boards have a duty and a  
15 responsibility to ensure the safety of school children while  
16 attending K-12 schools and engaging in extracurricular  
17 activities on school properties.  
18           (c) Ensuring student safety includes preventing,  
19 eliminating, or reducing exposure to contaminants that may  
20 exist at or adjacent to K-12 school properties.  
21           (3) K-12 SCHOOL SITING LIMITATIONS; PROHIBITIONS.--No  
22 K-12 school shall be built on or adjacent to a known  
23 contaminated site unless steps have been taken to ensure that  
24 children attending the school or playing on school property  
25 will not be exposed to contaminants in the air, water, or soil  
26 at levels that present a threat to human health or the  
27 environment.  
28           (4) DUTIES OF DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.--Before taking  
29 title to real property upon which a K-12 school may be built  
30 or initiating action to locate a K-12 school on real property  
31 already owned by the school district, the district school

1 board shall conduct appropriate due diligence including all  
2 appropriate inquiry into the previous ownership and use of the  
3 property consistent with good commercial or customary practice  
4 in an effort to determine the existence of any potential air,  
5 water, or soil contamination that may exist on or adjacent to  
6 the proposed K-12 school site. The district school board is  
7 encouraged to contact the Department of Environmental  
8 Protection to obtain any information about contaminated sites  
9 on or adjacent to a proposed K-12 school site. Any evidence  
10 of a discharge of pollutants or hazardous substances on or  
11 adjacent to a proposed K-12 school site shall prompt the  
12 district school board to conduct further investigation using  
13 at least a Phase II Environmental Audit, in accordance with  
14 standards established by the American Society for Testing and  
15 Materials (ASTM), that includes air, water, and soil sampling.  
16 If the results of the environmental audit confirm the presence  
17 of contaminants or pollution on or adjacent to the proposed  
18 K-12 school site at concentrations that pose a threat to human  
19 health or the environment, then the district school board  
20 shall conduct appropriate site rehabilitation in accordance  
21 with the provisions of subsection (5) before initiating K-12  
22 school construction at the site.

23 (5) CORRECTIVE ACTION.--The Department of  
24 Environmental Protection may use risk-based corrective action  
25 cleanup criteria as described in ss. 376.3071, 376.3078, and  
26 376.81, and in Chapter 62-777, F.A.C., in reviewing and  
27 approving site rehabilitation conducted by district school  
28 boards pursuant to this section.

29 Section 833. Part III.b. of chapter 1013, Florida  
30 Statutes, shall be entitled "Building Codes and Construction  
31

1 for Educational Facilities" and shall consist of ss.  
2 1013.37-1013.45.  
3 Section 834. Section 1013.37, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:  
5 1013.37 State uniform building code for public  
6 educational facilities construction.--  
7 (1) UNIFORM BUILDING CODE.--A uniform statewide  
8 building code for the planning and construction of public  
9 educational and ancillary plants by district school boards and  
10 community college district boards of trustees shall be adopted  
11 by the Florida Building Commission within the Florida Building  
12 Code, pursuant to s. 553.73. Included in this code must be  
13 flood plain management criteria in compliance with the rules  
14 and regulations in 44 C.F.R. parts 59 and 60, and subsequent  
15 revisions thereto which are adopted by the Federal Emergency  
16 Management Agency. It is also the responsibility of the  
17 department to develop, as a part of the uniform building code,  
18 standards relating to:  
19 (a) Prefabricated facilities or factory-built  
20 facilities that are designed to be portable, relocatable,  
21 demountable, or reconstructible; are used primarily as  
22 classrooms; and do not fall under the provisions of ss.  
23 320.822-320.862. Such standards must permit boards to contract  
24 with the Department of Community Affairs for factory  
25 inspections by certified building code inspectors to certify  
26 conformance with applicable law and rules. The standards must  
27 comply with the requirements of s. 1013.20 for relocatable  
28 facilities intended for long-term use as classroom space, and  
29 the relocatable facilities shall be designed subject to  
30 missile impact criteria of s. 423(24)(d)(1) of the Florida  
31 Building Code when located in the windborne debris region.

1           **(b) The sanitation of educational and ancillary plants**  
2 **and the health of occupants of educational and ancillary**  
3 **plants.**

4           **(c) The safety of occupants of educational and**  
5 **ancillary plants as provided in s. 1013.12, except that the**  
6 **firesafety criteria shall be established by the State Fire**  
7 **Marshal in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission**  
8 **and the department and such firesafety requirements must be**  
9 **incorporated into the Florida Fire Prevention Code.**

10           **(d) Accessibility for children, notwithstanding the**  
11 **provisions of s. 553.512.**

12           **(e) The performance of life-cycle cost analyses on**  
13 **alternative architectural and engineering designs to evaluate**  
14 **their energy efficiencies.**

15           **1. The life-cycle cost analysis must consist of the**  
16 **sum of:**

17           **a. The reasonably expected fuel costs over the life of**  
18 **the building which are required to maintain illumination,**  
19 **water heating, temperature, humidity, ventilation, and all**  
20 **other energy-consuming equipment in a facility; and**

21           **b. The reasonable costs of probable maintenance,**  
22 **including labor and materials, and operation of the building.**

23           **2. For computation of the life-cycle costs, the**  
24 **department shall develop standards that must include, but need**  
25 **not be limited to:**

26           **a. The orientation and integration of the facility**  
27 **with respect to its physical site.**

28           **b. The amount and type of glass employed in the**  
29 **facility and the directions of exposure.**

30  
31

1 c. The effect of insulation incorporated into the  
2 facility design and the effect on solar utilization of the  
3 properties of external surfaces.

4 d. The variable occupancy and operating conditions of  
5 the facility and subportions of the facility.

6 e. An energy-consumption analysis of the major  
7 equipment of the facility's heating, ventilating, and cooling  
8 system; lighting system; and hot water system and all other  
9 major energy-consuming equipment and systems as appropriate.

10 3. Life-cycle cost criteria published by the  
11 Department of Education for use in evaluating projects.

12 4. Standards for construction materials and systems  
13 based on life-cycle costs that consider initial costs,  
14 maintenance costs, custodial costs, operating costs, and life  
15 expectancy. The standards may include multiple acceptable  
16 materials. It is the intent of the Legislature to require  
17 district school boards to comply with these standards when  
18 expending funds from the Public Education Capital Outlay and  
19 Debt Service Trust Fund or the School District and Community  
20 College District Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund  
21 and to prohibit district school boards from expending local  
22 capital outlay revenues for any project that includes  
23 materials or systems that do not comply with these standards,  
24 unless the district school board submits evidence that  
25 alternative materials or systems meet or exceed standards  
26 developed by the department.

27  
28 It is not a purpose of the Florida Building Code to inhibit  
29 the use of new materials or innovative techniques; nor may it  
30 specify or prohibit materials by brand names. The code must be  
31 flexible enough to cover all phases of construction so as to

1 afford reasonable protection for the public safety, health,  
2 and general welfare. The department may secure the service of  
3 other state agencies or such other assistance as it finds  
4 desirable in recommending to the Florida Building Commission  
5 revisions to the code.

6 (2) APPROVAL.--

7 (a) Before a contract has been let for the  
8 construction, the department, the district school board, the  
9 community college board, or its authorized review agent must  
10 approve the phase III construction documents. A district  
11 school board or a community college board may reuse prototype  
12 plans on another site, provided the facilities list and phase  
13 III construction documents have been updated for the new site  
14 and for compliance with the Florida Building Code and the  
15 Florida Fire Prevention Code and any laws relating to  
16 firesafety, health and sanitation, casualty safety, and  
17 requirements for the physically handicapped which are in  
18 effect at the time a construction contract is to be awarded.

19 (b) In reviewing plans for approval, the department,  
20 the district school board, the community college board, or its  
21 review agent as authorized in s. 1013.38, shall take into  
22 consideration:

- 23 1. The need for the new facility.
- 24 2. The educational and ancillary plant planning.
- 25 3. The architectural and engineering planning.
- 26 4. The location on the site.
- 27 5. Plans for future expansion.
- 28 6. The type of construction.
- 29 7. Sanitary provisions.
- 30 8. Conformity to Florida Building Code standards.

31

- 1           9. The structural design and strength of materials  
2 proposed to be used.
- 3           10. The mechanical design of any heating,  
4 air-conditioning, plumbing, or ventilating system. Typical  
5 heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems preapproved  
6 by the department for specific applications may be used in the  
7 design of educational facilities.
- 8           11. The electrical design of educational plants.
- 9           12. The energy efficiency and conservation of the  
10 design.
- 11           13. Life-cycle cost considerations.
- 12           14. The design to accommodate physically handicapped  
13 persons.
- 14           15. The ratio of net to gross square footage.
- 15           16. The proposed construction cost per gross square  
16 foot.
- 17           17. Conformity with the Florida Fire Prevention Code.
- 18           (c) The district school board or the community college  
19 board may not occupy a facility until the project has been  
20 inspected to verify compliance with statutes, rules, and codes  
21 affecting the health and safety of the occupants. Verification  
22 of compliance with rules, statutes, and codes for nonoccupancy  
23 projects such as roofing, paving, site improvements, or  
24 replacement of equipment may be certified by the architect or  
25 engineer of record and verification of compliance for other  
26 projects may be made by an inspector certified by the  
27 department or certified pursuant to chapter 468 who is not the  
28 architect or engineer of record. The board shall maintain a  
29 record of the project's completion and permanent archive of  
30 phase III construction documents, including any addenda and  
31 change orders to the project. The boards shall provide project

1 data to the department, as requested, for purposes and reports  
2 needed by the Legislature.

3 (3) REVIEW PROCEDURE.--The Commissioner of Education  
4 shall cooperate with the Florida Building Commission in  
5 addressing all questions, disputes, or interpretations  
6 involving the provisions of the Florida Building Code which  
7 govern the construction of public educational and ancillary  
8 facilities, and any objections to decisions made by the  
9 inspectors or the department must be submitted in writing.

10 (4) BIENNIAL REVIEW AND UPDATE; DISSEMINATION.--The  
11 department shall biennially review and recommend to the  
12 Florida Building Commission updates and revisions to the  
13 provisions of the Florida Building Code which govern the  
14 construction of public educational and ancillary facilities.  
15 The department shall publish and make available to each board  
16 at no cost copies of the state requirements for educational  
17 facilities and each amendment and revision thereto. The  
18 department shall make additional copies available to all  
19 interested persons at a price sufficient to recover costs.

20 (5) LOCAL LEGISLATION PROHIBITED.--After June 30,  
21 1985, pursuant to s. 11(a)(21), Art. III of the State  
22 Constitution, there shall not be enacted any special act or  
23 general law of local application which proposes to amend,  
24 alter, or contravene any provisions of the State Building Code  
25 adopted under the authority of this section.

26 Section 835. Section 1013.371, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28 1013.371 Conformity to codes.--

29 (1) CONFORMITY TO FLORIDA BUILDING CODE AND FLORIDA  
30 FIRE PREVENTION CODE REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL.--  
31

1       (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), all  
2 public educational and ancillary plants constructed by a board  
3 must conform to the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire  
4 Prevention Code, and the plants are exempt from all other  
5 state building codes; county, municipal, or other local  
6 amendments to the Florida Building Code and local amendments  
7 to the Florida Fire Prevention Code; building permits, and  
8 assessments of fees for building permits, except as provided  
9 in s. 553.80; ordinances; road closures; and impact fees or  
10 service availability fees. Any inspection by local or state  
11 government must be based on the Florida Building Code and the  
12 Florida Fire Prevention Code. Each board shall provide for  
13 periodic inspection of the proposed educational plant during  
14 each phase of construction to determine compliance with the  
15 state requirements for educational facilities.

16       (b) A board may comply with the Florida Building Code  
17 and the Florida Fire Prevention Code and the administration of  
18 the codes when constructing ancillary plants that are not  
19 attached to educational facilities, if those plants conform to  
20 the space size requirements established in the codes.

21       (c) A board may not approve any plans for the  
22 construction, renovation, remodeling, or demolition of any  
23 educational or ancillary plants unless these plans conform to  
24 the requirements of the Florida Building Code and the Florida  
25 Fire Prevention Code. Each board may adopt policies for  
26 delegating to the district school superintendent, community  
27 college president, or university president authority for  
28 submitting documents to the department and for awarding  
29 contracts subsequent to and consistent with board approval of  
30 the scope, timeframes, funding source, and budget of a  
31 survey-recommended project.

1           (2) ENFORCEMENT BY BOARD.--It is the responsibility of  
2 each board to ensure that all plans and educational and  
3 ancillary plants meet the standards of the Florida Building  
4 Code and the Florida Fire Prevention Code and to provide for  
5 the enforcement of these codes in the areas of its  
6 jurisdiction. Each board shall provide for the proper  
7 supervision and inspection of the work. Each board may employ  
8 a chief building official or inspector and such other  
9 inspectors, who have been certified pursuant to chapter 468,  
10 and such personnel as are necessary to administer and enforce  
11 the provisions of this code. Boards may also use local  
12 building department inspectors who are certified by the  
13 department to enforce this code. Plans or facilities that fail  
14 to meet the standards of the Florida Building Code or the  
15 Florida Fire Prevention Code may not be approved. When  
16 planning for and constructing an educational, auxiliary, or  
17 ancillary facility, a board must use construction materials  
18 and systems that meet standards adopted pursuant to s.  
19 1013.37(1)(e)3. and 4. If the planned or actual construction  
20 of a facility deviates from the adopted standards, the board  
21 must, at a public hearing, quantify and compare the costs of  
22 constructing the facility with the proposed deviations and in  
23 compliance with the adopted standards and the Florida Building  
24 Code. The board must explain the reason for the proposed  
25 deviations and compare how the total construction costs and  
26 projected life-cycle costs of the facility or component system  
27 of the facility would be affected by implementing the proposed  
28 deviations rather than using materials and systems that meet  
29 the adopted standards.

30           (3) ENFORCEMENT BY DEPARTMENT.--As a further means of  
31 ensuring that all educational and ancillary facilities

1 constructed or materially altered or added to conform to the  
2 Florida Building Code standards or Florida Fire Prevention  
3 Code standards, each board that undertakes the construction,  
4 renovation, remodeling, purchasing, or lease-purchase of any  
5 educational plant or ancillary facility, the cost of which  
6 exceeds \$200,000, may submit plans to the department for  
7 approval.

8 Section 836. Section 1013.372, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1013.372 Education facilities as emergency shelters.--

11 (1) The Department of Education shall, in consultation  
12 with boards and county and state emergency management offices,  
13 include within the standards to be developed under this  
14 subsection public shelter design criteria to be incorporated  
15 into the Florida Building Code. The new criteria must be  
16 designed to ensure that appropriate new educational facilities  
17 can serve as public shelters for emergency-management  
18 purposes. A facility, or an appropriate area within a  
19 facility, for which a design contract is entered into after  
20 the effective date of the inclusion of the public shelter  
21 criteria in the code must be built in compliance with the  
22 amended code unless the facility or a part of it is exempted  
23 from using the new shelter criteria due to its location, size,  
24 or other characteristics by the applicable board with the  
25 concurrence of the applicable local emergency management  
26 agency or the Department of Community Affairs. Any educational  
27 facility located or proposed to be located in an identified  
28 category 1, 2, or 3 evacuation zone is not subject to the  
29 requirements of this subsection. If the regional planning  
30 council region in which the county is located does not have a  
31 hurricane evacuation shelter deficit, as determined by the

1 Department of Community Affairs, educational facilities within  
2 the planning council region are not required to incorporate  
3 the public shelter criteria.

4 (2) By January 31 of each even-numbered year, the  
5 Department of Community Affairs shall prepare and submit a  
6 statewide emergency shelter plan to the Governor and the  
7 Cabinet for approval. The plan must identify the general  
8 location and square footage of existing shelters, by regional  
9 planning council region, and the general location and square  
10 footage of needed shelters, by regional planning council  
11 region, during the next 5 years. The plan must identify the  
12 types of public facilities that should be constructed to  
13 comply with emergency-shelter criteria and must recommend an  
14 appropriate and available source of funding for the additional  
15 cost of constructing emergency shelters within these public  
16 facilities. After the approval of the plan, a board may not be  
17 required to build more emergency-shelter space than identified  
18 as needed in the plan, and decisions pertaining to exemptions  
19 pursuant to subsection (1) must be guided by the plan.

20 (3) The provisions of s. 1013.74 apply to university  
21 facilities as emergency shelters.

22 Section 837. Section 1013.38, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1013.38 Boards to ensure that facilities comply with  
25 building codes and life safety codes.--

26 (1) Boards shall ensure that all new construction,  
27 renovation, remodeling, day labor, and maintenance projects  
28 conform to the appropriate sections of the Florida Building  
29 Code, Florida Fire Prevention Code, or, where applicable as  
30 authorized in other sections of law, other building codes, and  
31 life safety codes.

1           (2) Boards may provide compliance as follows:  
2           (a) Boards or consortia may individually or  
3 cooperatively provide review services under the insurance risk  
4 management oversight through the use of board employees or  
5 consortia employees, registered pursuant to chapter 471,  
6 chapter 481, or part XII of chapter 468.  
7           (b) Boards may elect to review construction documents  
8 using their own employees registered pursuant to chapter 471,  
9 chapter 481, or part XII of chapter 468.  
10           (c) Boards may submit phase III construction documents  
11 for review to the department.  
12           (d) Boards or consortia may contract for plan review  
13 services directly with engineers and architects registered  
14 pursuant to chapter 471 or chapter 481.  
15           (3) The Department of Management Services may, upon  
16 request, provide facilities services for the Florida School  
17 for the Deaf and the Blind, the Division of Blind Services,  
18 and Public Broadcasting. As used in this section, the term  
19 "facilities services" means project management, code and  
20 design plan review, and code compliance inspection for  
21 projects as defined in s. 287.017(1)(e).  
22           Section 838. Section 1013.39, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:  
24           1013.39 Building construction standards;  
25 exemptions.--Universities are exempt from local amendments to  
26 the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire Prevention  
27 Code.  
28           Section 839. Section 1013.40, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:  
30           1013.40 Planning and construction of community college  
31 facilities; property acquisition.--

1           (1) The need for community college facilities shall be  
2 established by a survey conducted pursuant to this chapter.  
3 The facilities recommended by such survey must be approved by  
4 the State Board of Education and the projects must be  
5 constructed according to the provisions of this chapter and  
6 State Board of Education rules.

7           (2) No community college may expend public funds for  
8 the acquisition of additional property without the specific  
9 approval of the Legislature.

10           (3) No facility may be acquired or constructed by a  
11 community college or its direct-support organization if such  
12 facility requires general revenue funds for operation or  
13 maintenance upon project completion or in subsequent years of  
14 operation, unless prior approval is received from the  
15 Legislature.

16           Section 840. Section 1013.41, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18           1013.41 SMART schools; Classrooms First; legislative  
19 purpose.--

20           (1) SMART SCHOOLS.--"SMART schools" are schools that  
21 are soundly made, accountable, reasonable, and thrifty. It is  
22 the purpose of the Legislature to provide a balanced and  
23 principle-based plan for a functional, safe, adequate, and  
24 thrifty learning environment for Florida's K-12 students  
25 through SMART schools. The plan must be balanced in serving  
26 all school districts and must also be balanced between the  
27 operating and capital sides of the budget. The principles upon  
28 which the plan is based are less government, lower taxes,  
29 increased responsibility of school districts, increased  
30 freedom through local control, and family and community  
31 empowerment.

1           (2) CLASSROOMS FIRST.--It is the purpose of the  
2 Legislature to substantially increase the state's investment  
3 in school construction in an equitable, fair, and reasonable  
4 way.

5           (3) SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES WORK PROGRAMS.--It is  
6 the purpose of the Legislature to create s. 1013.35, requiring  
7 each school district annually to adopt a district facilities  
8 5-year work program. The purpose of the district facilities  
9 work program is to keep the district school board and the  
10 public fully informed as to whether the district is using  
11 sound policies and practices that meet the essential needs of  
12 students and that warrant public confidence in district  
13 operations. The district facilities work program will be  
14 monitored by the Office of Educational Facilities and SMART  
15 Schools Clearinghouse, which will also apply performance  
16 standards pursuant to s. 1013.04.

17           (4) OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND SMART SCHOOLS  
18 CLEARINGHOUSE.--It is the purpose of the Legislature to create  
19 s. 1013.05, establishing the Office of Educational Facilities  
20 and SMART Schools Clearinghouse to assist the school districts  
21 in building SMART schools utilizing functional and frugal  
22 practices. The Office of Educational Facilities and SMART  
23 Schools Clearinghouse must review district facilities work  
24 programs and projects and identify districts qualified for  
25 incentive funding available through School Infrastructure  
26 Thrift Program awards; identify opportunities to maximize  
27 design and construction savings; develop school district  
28 facilities work program performance standards; and provide for  
29 review and recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature,  
30 and the State Board of Education.

31

1           (5) EFFORT INDEX GRANTS.--It is the purpose of the  
 2 Legislature to create s. 1013.73, in order to provide grants  
 3 from state funds to assist school districts that have provided  
 4 a specified level of local effort funding.

5           (6) SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE THRIFT (SIT) PROGRAM  
 6 AWARDS.--It is the purpose of the Legislature to convert the  
 7 SIT Program established in ss. 1013.42 and 1013.72 to an  
 8 incentive award program to encourage functional, frugal  
 9 facilities and practices.

10           Section 841. Section 1013.42, Florida Statutes, is  
 11 created to read:

12           1013.42 School Infrastructure Thrift (SIT) Program  
 13 Act.--

14           (1) This section and s. 1013.72 may be cited as the  
 15 "School Infrastructure Thrift Program Act."

16           (2) The School Infrastructure Thrift (SIT) Program is  
 17 established within the Department of Education, and the State  
 18 Board of Education may adopt rules as necessary to operate the  
 19 program. To facilitate the program's purposes, the department  
 20 shall aggressively seek the elimination or revision of  
 21 obsolete, excessively restrictive, or unnecessary laws, rules,  
 22 and regulations for the purpose of reducing the cost of  
 23 constructing educational facilities and related costs without  
 24 sacrificing safety or quality of construction. Such efforts  
 25 must include, but are not limited to, the elimination of  
 26 duplicate or overlapping inspections; the relaxation of  
 27 requirements relating to the life cycle of buildings,  
 28 landscaping, operable glazing, operable windows, radon  
 29 testing, and firesafety when lawful, safe, and  
 30 cost-beneficial; and other cost savings identified as lawful,  
 31 safe, and cost-beneficial.

- 1           (3) The SIT Program is designed as:
- 2           (a) An incentive program to reward districts for  
3 savings realized through functional, frugal construction.
- 4           (b) A recognition program to provide an annual SMART  
5 school of the year recognition award to the district that  
6 builds the highest quality functional, frugal school.
- 7           (4) Funds shall be appropriated to the SIT Program on  
8 an annual basis as determined by the Legislature.  
9 Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to  
10 s. 216.351, undisbursed balances of appropriations to the SIT  
11 Program shall not revert. It is the intent of the Legislature  
12 to continue funding the SIT Program with funds available  
13 through frugal government operation and agency savings.
- 14           (5) Participating school districts may seek SIT  
15 Program awards beginning July 1, 1997, for projects commenced  
16 after or for projects underway at that time, if the projects  
17 comply with s. 1013.72.
- 18           (6)(a) Each school district may submit to the Office  
19 of Educational Facilities and SMART Schools Clearinghouse,  
20 with supporting data, its request, based on eligibility  
21 pursuant to s. 1013.72 for an award of SIT Program dollars.
- 22           (b) The Office of Educational Facilities and SMART  
23 Schools Clearinghouse shall examine the supporting data from  
24 each school district and shall report to the commissioner each  
25 district's eligibility pursuant to s. 1013.72. Based on the  
26 office's report and pursuant to ss. 1013.04 and 1013.05, the  
27 office shall make recommendations, ranked in order of  
28 priority, for SIT Program awards.
- 29           (c) The criteria for SIT Program evaluation and  
30 recommendation for awards must be based on the school  
31

1 district's eligibility pursuant to s. 1013.72 and the balance  
2 of dollars in the SIT Program.

3 (7) Awards from the SIT Program shall be made by the  
4 commissioner from funds appropriated by the Legislature. An  
5 award funded by an appropriation from the General Revenue Fund  
6 may be used for any lawful capital outlay expenditure. An  
7 award funded by an appropriation of the proceeds of bonds  
8 issued pursuant to s. 1013.70 may be used only for bondable  
9 capital outlay projects.

10 Section 842. Section 1013.43, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1013.43 Small school requirement.--

13 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.--The Legislature finds that:

14 (a) Florida's schools are among the largest in the  
15 nation.

16 (b) Smaller schools provide benefits of reduced  
17 discipline problems and crime, reduced truancy and gang  
18 participation, reduced dropout rates, improved teacher and  
19 student attitudes, improved student self-perception, student  
20 academic achievement equal to or superior to that of students  
21 at larger schools, and increased parental involvement.

22 (c) Smaller schools can provide these benefits while  
23 not increasing administrative and construction costs.

24 (2) DEFINITION.--As used in this section, "small  
25 school" means:

26 (a) An elementary school with a student population of  
27 not more than 500 students.

28 (b) A middle school with a student population of not  
29 more than 700 students.

30 (c) A high school with a student population of not  
31 more than 900 students.

1 (d) A school serving kindergarten through grade 8 with  
2 a student population of not more than 700 students.

3 (e) A school serving kindergarten through grade 12  
4 with a student population of not more than 900 students.

5  
6 A school on a single campus which operates as a  
7 school-within-a-school, as defined by s. 1003.02(4), shall be  
8 considered a small school if each smaller unit located on the  
9 single campus meets the requirements of this subsection.

10 (3) REQUIREMENTS.--

11 (a) Beginning July 1, 2003, all plans for new  
12 educational facilities to be constructed within a school  
13 district and reflected in the 5-year school district  
14 facilities work plan shall be plans for small schools in order  
15 to promote increased learning and more effective use of school  
16 facilities.

17 (b) Small schools shall comply with all laws, rules,  
18 and court orders relating to racial balance.

19 (4) EXCEPTIONS.--This section does not apply to plans  
20 for new educational facilities already under architectural  
21 contract on July 1, 2003.

22 Section 843. Section 1013.44, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24 1013.44 Low-energy use design; solar energy systems;  
25 swimming pool heaters.--

26 (1)(a) Passive design elements and low-energy usage  
27 features shall be included in the design and construction of  
28 new educational facilities. Operable glazing consisting of at  
29 least 5 percent of the floor area shall be placed in each  
30 classroom located on the perimeter of the building. For a  
31 relocatable classroom, the area of operable glazing and the

1 area of exterior doors, together, shall consist of at least 5  
2 percent of the floor area. Operable glazing is not required in  
3 community colleges, auxiliary facilities, music rooms, gyms,  
4 locker and shower rooms, special laboratories requiring  
5 special climate control, and large group instruction areas  
6 having a capacity of more than 100 persons.

7 (b) In the remodeling and renovation of educational  
8 facilities which have existing natural ventilation, adequate  
9 sources of natural ventilation shall be retained, or a  
10 combination of natural and low-energy usage mechanical  
11 equipment shall be provided that will permit the use of the  
12 facility without air-conditioning or heat when ambient  
13 conditions are moderate. However, the Commissioner of  
14 Education is authorized to waive this requirement when  
15 environmental conditions, particularly noise and pollution  
16 factors, preclude the effective use of natural ventilation.

17 (2) Each new educational facility for which the  
18 projected demand for hot water exceeds 1,000 gallons a day  
19 shall be constructed, whenever economically and physically  
20 feasible, with a solar energy system as the primary energy  
21 source for the domestic hot water system of the facility. The  
22 solar energy system shall be sized so as to provide at least  
23 65 percent of the estimated needs of the facility. Sizing  
24 shall be determined by generally recognized simulation models,  
25 such as F-chart and SOLCOST, or by sizing tables generated by  
26 the Florida Solar Energy Center.

27 (3) If swimming and wading pools constructed as an  
28 integral part of an educational facility or plant are heated,  
29 such pools shall, whenever feasible, be heated by either a  
30 waste heat recovery system or a solar energy system.  
31

1 Section 844. Section 1013.45, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1013.45 Educational facilities contracting and  
4 construction techniques.--

5 (1) Boards may employ procedures to contract for  
6 construction of new facilities, or major additions to existing  
7 facilities, that will include, but not be limited to:

8 (a) Competitive bids.

9 (b) Design-build pursuant to s. 287.055.

10 (c) Selecting a construction management entity,  
11 pursuant to the process provided by s. 287.055, that would be  
12 responsible for all scheduling and coordination in both design  
13 and construction phases and is generally responsible for the  
14 successful, timely, and economical completion of the  
15 construction project. The construction management entity must  
16 consist of or contract with licensed or registered  
17 professionals for the specific fields or areas of construction  
18 to be performed, as required by law. At the option of the  
19 board, the construction management entity, after having been  
20 selected, may be required to offer a guaranteed maximum price  
21 or a guaranteed completion date; in which case, the  
22 construction management entity must secure an appropriate  
23 surety bond pursuant to s. 255.05 and must hold construction  
24 subcontracts. The criteria for selecting a construction  
25 management entity shall not unfairly penalize an entity that  
26 has relevant experience in the delivery of construction  
27 projects of similar size and complexity by methods of delivery  
28 other than construction management.

29 (d) Selecting a program management entity, pursuant to  
30 the process provided by s. 287.055, that would act as the  
31 agent of the board and would be responsible for schedule

1 control, cost control, and coordination in providing or  
2 procuring planning, design, and construction services. The  
3 program management entity must consist of or contract with  
4 licensed or registered professionals for the specific areas of  
5 design or construction to be performed as required by law. The  
6 program management entity may retain necessary design  
7 professionals selected under the process provided in s.  
8 287.055. At the option of the board, the program management  
9 entity, after having been selected, may be required to offer a  
10 guaranteed maximum price or a guaranteed completion date, in  
11 which case, the program management entity must secure an  
12 appropriate surety bond pursuant to s. 255.05 and must hold  
13 design and construction subcontracts. The criteria for  
14 selecting a program management entity shall not unfairly  
15 penalize an entity that has relevant experience in the  
16 delivery of construction programs of similar size and  
17 complexity by methods of delivery other than program  
18 management.

19 (e) Day-labor contracts not exceeding \$200,000 for  
20 construction, renovation, remodeling, or maintenance of  
21 existing facilities.

22 (2) For the purposes of this section, "day-labor  
23 contract" means a project constructed using persons employed  
24 directly by a board or by contracted labor.

25 (3) Contractors, design-build firms, contract  
26 management entities, program management entities, or any other  
27 person under contract to construct facilities or major  
28 additions to facilities may use any construction techniques  
29 allowed by contract and not prohibited by law, including, but  
30 not limited to, those techniques known as fast-track  
31

1 construction scheduling, use of components, and systems  
2 building process.  
3 (4) Except as otherwise provided in this section and  
4 s. 481.229, the services of a registered architect must be  
5 used for the development of plans for the erection,  
6 enlargement, or alteration of any educational facility. The  
7 services of a registered architect are not required for a  
8 minor renovation project for which the construction cost is  
9 less than \$50,000 or for the placement or hookup of  
10 relocatable educational facilities that conform with standards  
11 adopted under s. 1013.37. However, boards must provide  
12 compliance with building code requirements and ensure that  
13 these structures are adequately anchored for wind resistance  
14 as required by law. Boards are encouraged to consider the  
15 reuse of existing construction documents or design criteria  
16 packages where such reuse is feasible and practical.  
17 Notwithstanding s. 287.055, a board may purchase the  
18 architectural services for the design of educational or  
19 ancillary facilities under an existing contract agreement for  
20 professional services held by a district school board in the  
21 State of Florida, provided that the purchase is to the  
22 economic advantage of the purchasing board, the services  
23 conform to the standards prescribed by rules of the State  
24 Board of Education, and such reuse is not without notice to,  
25 and permission from, the architect of record whose plans or  
26 design criteria are being reused. Plans shall be reviewed for  
27 compliance with the state requirements for educational  
28 facilities. Rules adopted under this section must establish  
29 uniform prequalification, selection, bidding, and negotiation  
30 procedures applicable to construction management contracts and  
31 the design-build process. This section does not supersede any

1 small, woman-owned or minority-owned business enterprise  
2 preference program adopted by a board. Except as otherwise  
3 provided in this section, the negotiation procedures  
4 applicable to construction management contracts and the  
5 design-build process must conform to the requirements of s.  
6 287.055. A board may not modify any rules regarding  
7 construction management contracts or the design-build process.

8 Section 845. Part III.c. of chapter 1013, Florida  
9 Statutes, shall be entitled "Contracting for Educational  
10 Facilities" and shall consist of ss. 1013.46-1013.51.

11 Section 846. Section 1013.46, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13 1013.46 Advertising and awarding contracts;  
14 prequalification of contractor.--

15 (1)(a) As soon as practicable after any bond issue has  
16 been voted upon and authorized or funds have been made  
17 available for the construction, remodeling, renovation,  
18 demolition, or otherwise for the improvement, of any  
19 educational or ancillary plant, and after plans for the work  
20 have been approved, the board, if competitively bidding the  
21 project pursuant to s. 1013.45, after advertising the same in  
22 the manner prescribed by law or rule, shall award the contract  
23 for the building or improvements to the lowest responsible  
24 bidder. However, if after taking all deductive alternates, the  
25 bid of the lowest responsible bidder exceeds the construction  
26 budget for the project established at the phase III submittal,  
27 the board may declare an emergency. After stating the reasons  
28 why an emergency exists, the board may negotiate the  
29 construction contract or modify the contract, including the  
30 specifications, with the lowest responsible bidder and, if the  
31 contract is modified, shall resubmit the documents to the

1 authorized review authority for review to confirm that the  
2 project remains in compliance with building and fire codes.  
3 The board may reject all bids received and may readvertise,  
4 calling for new bids.

5 (b) Each board may declare an emergency pursuant to  
6 this subsection. A situation created by fire, storm, or other  
7 providential cause resulting in:

- 8 1. Imminent danger to life or safety; or
- 9 2. Overcrowding of students

10  
11 constitutes an emergency.

12 (c) As an option, any county, municipality, or board  
13 may set aside up to 10 percent of the total amount of funds  
14 allocated for the purpose of entering into construction  
15 capital project contracts with minority business enterprises,  
16 as defined in s. 287.094. Such contracts shall be  
17 competitively bid only among minority business enterprises.  
18 The set-aside shall be used to redress present effects of past  
19 discriminatory practices and shall be subject to periodic  
20 reassessment to account for changing needs and circumstances.

21 (2) Boards shall prequalify bidders for construction  
22 contracts according to rules prescribed by the State Board of  
23 Education which require the prequalification of bidders of  
24 educational facilities construction. Boards shall require that  
25 all construction or capital improvement bids be accompanied by  
26 evidence that the bidder holds an appropriate certificate or  
27 license or that the prime contractor has a current valid  
28 license.

29 Section 847. Section 1013.47, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:  
31

1           1013.47 Substance of contract; contractors to give  
2 bond; penalties.--Each board shall develop contracts  
3 consistent with this chapter and statutes governing public  
4 facilities. Such a contract must contain the drawings and  
5 specifications of the work to be done and the material to be  
6 furnished, the time limit in which the construction is to be  
7 completed, the time and method by which payments are to be  
8 made upon the contract, and the penalty to be paid by the  
9 contractor for any failure to comply with the terms of the  
10 contract. The board may require the contractor to pay a  
11 penalty for any failure to comply with the terms of the  
12 contract and may provide an incentive for early completion.  
13 Upon accepting a satisfactory bid, the board shall enter into  
14 a contract with the party or parties whose bid has been  
15 accepted. The contractor shall furnish the board with a  
16 performance and payment bond as set forth in s. 255.05. A  
17 board or other public entity may not require a contractor to  
18 secure a surety bond under s. 255.05 from a specific agent or  
19 bonding company. Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
20 section, if 25 percent or more of the costs of any  
21 construction project is paid out of a trust fund established  
22 pursuant to 31 U.S.C. s. 1243(a)(1), laborers and mechanics  
23 employed by contractors or subcontractors on such construction  
24 will be paid wages not less than those prevailing on similar  
25 construction projects in the locality, as determined by the  
26 Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, as  
27 amended. A person, firm, or corporation that constructs any  
28 part of any educational plant, or addition thereto, on the  
29 basis of any unapproved plans or in violation of any plans  
30 approved in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and  
31 rules of the State Board of Education relating to building

1 standards or specifications is subject to forfeiture of bond  
2 and unpaid compensation in an amount sufficient to reimburse  
3 the board for any costs that will need to be incurred in  
4 making any changes necessary to assure that all requirements  
5 are met and is also guilty of a misdemeanor of the second  
6 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083,  
7 for each separate violation.

8 Section 848. Section 1013.48, Florida Statutes, is  
9 created to read:

10 1013.48 Changes in construction requirements after  
11 award of contract.--The board may, at its option and by  
12 written policy duly adopted and entered in its official  
13 minutes, authorize the superintendent or president or other  
14 designated individual to approve change orders in the name of  
15 the board for preestablished amounts. Approvals shall be for  
16 the purpose of expediting the work in progress and shall be  
17 reported to the board and entered in its official minutes. For  
18 accountability, the school district shall monitor and report  
19 the impact of change orders on its district facilities work  
20 program pursuant to s. 1013.35.

21 Section 849. Section 1013.49, Florida Statutes, is  
22 created to read:

23 1013.49 Toxic substances in construction, repair, or  
24 maintenance of educational facilities.--

25 (1) All toxic substances enumerated in the Florida  
26 Substance List established pursuant to s. 442.103 that are to  
27 be used in the construction, repair, or maintenance of  
28 educational facilities have restricted usage provisions.

29 (2) Before any such substance may be used, the  
30 contractor shall notify the district school superintendent or  
31 public postsecondary institution president in writing at least

1 three working days prior to using the substance. The  
2 notification shall contain:

- 3 (a) The name of the substance to be used;  
4 (b) Where the substance is to be used; and  
5 (c) When the substance is to be used.

6  
7 A copy of a material safety data sheet as defined in s.  
8 442.102 shall be attached to the notification for each such  
9 substance.

10 Section 850. Section 1013.50, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1013.50 Final payment to contractor.--

13 (1) The final payment to the contractor shall not be  
14 made until the construction project has been inspected by the  
15 architect or other person designated by the board for that  
16 purpose and until he or she has issued a written certificate  
17 that the project has been constructed in accordance with the  
18 approved plans and specifications and approved change orders  
19 and until the board, acting on these recommendations, has  
20 accepted the project. After acceptance by the board, a  
21 duplicate copy of this written certificate, duly certified as  
22 having been accepted by the board, as well as other related  
23 data on contract costs and total costs per student station,  
24 space inventory update, and other related building information  
25 must be filed with the department for budget and cost  
26 reporting purposes.

27 (2) Boards shall have full authority and  
28 responsibility for all decisions regarding educational and  
29 ancillary plant construction contracts, change orders, and  
30 payments.

31

1 Section 851. Section 1013.51, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1013.51 Expenditures authorized for certain  
4 infrastructure.--

5 (1)(a) Subject to exemption from the assessment of  
6 fees pursuant to s. 1013.37(1), education boards, boards of  
7 county commissioners, municipal boards, and other agencies and  
8 boards of the state may expend funds, separately or  
9 collectively, by contract or agreement, for the placement,  
10 paving, or maintaining of any road, byway, or sidewalk if the  
11 road, byway, or sidewalk is contiguous to or runs through the  
12 property of any educational plant or for the maintenance or  
13 improvement of the property of any educational plant or of any  
14 facility on such property. Expenditures may also be made for  
15 sanitary sewer, water, stormwater, and utility improvements  
16 upon, or contiguous to, and for the installation, operation,  
17 and maintenance of traffic control and safety devices upon, or  
18 contiguous to, any existing or proposed educational plant.

19 (b) A board may pay its proportionate share of the  
20 cost of onsite and offsite system improvements necessitated by  
21 the educational facility development, but a board is not  
22 required to pay for or install any improvements that exceed  
23 those required to meet the onsite and offsite needs of a new  
24 public educational facility or an expanded site. Development  
25 exactions assessed against school boards or community college  
26 districts may not exceed the proportionate share of the cost  
27 of system improvements necessitated by the educational  
28 facility development and may not address existing facility or  
29 service backlogs or deficits.

30 (c) The boards of county commissioners, municipal  
31 boards, and other agencies and boards of the state may plant

1 or maintain trees, flowers, shrubbery, and beautifying plants  
2 upon the grounds of any educational plant, upon approval of  
3 the superintendent or president or the designee of either of  
4 them. Payment by a board for any improvement set forth in this  
5 section shall be authorized in any amounts agreed to by the  
6 board. Any payments so authorized to be made are not mandatory  
7 unless the specific improvement and costs have been agreed to  
8 prior to the improvement's being made.

9       (2) The provisions of any law, municipal ordinance, or  
10 county ordinance to the contrary notwithstanding, the  
11 provisions of this section regulate the levying of assessments  
12 for special benefits on school or community college districts  
13 and the directing of the payment thereof. Any municipal  
14 ordinance or county ordinance making provision to the contrary  
15 is void.

16       (3) Notwithstanding any other law, if a board agrees  
17 to construct or upgrade water or sewer facilities, or  
18 otherwise provide, construct, upgrade, or maintain offsite  
19 infrastructure beyond its proportionate share of  
20 responsibility, the local government that issues development  
21 approvals shall assure that the board is reimbursed for the  
22 additional costs incurred, to the extent that other  
23 development occurs which demands use of such infrastructure.

24       (4) Expenditure for infrastructure for universities  
25 shall be as authorized in s. 1013.30.

26       Section 852. Part III.d. of chapter 1013, Florida  
27 Statutes, shall be entitled "Cooperative Development of  
28 Educational Facilities" and shall consist of ss.  
29 1013.52-1013.54.

30       Section 853. Section 1013.52, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           1013.52 Cooperative development and joint use of  
2 facilities by two or more boards.--

3           (1) Two or more boards, including district school  
4 boards, community college boards of trustees, the Board of  
5 Trustees for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind,  
6 and university boards of trustees, desiring to cooperatively  
7 establish a common educational facility to accommodate  
8 students shall:

9           (a) Jointly request a formal assessment by the  
10 Commissioner of Education of the academic program need and the  
11 need to build new joint-use facilities to house approved  
12 programs. Completion of the assessment and approval of the  
13 project by the State Board of Education or the Commissioner of  
14 Education, as appropriate, should be done prior to conducting  
15 an educational facilities survey.

16           (b) Demonstrate the need for construction of new  
17 joint-use facilities involving postsecondary institutions by  
18 those institutions presenting evidence of the presence of  
19 sufficient actual full-time equivalent enrollments in the  
20 locale in leased, rented, or borrowed spaces to justify the  
21 requested facility for the programs identified in the formal  
22 assessment rather than using projected or anticipated future  
23 full-time equivalent enrollments as justification. If the  
24 decision is made to construct new facilities to meet this  
25 demonstrated need, then building plans should consider  
26 full-time equivalent enrollment growth facilitated by this new  
27 construction and subsequent new program offerings made  
28 possible by the existence of the new facilities.

29           (c) Adopt and submit to the commissioner a joint  
30 resolution of the participating boards indicating their  
31 commitment to the utilization of the requested facility and

1 designating the locale of the proposed facility. The joint  
2 resolution shall contain a statement of determination by the  
3 participating boards that alternate options, including the use  
4 of leased, rented, or borrowed space, were considered and  
5 found less appropriate than construction of the proposed  
6 facility. The joint resolution shall contain assurance that  
7 the development of the proposed facility has been examined in  
8 conjunction with the programs offered by neighboring public  
9 educational facilities offering instruction at the same level.  
10 The joint resolution also shall contain assurance that each  
11 participating board shall provide for continuity of  
12 educational progression. All joint resolutions shall be  
13 submitted to the commissioner by August 1 for consideration of  
14 funding by the subsequent Legislature.

15 (d) Submit requests for funding of joint-use  
16 facilities projects involving state universities and community  
17 colleges for approval by the Commissioner of Education. The  
18 Commissioner of Education shall determine the priority for  
19 funding these projects in relation to the priority of all  
20 other capital outlay projects under their consideration. To be  
21 eligible for funding from the Public Education Capital Outlay  
22 and Debt Service Trust Fund under the provisions of this  
23 section, projects involving both state universities and  
24 community colleges shall appear on the 3-year capital outlay  
25 priority lists of community colleges and of universities  
26 required by s. 1013.64. Projects involving a state university,  
27 community college, and a public school, and in which the  
28 larger share of the proposed facility is for the use of the  
29 state university or the community college, shall appear on the  
30 3-year capital outlay priority lists of the community colleges  
31 or of the universities, as applicable.

1           (e) Include in their joint resolution for the  
2 joint-use facilities, comprehensive plans for the operation  
3 and management of the facility upon completion. Institutional  
4 responsibilities for specific functions shall be identified,  
5 including designation of one participating board as sole owner  
6 of the facility. Operational funding arrangements shall be  
7 clearly defined.

8           (2) An educational plant survey must be conducted  
9 within 90 days after submission of the joint resolution and  
10 substantiating data describing the benefits to be obtained,  
11 the programs to be offered, and the estimated cost of the  
12 proposed project. Upon completion of the educational plant  
13 survey, the participating boards may include the recommended  
14 projects in their plan as provided in s. 1013.31. Upon  
15 approval of the project by the commissioner, 25 percent of the  
16 total cost of the project, or the pro rata share based on  
17 space utilization of 25 percent of the cost, must be included  
18 in the department's legislative capital outlay budget request  
19 as provided in s. 1013.60 for educational plants. The  
20 participating boards must include in their joint resolution a  
21 commitment to finance the remaining funds necessary to  
22 complete the planning, construction, and equipping of the  
23 facility. Funds from the Public Education Capital Outlay and  
24 Debt Service Trust Fund may not be expended on any project  
25 unless specifically authorized by the Legislature.

26           (3) Included in all proposals for joint-use facilities  
27 must be documentation that the proposed new campus or new  
28 joint-use facility has been reviewed by the State Board of  
29 Education and has been formally requested for authorization by  
30 the Legislature.

31

1           (4) No district school board, community college, or  
2 state university shall receive funding for more than one  
3 approved joint-use facility per campus in any 3-year period.

4           Section 854. Section 1013.53, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           1013.53 Cooperative development of educational  
7 facilities in juvenile justice programs.--

8           (1) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall provide  
9 early notice to school districts regarding the siting of new  
10 juvenile justice facilities. School districts shall include  
11 the projected number of students in the districts' annual  
12 estimates. School districts must be consulted regarding the  
13 types of students expected to be assigned to commitment  
14 facilities for education planning and budgeting purposes.

15           (2) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall notify,  
16 in writing, the Department of Education when a request for  
17 proposals is issued for the construction or operation of a  
18 commitment or detention facility anywhere in the state. The  
19 Department of Juvenile Justice shall notify, in writing, the  
20 appropriate school district when a request for proposals is  
21 issued for the construction or operation of a commitment or  
22 detention facility when a county or site is specifically  
23 identified.

24           (3) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall also  
25 notify the district school superintendent within 30 days  
26 after:

27           (a) The award of a contract for the construction or  
28 operation of a commitment or detention facility within that  
29 school district.

30           (b) Obtaining a permit to begin construction of a new  
31 detention or commitment facility within that school district.

1 Section 855. Section 1013.54, Florida Statutes, is  
2 created to read:

3 1013.54 Cooperative development and use of satellite  
4 facilities by private industry and district school boards.--

5 (1) Each district school board may submit, prior to  
6 August 1 of each year, a request to the commissioner for funds  
7 from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service  
8 Trust Fund to construct, remodel, or renovate an educational  
9 facility within the industrial environment. No district school  
10 board may apply for more than one facility per year. Such  
11 request shall contain the following provisions:

12 (a) A detailed description of the satellite site, the  
13 site development necessary for new construction, remodeling,  
14 or renovation for the accomplishment of the project, and the  
15 facility to be constructed. The facility shall be located on a  
16 site owned by the business and leased to the district school  
17 board at no cost. However, the minimum agreement shall be for  
18 a period of at least 5 years. The amounts provided by the  
19 state and the district school board shall be considered full  
20 consideration for the lease. If the lease agreement is  
21 terminated early, the business shall reimburse the district  
22 school board an amount determined by multiplying the amounts  
23 contributed by the district school board and the state by a  
24 fraction the numerator of which is the number of months  
25 remaining in the original agreement and the denominator of  
26 which is the total number of months of the agreement.

27 (b) A detailed description and analysis of the  
28 educational programs to be offered and the benefits that will  
29 accrue to the students through the instructional programs upon  
30 completion of the facility.

31

1           (c) The estimated number of full-time students whose  
2 regularly scheduled daily instructional program will utilize  
3 the facility.

4           (d) The estimated cost of the facility and site  
5 development not to exceed the department's average cost of new  
6 construction adjusted to the respective county cost index. If  
7 a site must be acquired, the estimated cost of the site shall  
8 be provided.

9           (e) A resolution or other appropriate indication of  
10 intent to participate in the funding and utilization of the  
11 educational facility from private industry. Such indication  
12 shall include a commitment by private industry to provide at  
13 least one-half of the cost of the facility. The district  
14 school board shall provide one-fourth of the cost of the  
15 facility and, if approved, the state shall provide one-fourth  
16 of the cost of the facility. Funds from the Public Education  
17 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund may not be expended  
18 on any project unless specifically authorized by the  
19 Legislature.

20           (f) The designation as to which agency is to assume  
21 responsibility for the operation, maintenance, and control of  
22 the proposed facility.

23           (g) Documentation by the district school board that a  
24 long-term lease for the use of the educational facility for a  
25 period of not less than 40 years or the life expectancy of the  
26 permanent facility constructed thereon, whichever is longer,  
27 has been obtained from private industry.

28           (2) The commissioner shall appoint a review committee  
29 to make recommendations and prioritize requests. If the  
30 project is approved by the commissioner, the commissioner  
31 shall include up to one-fourth of the cost of the project in

1 the legislative capital outlay budget request, as provided in  
 2 s. 1013.60, for the funding of capital outlay projects  
 3 involving both educational and private industry. The  
 4 commissioner shall prioritize any such projects for each  
 5 fiscal year and, notwithstanding the provisions of s.  
 6 1013.64(3)(c), limit the recommended state funding amount not  
 7 to exceed 5 percent off the top of the total funds recommended  
 8 pursuant to s. 1013.64(2) and (3).

9 (3) Facilities funded pursuant to this section and all  
 10 existing satellite facilities shall be exempt from ad valorem  
 11 taxes as long as the facility is used exclusively for public  
 12 educational purposes.

13 Section 856. Part IV of chapter 1013, Florida  
 14 Statutes, shall be entitled "Funding for Educational  
 15 Facilities" and shall consist of ss. 1013.60-1013.82.

16 Section 857. Section 1013.60, Florida Statutes, is  
 17 created to read:

18 1013.60 Legislative capital outlay budget request.--

19 (1) The Commissioner of Education shall develop a  
 20 procedure deemed appropriate in arriving at the amounts  
 21 required to fund projects as reflected in the integrated,  
 22 comprehensive budget request required by this section. The  
 23 official estimates for funds accruing to the Public Education  
 24 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund made by the revenue  
 25 estimating conference shall be used in determining the budget  
 26 request pursuant to this section. The commissioner, in  
 27 consultation with the appropriations committees of the  
 28 Legislature, shall provide annually an estimate of funds that  
 29 shall be utilized by community colleges and universities in  
 30 developing their required 3-year priority lists pursuant to s.  
 31 1013.64.

1           (2) The commissioner shall submit to the Governor and  
2 to the Legislature an integrated, comprehensive budget request  
3 for educational facilities construction and fixed capital  
4 outlay needs for school districts, community colleges, and  
5 universities, pursuant to the provisions of s. 1013.64 and  
6 applicable provisions of chapter 216. Each community college  
7 board of trustees and each university board of trustees shall  
8 submit to the commissioner a 3-year plan and data required in  
9 the development of the annual capital outlay budget. No  
10 further disbursements shall be made from the Public Education  
11 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund to a board of  
12 trustees that fails to timely submit the required data until  
13 such board of trustees submits the data.

14           (3) The commissioner shall submit an integrated,  
15 comprehensive budget request to the Executive Office of the  
16 Governor and to the Legislature each fiscal year by the  
17 submission date specified in s. 216.023(1). Notwithstanding  
18 the provisions of s. 216.043, the integrated, comprehensive  
19 budget request shall include:

20           (a) Recommendations for the priority of expenditure of  
21 funds in the state system of public education, with reasons  
22 for the recommended priorities, and other recommendations  
23 which relate to the effectiveness of the educational  
24 facilities construction program.

25           (b) All items in s. 1013.64.

26           Section 858. Section 1013.61, Florida Statutes, is  
27 created to read:

28           1013.61 Annual capital outlay budget.--Each board  
29 shall, each year, adopt a capital outlay budget for the  
30 ensuing year in order that the capital outlay needs of the  
31 board for the entire year may be well understood by the

1 public. This capital outlay budget shall be a part of the  
2 annual budget and shall be based upon and in harmony with the  
3 board's capital outlay plan. This budget shall designate the  
4 proposed capital outlay expenditures by project for the year  
5 from all fund sources. The board may not expend any funds on  
6 any project not included in the budget, as amended. Each  
7 district school board must prepare its tentative district  
8 facilities work program as required by s. 1013.35 before  
9 adopting the capital outlay budget.

10 Section 859. Section 1013.62, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1013.62 Charter schools capital outlay funding.--

13 (1) In each year in which funds are appropriated for  
14 charter school capital outlay purposes, the Commissioner of  
15 Education shall allocate the funds among eligible charter  
16 schools. To be eligible for a funding allocation, a charter  
17 school must meet the provisions of subsection (6), must have  
18 received final approval from its sponsor pursuant to s.  
19 1002.33 for operation during that fiscal year, and must serve  
20 students in facilities that are not provided by the charter  
21 school's sponsor. Prior to the release of capital outlay funds  
22 to a school district on behalf of the charter school, the  
23 Department of Education shall ensure that the district school  
24 board and the charter school governing board enter into a  
25 written agreement that includes provisions for the reversion  
26 of any unencumbered funds and all equipment and property  
27 purchased with public education funds to the ownership of the  
28 district school board, as provided for in subsection (3), in  
29 the event that the school terminates operations. Any funds  
30 recovered by the state shall be deposited in the General  
31 Revenue Fund. A charter school is not eligible for a funding

1 allocation if it was created by the conversion of a public  
2 school and operates in facilities provided by the charter  
3 school's sponsor for a nominal fee or at no charge or if it is  
4 directly or indirectly operated by the school district. Unless  
5 otherwise provided in the General Appropriations Act, the  
6 funding allocation for each eligible charter school shall be  
7 determined by multiplying the school's projected student  
8 enrollment by one-fifteenth of the cost-per-student station  
9 specified in s. 1013.64(6)(b) for an elementary, middle, or  
10 high school, as appropriate. If the funds appropriated are not  
11 sufficient, the commissioner shall prorate the available funds  
12 among eligible charter schools. Funds shall be distributed on  
13 the basis of the capital outlay full-time equivalent  
14 membership by grade level, which shall be calculated by  
15 averaging the results of the second and third enrollment  
16 surveys. The Department of Education shall distribute capital  
17 outlay funds monthly, beginning in the first quarter of the  
18 fiscal year, based on one-twelfth of the amount the department  
19 reasonably expects the charter school to receive during that  
20 fiscal year. The commissioner shall adjust subsequent  
21 distributions as necessary to reflect each charter school's  
22 actual student enrollment as reflected in the second and third  
23 enrollment surveys. The commissioner shall establish the  
24 intervals and procedures for determining the projected and  
25 actual student enrollment of eligible charter schools.

26 (2) A charter school's governing body may use charter  
27 school capital outlay funds for any capital outlay purpose  
28 that is directly related to the functioning of the charter  
29 school, including the:

30 (a) Purchase of real property.  
31

1           **(b) Construction, renovation, repair, and maintenance**  
2 **of school facilities.**

3           **(c) Purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of permanent or**  
4 **relocatable school facilities.**

5           **(d) Purchase of vehicles to transport students to and**  
6 **from the charter school.**

7           **(3) When a charter school is nonrenewed or terminated,**  
8 **any unencumbered funds and all equipment and property**  
9 **purchased with district public funds shall revert to the**  
10 **ownership of the district school board, as provided for in s.**  
11 **1002.33(8)(e) and (f). In the case of a charter lab school,**  
12 **any unencumbered funds and all equipment and property**  
13 **purchased with university public funds shall revert to the**  
14 **ownership of the state university that issued the charter. The**  
15 **reversion of such equipment, property, and furnishings shall**  
16 **focus on recoverable assets, but not on intangible or**  
17 **irrecoverable costs such as rental or leasing fees, normal**  
18 **maintenance, and limited renovations. The reversion of all**  
19 **property secured with public funds is subject to the complete**  
20 **satisfaction of all lawful liens or encumbrances. If there are**  
21 **additional local issues such as the shared use of facilities**  
22 **or partial ownership of facilities or property, these issues**  
23 **shall be agreed to in the charter contract prior to the**  
24 **expenditure of funds.**

25           **(4) The Commissioner of Education shall specify**  
26 **procedures for submitting and approving requests for funding**  
27 **under this section and procedures for documenting**  
28 **expenditures.**

29           **(5) The annual legislative budget request of the**  
30 **Department of Education shall include a request for capital**  
31 **outlay funding for charter schools. The request shall be based**

1 on the projected number of students to be served in charter  
2 schools who meet the eligibility requirements of this section.  
3 A dedicated funding source, if identified in writing by the  
4 Commissioner of Education and submitted along with the annual  
5 charter school legislative budget request, may be considered  
6 an additional source of funding.

7 (6) Unless authorized otherwise by the Legislature,  
8 allocation and proration of charter school capital outlay  
9 funds shall be made to eligible charter schools by the  
10 Commissioner of Education in an amount and in a manner  
11 authorized by subsection (1).

12 Section 860. Section 1013.63, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14 1013.63 University Concurrency Trust  
15 Fund.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the general  
16 revenue service charge deducted pursuant to s. 215.20 on  
17 revenues raised by any local option motor fuel tax levied  
18 pursuant to s. 336.025(1)(b), as created by chapter 93-206,  
19 Laws of Florida, shall be deposited in the University  
20 Concurrency Trust Fund, which is administered by the State  
21 Board of Education. Moneys in such trust fund shall be for the  
22 purpose of funding university offsite improvements required to  
23 meet concurrency standards adopted under part II of chapter  
24 163. In addition, in any year in which campus master plans are  
25 updated pursuant to s. 1013.30, but no more frequently than  
26 once every 5 years, up to 25 percent of the balance in the  
27 trust fund for that year may be used to defray the costs  
28 incurred in updating those campus master plans.

29 Section 861. Section 1013.64, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31

1           1013.64 Funds for comprehensive educational plant  
2 needs; construction cost maximums for school district capital  
3 projects.--Allocations from the Public Education Capital  
4 Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund to the various boards for  
5 capital outlay projects shall be determined as follows:  
6           (1)(a) Funds for remodeling, renovation, maintenance,  
7 repairs, and site improvement for existing satisfactory  
8 facilities shall be given priority consideration by the  
9 Legislature for appropriations allocated to the boards from  
10 the total amount of the Public Education Capital Outlay and  
11 Debt Service Trust Fund appropriated. These funds shall be  
12 calculated pursuant to the following basic formula: the  
13 building value times the building age over the sum of the  
14 years' digits assuming a 50-year building life. For  
15 relocatable facilities, a 20-year life shall be used.  
16 "Building value" is calculated by multiplying each building's  
17 total assignable square feet times the appropriate  
18 net-to-gross conversion rate found in state board rules and  
19 that product times the current average new construction cost.  
20 "Building age" is calculated by multiplying the prior year's  
21 building age times 1 minus the prior year's sum received from  
22 this subsection divided by the prior year's building value. To  
23 the net result shall be added the number 1. Each board shall  
24 receive the percentage generated by the preceding formula of  
25 the total amount appropriated for the purposes of this  
26 section.  
27           (b) Each board is prohibited from using the funds  
28 received pursuant to this section to supplant funds in the  
29 current fiscal year approved operating budget, and all  
30 budgeted funds shall be expended at a rate not less than would  
31

1 have been expended had the funds under this section not been  
2 received.

3 (c) Each remodeling, renovation, maintenance, repair,  
4 or site improvement project will expand or upgrade current  
5 educational plants to prolong the useful life of the plant.

6 (d) Each board shall maintain fund accounting in a  
7 manner which will permit a detailed audit of the funds  
8 expended in this program.

9 (e) Remodeling projects shall be based on the  
10 recommendations of a survey pursuant to s. 1013.31.

11 (f) At least one-tenth of a board's annual allocation  
12 provided under this section shall be spent to correct unsafe,  
13 unhealthy, or unsanitary conditions in its educational  
14 facilities, as required by s. 1013.12, or a lesser amount  
15 sufficient to correct all deficiencies cited in its annual  
16 comprehensive safety inspection reports. This paragraph shall  
17 not be construed to limit the amount a board may expend to  
18 correct such deficiencies.

19 (g) When an existing educational plant is determined  
20 to be unsatisfactory pursuant to the survey conducted under s.  
21 1013.31, the board may, by resolution, designate the plant as  
22 a historic educational facility and may use funds generated  
23 for renovation and remodeling pursuant to this section to  
24 restore the facility for use by the board. The board shall  
25 agree to pay renovation and remodeling costs in excess of  
26 funds which such facility would have generated through the  
27 depreciation formula in paragraph (a) had the facility been  
28 determined to be satisfactory. The board shall further agree  
29 that the plant shall continue to house students. The board may  
30 designate a plant as a historic educational facility only if  
31 the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of

1 State or the appropriate historic preservation board under  
2 chapter 266 certifies that:

3 1. The plant is listed or determined eligible for  
4 listing in the National Register of Historic Places pursuant  
5 to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended,  
6 16 U.S.C. s. 470;

7 2. The plant is designated historic within a certified  
8 local district pursuant to s. 48(q)(3)(B)(ii) of the Internal  
9 Revenue Code; or

10 3. The division or historic preservation board  
11 otherwise finds that the plant is historically significant.

12 (h) University boards of trustees may utilize funds  
13 appropriated pursuant to this section for replacement of minor  
14 facilities provided that such projects do not exceed \$1  
15 million in cost or 10,000 gross square feet in size. Minor  
16 facilities may not be replaced from funds provided pursuant to  
17 this section unless the board determines that the cost of  
18 repair or renovation is greater than or equal to the cost of  
19 replacement.

20 (2)(a) The department shall establish, as a part of  
21 the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust  
22 Fund, a separate account, in an amount determined by the  
23 Legislature, to be known as the "Special Facility Construction  
24 Account." The Special Facility Construction Account shall be  
25 used to provide necessary construction funds to school  
26 districts which have urgent construction needs but which lack  
27 sufficient resources at present, and cannot reasonably  
28 anticipate sufficient resources within the period of the next  
29 3 years, for these purposes from currently authorized sources  
30 of capital outlay revenue. A school district requesting  
31 funding from the Special Facility Construction Account shall

1 submit one specific construction project, not to exceed one  
2 complete educational plant, to the Special Facility  
3 Construction Committee. No district shall receive funding for  
4 more than one approved project in any 3-year period. The first  
5 year of the 3-year period shall be the first year a district  
6 receives an appropriation. The department shall encourage a  
7 construction program that reduces the average size of schools  
8 in the district. The request must meet the following criteria  
9 to be considered by the committee:

10 1. The project must be deemed a critical need and must  
11 be recommended for funding by the Special Facility  
12 Construction Committee. Prior to developing plans for the  
13 proposed facility, the district school board must request a  
14 preapplication review by the Special Facility Construction  
15 Committee or a project review subcommittee convened by the  
16 committee to include two representatives of the department and  
17 two staff from school districts not eligible to participate in  
18 the program. Within 60 days after receiving the preapplication  
19 review request, the committee or subcommittee must meet in the  
20 school district to review the project proposal and existing  
21 facilities. To determine whether the proposed project is a  
22 critical need, the committee or subcommittee shall consider,  
23 at a minimum, the capacity of all existing facilities within  
24 the district as determined by the Florida Inventory of School  
25 Houses; the district's pattern of student growth; the  
26 district's existing and projected capital outlay full-time  
27 equivalent student enrollment as determined by the department;  
28 the district's existing satisfactory student stations; the use  
29 of all existing district property and facilities; grade level  
30 configurations; and any other information that may affect the  
31 need for the proposed project.

1           2. The construction project must be recommended in the  
2 most recent survey or surveys by the district under the rules  
3 of the State Board of Education.

4           3. The construction project must appear on the  
5 district's approved project priority list under the rules of  
6 the State Board of Education.

7           4. The district must have selected and had approved a  
8 site for the construction project in compliance with s.  
9 1013.36 and the rules of the State Board of Education.

10           5. The district shall have developed a district school  
11 board adopted list of facilities that do not exceed the norm  
12 for net square feet occupancy requirements under the State  
13 Requirements for Educational Facilities, using all possible  
14 programmatic combinations for multiple use of space to obtain  
15 maximum daily use of all spaces within the facility under  
16 consideration.

17           6. Upon construction, the total cost per student  
18 station, including change orders, must not exceed the cost per  
19 student station as provided in subsection (6).

20           7. There shall be an agreement signed by the district  
21 school board stating that it will advertise for bids within 30  
22 days of receipt of its encumbrance authorization from the  
23 department.

24           8. The district shall, at the time of the request and  
25 for a continuing period of 3 years, levy the maximum millage  
26 against their nonexempt assessed property value as allowed in  
27 s. 1011.71(2) or shall raise an equivalent amount of revenue  
28 from the school capital outlay surtax authorized under s.  
29 212.055(6). Any district with a new or active project, funded  
30 under the provisions of this subsection, shall be required to  
31 budget no more than the value of 1.5 mills per year to the

1 project to satisfy the annual participation requirement in the  
2 Special Facility Construction Account.

3 9. If a contract has not been signed 90 days after the  
4 advertising of bids, the funding for the specific project  
5 shall revert to the Special Facility New Construction Account  
6 to be reallocated to other projects on the list. However, an  
7 additional 90 days may be granted by the commissioner.

8 10. The department shall certify the inability of the  
9 district to fund the survey-recommended project over a  
10 continuous 3-year period using projected capital outlay  
11 revenue derived from s. 9(d), Art. XII of the State  
12 Constitution, as amended, paragraph (3)(a) of this section,  
13 and s. 1011.71(2).

14 11. The district shall have on file with the  
15 department an adopted resolution acknowledging its 3-year  
16 commitment of all unencumbered and future revenue acquired  
17 from s. 9(d), Art. XII of the State Constitution, as amended,  
18 paragraph (3)(a) of this section, and s. 1011.71(2).

19 12. Final phase III plans must be certified by the  
20 board as complete and in compliance with the building and life  
21 safety codes prior to August 1.

22 (b) The Special Facility Construction Committee shall  
23 be composed of the following: two representatives of the  
24 Department of Education, a representative from the Governor's  
25 office, a representative selected annually by the district  
26 school boards, and a representative selected annually by the  
27 superintendents.

28 (c) The committee shall review the requests submitted  
29 from the districts, evaluate the ability of the project to  
30 relieve critical needs, and rank the requests in priority  
31 order. This statewide priority list for special facilities

1 construction shall be submitted to the Legislature in the  
2 commissioner's annual capital outlay legislative budget  
3 request at least 45 days prior to the legislative session.

4 (3)(a) Each district school board shall receive an  
5 amount from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt  
6 Service Trust Fund to be calculated by computing the capital  
7 outlay full-time equivalent membership as determined by the  
8 department. Such membership must include, but is not limited  
9 to:

10 1. K-12 students, except hospital and homebound  
11 part-time students; and

12 2. Students who are career and technical education  
13 students, and adult disabled students and who are enrolled in  
14 school district technical centers. The capital outlay  
15 full-time equivalent membership shall be determined for  
16 kindergarten through the 12th grade and for technical centers  
17 by averaging the unweighted full-time equivalent student  
18 membership for the second and third surveys and comparing the  
19 results on a school-by-school basis with the Florida Inventory  
20 for School Houses. The capital outlay full-time equivalent  
21 membership by grade level organization shall be used in making  
22 the following calculations: The capital outlay full-time  
23 equivalent membership by grade level organization for the 4th  
24 prior year must be used to compute the base-year allocation.  
25 The capital outlay full-time equivalent membership by  
26 grade-level organization for the prior year must be used to  
27 compute the growth over the highest of the 3 years preceding  
28 the prior year. From the total amount appropriated by the  
29 Legislature pursuant to this subsection, 40 percent shall be  
30 allocated among the base capital outlay full-time equivalent  
31 membership and 60 percent among the growth capital outlay

1 full-time equivalent membership. The allocation within each of  
2 these groups shall be prorated to the districts based upon  
3 each district's percentage of base and growth capital outlay  
4 full-time membership. The most recent 4-year capital outlay  
5 full-time equivalent membership data shall be used in each  
6 subsequent year's calculation for the allocation of funds  
7 pursuant to this subsection. If a change, correction, or  
8 recomputation of data during any year results in a reduction  
9 or increase of the calculated amount previously allocated to a  
10 district, the allocation to that district shall be adjusted  
11 correspondingly. If such recomputation results in an increase  
12 or decrease of the calculated amount, such additional or  
13 reduced amounts shall be added to or reduced from the  
14 district's future appropriations. However, no change,  
15 correction, or recomputation of data shall be made subsequent  
16 to 2 years following the initial annual allocation.

17 (b) Funds accruing to a district school board from the  
18 provisions of this section shall be expended on needed  
19 projects as shown by survey or surveys under the rules of the  
20 State Board of Education.

21 (c) A district school board may lease relocatable  
22 educational facilities for up to 3 years using nonbonded PECO  
23 funds and for any time period using local capital outlay  
24 millage.

25 (d) Funds distributed to the district school boards  
26 shall be allocated solely based on the provisions of  
27 paragraphs (1)(a) and (2)(a) and paragraph (a) of this  
28 subsection. No individual school district projects shall be  
29 funded off the top of funds allocated to district school  
30 boards.

31

1           (4)(a) Community college boards of trustees and  
2 university boards of trustees shall receive funds for projects  
3 based on a 3-year priority list, to be updated annually, which  
4 is submitted to the Legislature in the legislative budget  
5 request at least 90 days prior to the legislative session. The  
6 State Board of Education shall submit a 3-year priority list  
7 for community colleges and a 3-year priority list for  
8 universities. The lists shall reflect decisions by the State  
9 Board of Education concerning program priorities that  
10 implement the statewide plan for program growth and quality  
11 improvement in education. No remodeling or renovation project  
12 shall be included on the 3-year priority list unless the  
13 project has been recommended pursuant to s. 1013.31 or is for  
14 the purpose of correcting health and safety deficiencies. No  
15 new construction project shall be included on the first year  
16 of the 3-year priority list unless the educational  
17 specifications have been approved by the commissioner for a  
18 community college or university project, as applicable. The  
19 funds requested for a new construction project in the first  
20 year of the 3-year priority list shall be in conformance with  
21 the scope of the project as defined in the educational  
22 specifications. Any new construction project requested in the  
23 first year of the 3-year priority list which is not funded by  
24 the Legislature shall be carried forward to be listed first in  
25 developing the updated 3-year priority list for the subsequent  
26 year's capital outlay budget. Should the order of the priority  
27 of the projects change from year to year, a justification for  
28 such change shall be included with the updated priority list.

29           (b) Community college boards of trustees and  
30 university boards of trustees may lease relocatable  
31

1 educational facilities for up to 3 years using nonbonded PECO  
2 funds.

3 (c) Community college boards of trustees and  
4 university boards of trustees shall receive funds for  
5 remodeling, renovation, maintenance and repairs, and site  
6 improvement for existing satisfactory facilities pursuant to  
7 subsection (1).

8 (5) District school boards shall identify each fund  
9 source and the use of each proportionate to the project cost,  
10 as identified in the bid document, to assure compliance with  
11 this section. The data shall be submitted to the department,  
12 which shall track this information as submitted by the boards.  
13 PECO funds shall not be expended as indicated in the  
14 following:

15 (a) District school boards shall provide landscaping  
16 by local funding sources or initiatives. District school  
17 boards are exempt from local landscape ordinances but may  
18 comply with the local requirements if such compliance is less  
19 costly than compliance with the landscape requirements of the  
20 Florida Building Code for public educational facilities.

21 (b) PECO funds shall not be used for the construction  
22 of football fields, bleachers, site lighting for athletic  
23 facilities, tennis courts, stadiums, racquetball courts, or  
24 any other competition-type facilities not required for  
25 physical education curriculum. Regional or intradistrict  
26 football stadiums may be constructed with these funds provided  
27 a minimum of two high schools and two middle schools are  
28 assigned to the facility and the stadiums are survey  
29 recommended. Sophisticated auditoria shall be limited to  
30 magnet performing arts schools, with all other schools using  
31 basic lighting and sound systems as determined by rule. Local

1 funds shall be used for enhancement of athletic and performing  
2 arts facilities.

3 (6)(a) Each district school board must meet all  
4 educational plant space needs of its elementary, middle, and  
5 high schools before spending funds from the Public Education  
6 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund or the School  
7 District and Community College District Capital Outlay and  
8 Debt Service Trust Fund for any ancillary plant or any other  
9 new construction, renovation, or remodeling of ancillary  
10 space. Expenditures to meet such space needs may include  
11 expenditures for site acquisition; new construction of  
12 educational plants; renovation, remodeling, and maintenance  
13 and repair of existing educational plants, including auxiliary  
14 facilities; and the directly related costs of such services of  
15 school district personnel. It is not the intent of the  
16 Legislature to preclude the use of capital outlay funding for  
17 the labor costs necessary to accomplish the authorized uses  
18 for the capital outlay funding. Day-labor contracts or any  
19 other educational facilities contracting and construction  
20 techniques pursuant to s. 1013.45 are authorized.  
21 Additionally, if a school district has salaried maintenance  
22 staff whose duties consist solely of performing the labor  
23 necessary to accomplish the authorized uses for the capital  
24 outlay funding, such funding may be used for those salaries;  
25 however, if a school district has salaried staff whose duties  
26 consist partially of performing the labor necessary to  
27 accomplish the authorized uses for the capital outlay funding,  
28 the district shall prorate the portion of salary of each such  
29 employee that is based on labor for authorized capital outlay  
30 funding, and such funding may be used to pay that portion.

31

1           (b)1. A district school board must not use funds from  
2 the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust  
3 Fund or the School District and Community College District  
4 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund for any new  
5 construction of educational plant space with a total cost per  
6 student station, including change orders, that equals more  
7 than:  
8           a. \$11,600 for an elementary school,  
9           b. \$13,300 for a middle school, or  
10          c. \$17,600 for a high school,  
11  
12 (1997) as adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index.  
13           2. A district school board must not use funds from the  
14 Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund or  
15 the School District and Community College District Capital  
16 Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund for any new construction of  
17 an ancillary plant that exceeds 70 percent of the average cost  
18 per square foot of new construction for all schools.  
19           (c) Except as otherwise provided, new construction  
20 initiated by a district school board after June 30, 1997, must  
21 not exceed the cost per student station as provided in  
22 paragraph (b).  
23           (d) The department shall compute for each calendar  
24 year the statewide average construction costs for facilities  
25 serving each instructional level, for relocatable educational  
26 facilities, for administrative facilities, and for other  
27 ancillary and auxiliary facilities. The department shall  
28 compute the statewide average costs per student station for  
29 each instructional level. Cost per student station includes  
30 contract costs, legal and administrative costs, fees of  
31 architects and engineers, furniture and equipment, and site

1 improvement costs. Cost per student station does not include  
 2 the cost of purchasing or leasing the site for the  
 3 construction or the cost of related offsite improvements.

4 (e) The restrictions of this subsection on the cost  
 5 per student station of new construction do not apply to a  
 6 project funded entirely from proceeds received by districts  
 7 through provisions of ss. 212.055 and 1011.73 and s. 9, Art.  
 8 VII of the State Constitution, if the school board approves  
 9 the project by majority vote.

10 Section 862. Section 1013.65, Florida Statutes, is  
 11 created to read:

12 1013.65 Educational and ancillary plant construction  
 13 funds; Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust  
 14 Fund; allocation of funds.--

15 (1) The commissioner, through the department, shall  
 16 administer the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt  
 17 Service Trust Fund. The commissioner shall allocate or  
 18 reallocate funds as authorized by the Legislature. Copies of  
 19 each allocation or reallocation shall be provided to members  
 20 of the State Board of Education and to the chairs of the House  
 21 of Representatives and Senate appropriations committees. The  
 22 commissioner shall provide for timely encumbrances of funds  
 23 for duly authorized projects. Encumbrances may include  
 24 proceeds to be received under a resolution approved by the  
 25 State Board of Education authorizing the issuance of public  
 26 education capital outlay bonds pursuant to s. 9(a)(2), Art.  
 27 XII of the State Constitution, s. 215.61, and other applicable  
 28 law. The commissioner shall provide for the timely  
 29 disbursement of moneys necessary to meet the encumbrance  
 30 authorizations of the boards. Records shall be maintained by  
 31 the department to identify legislative appropriations,

1 allocations, encumbrance authorizations, disbursements,  
2 transfers, investments, sinking funds, and revenue receipts by  
3 source. The Department of Education shall pay the  
4 administrative costs of the Public Education Capital Outlay  
5 and Debt Service Trust Fund from the funds which comprise the  
6 trust fund.

7 (2)(a) The Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt  
8 Service Trust Fund shall be comprised of the following  
9 sources, which are hereby appropriated to the trust fund:

10 1. Proceeds, premiums, and accrued interest from the  
11 sale of public education bonds and that portion of the  
12 revenues accruing from the gross receipts tax as provided by  
13 s. 9(a)(2), Art. XII of the State Constitution, as amended,  
14 interest on investments, and federal interest subsidies.

15 2. General revenue funds appropriated to the fund for  
16 educational capital outlay purposes.

17 3. All capital outlay funds previously appropriated  
18 and certified forward pursuant to s. 216.301.

19 (b) Any funds required by law to be segregated or  
20 maintained in separate accounts shall be segregated or  
21 maintained in such manner that the relationship between  
22 program and revenue source is retained. Nothing in this  
23 subsection shall be construed so as to limit the use by the  
24 Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund of  
25 the resources of funds so segregated or maintained.

26 (3) Upon the request of each board, the department  
27 shall distribute to the board an amount sufficient to cover  
28 capital outlay disbursements anticipated from encumbrance  
29 authorizations for the following month. For projects costing  
30 in excess of \$50,000, contracts shall be approved and signed  
31 before any disbursements are authorized.

1           (4) The department may authorize each board to enter  
2 into contracts for a period exceeding 1 year, within amounts  
3 appropriated and budgeted for fixed capital outlay needs; but  
4 any contract so made shall be executory only for the value of  
5 the services to be rendered, or agreed to be paid for, in  
6 succeeding fiscal years. This subsection shall be incorporated  
7 verbatim in all executory contracts of a board.

8           (5) No board shall, during any fiscal year, expend any  
9 money, incur any liability, or enter into any contract which,  
10 by its terms, involves expenditure of money in excess of the  
11 amounts appropriated and budgeted or in excess of the cash  
12 that will be available to meet the disbursement requirements.  
13 Prior to entering into an executory, or any other, contract, a  
14 board shall obtain certification from the department that  
15 moneys will be available to meet the disbursement  
16 requirements. Any contract, verbal or written, made in  
17 violation of this subsection shall be null and void, and no  
18 payment shall be made thereon.

19           (6) The State Board of Administration is authorized to  
20 invest the trust funds of any state-supported retirement  
21 system, and any other state funds available for loans, to the  
22 trust fund at a rate of interest that is no less favorable  
23 than would have been received had such moneys been invested in  
24 accordance with authorized practices.

25           (7) Boards and entities authorized to participate in  
26 the trust fund are district school boards, the community  
27 college boards of trustees, the Trustees of the Florida School  
28 for the Deaf and the Blind, and university boards of trustees  
29 and other units of the state system of public education, and  
30 other educational entities for which funds are authorized by  
31 the Legislature.

- 1       (8) The department shall make a monthly report, by  
 2 project, of requests for encumbrance authorization from each  
 3 agency. Each project shall be tracked in the following manner:  
 4       (a) The date the request is received;  
 5       (b) The anticipated encumbrance date requested by the  
 6 agency;  
 7       (c) The date the project is eligible for encumbrance  
 8 authorization; and  
 9       (d) The date the encumbrance authorization is issued.  
 10       (9) The department shall make a monthly report:  
 11       (a) Showing the amount of cash disbursed to the agency  
 12 from each appropriated allocation and the amount of cash  
 13 disbursed by the agency to vendors or contractors from each  
 14 appropriated allocation, by month.  
 15       (b) Showing updated adjustments to the budget fiscal  
 16 year forecast for appropriations, encumbrances, disbursements,  
 17 and cash available for encumbrance status.
- 18       Section 863. Section 1013.66, Florida Statutes, is  
 19 created to read:  
 20       1013.66 Financing of approved capital projects.--  
 21       (1) Capital projects are to be financed in accordance  
 22 with s. 9(a)(2), Art. XII of the State Constitution, as  
 23 amended, or from other legally available state funds or  
 24 grants, donations, or matching funds, or by a combination of  
 25 such funds.  
 26       (2) The sum designated annually by the Legislature is  
 27 the maximum sum to be expended from funds accruing under s.  
 28 9(a)(2), Art. XII of the State Constitution, as amended, and  
 29 from funds accruing under s. 1013.65(2). However, funds  
 30 appropriated from this source and remaining unexpended from  
 31 previously authorized capital projects, along with grants,

1 donations, and matching funds from other sources, may be added  
2 to such maximum sums for any item or category.

3 (3) No transfers between appropriations shall be made  
4 without prior approval under the provisions of chapter 216.

5 (4) To the extent that appropriations authority for  
6 entitlements from previous years was used for advanced  
7 funding, that authority is hereby restored to the projects for  
8 which appropriations were made by the Legislature in those  
9 previous years.

10 Section 864. Section 1013.67, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12 1013.67 Commissioner to provide for encumbrances of  
13 funds.--The Commissioner of Education shall provide for timely  
14 encumbrances of funds for duly authorized projects.  
15 Encumbrances may include proceeds to be received under a  
16 resolution approved by the State Board of Education  
17 authorizing the issuance of 1997 school capital outlay bonds  
18 pursuant to s. 11(d), Art. VII of the State Constitution, s.  
19 1013.70, and other applicable law.

20 Section 865. Section 1013.68, Florida Statutes, is  
21 created to read:

22 1013.68 Classrooms First Program; uses.--

23 (1) The Commissioner of Education shall allocate funds  
24 appropriated for the Classrooms First Program among the  
25 district school boards. It is the intent of the Legislature  
26 that this program be administered as nearly as practicable in  
27 the same manner as the capital outlay program authorized under  
28 s. 9(d), Art. XII of the State Constitution. Each district  
29 school board's share of the annual appropriation for the  
30 Classrooms First Program must be calculated according to the  
31 following formula, but the share of each district shall, at a

1 minimum, be at least equal to the amount required for all  
2 payments of the district relating to bonds issued by the state  
3 on its behalf:

4 (a) Twenty-five percent of the appropriation shall be  
5 prorated to the districts based on each district's percentage  
6 of base capital outlay full-time equivalent membership; and 65  
7 percent shall be based on each district's percentage of growth  
8 capital outlay full-time equivalent membership as specified  
9 for the allocation of funds from the Public Education Capital  
10 Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund by s. 1013.64(3).

11 (b) Ten percent of the appropriation must be allocated  
12 among district school boards according to the allocation  
13 formula in s. 1013.64(1)(a).

14 (2) A district school board shall expend the funds  
15 received pursuant to this section only to:

16 (a) Construct, renovate, remodel, repair, or maintain  
17 educational facilities; or

18 (b) Pay debt service on bonds issued pursuant to this  
19 section, the proceeds of which must be expended for new  
20 construction, remodeling, renovation, and major repairs. Bond  
21 proceeds shall be expended first for providing permanent  
22 classroom facilities. Bond proceeds shall not be expended for  
23 any other facilities until all unmet needs for permanent  
24 classrooms and auxiliary facilities as defined in s. 1013.01  
25 have been satisfied.

26  
27 However, if more than 9 percent of a district's total square  
28 feet is more than 50 years old, the district must spend at  
29 least 25 percent of its allocation on the renovation, major  
30 repair, or remodeling of existing schools, except that  
31

1 districts with fewer than 10,000 full-time equivalent students  
2 are exempt from this requirement.

3 (3) Each district school board that pledges moneys  
4 under paragraph (2)(b) shall notify the Department of  
5 Education of its election at a time set by the department. The  
6 Department of Education shall review the proposal of each  
7 district school board for compliance with this section and  
8 shall forward all approved proposals to the Division of Bond  
9 Finance with a request to issue bonds on behalf of the  
10 approved school districts. The Division of Bond Finance shall  
11 pool the pledges from all school districts making the election  
12 in that year and shall issue the bonds on behalf of the  
13 districts for a period not to exceed the distributions to be  
14 received under s. 24.121(2). The bonds must be issued in  
15 accordance with s. 11(d), Art. VII of the State Constitution,  
16 and each project to be constructed with the proceeds of bonds  
17 is hereby approved as provided in s. 11(f), Art. VII of the  
18 State Constitution. The bonds shall be issued pursuant to the  
19 State Bond Act to the extent not inconsistent with this  
20 section.

21 (4) Bonds issued under this section must be validated  
22 as prescribed by chapter 75. The complaint for the validation  
23 must be filed in the circuit court of the county where the  
24 seat of state government is situated; the notice required to  
25 be published by s. 75.06 must be published only in the county  
26 where the complaint is filed; and the complaint and order of  
27 the circuit court must be served only on the state attorney of  
28 the circuit in which the action is pending. The state  
29 covenants with holders of bonds issued under this section that  
30 it will not take any action that will materially and adversely  
31 affect the rights of such holders so long as such bonds are

1 outstanding. The state does hereby additionally authorize the  
2 establishment of a covenant in connection with the bonds which  
3 provides that any additional funds received by the state from  
4 new or enhanced lottery programs, video gaming, or other  
5 similar activities will first be available for payments  
6 relating to bonds pledging revenues available pursuant to s.  
7 24.121(2), prior to use for any other purpose.

8       (5) A school district may only receive a distribution  
9 for use pursuant to paragraph (2)(a) if the district school  
10 board certifies to the Commissioner of Education that the  
11 district has no unmet need for permanent classroom facilities  
12 in its 5-year capital outlay work plan. If the work plan  
13 contains such unmet needs, the district must use its  
14 distribution for the payment of bonds pursuant to paragraph  
15 (2)(b). If the district does not require its full bonded  
16 distribution to eliminate such unmet need, it may bond only  
17 that portion of its allocation necessary to meet the needs.

18       Section 866. Section 1013.69, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20       1013.69 Full bonding required to participate in  
21 programs.--Any district with unused bonding capacity in its  
22 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund allocation that  
23 certifies in its district facilities work program that it will  
24 not be able to meet all of its need for new student stations  
25 within existing revenues must fully bond its Capital Outlay  
26 and Debt Service Trust Fund allocation before it may  
27 participate in Classrooms First, the School Infrastructure  
28 Thrift (SIT) Program, or the Effort Index Grants Program.

29       Section 867. Section 1013.70, Florida Statutes, is  
30 created to read:

31

1           1013.70 The 1997 School Capital Outlay Bond  
2 Program.--There is hereby established the 1997 School Capital  
3 Outlay Bond Program.  
4           (1) The issuance of revenue bonds payable from the  
5 first lottery revenues transferred to the Educational  
6 Enhancement Trust Fund each fiscal year, as provided by s.  
7 24.121(2), is authorized to finance or refinance the  
8 construction, acquisition, reconstruction, or renovation of  
9 educational facilities. Such bonds shall be issued pursuant to  
10 and in compliance with the provisions of s. 11(d), Art. VII of  
11 the State Constitution, the provisions of the State Bond Act,  
12 ss. 215.57-215.83, as amended, and the provisions of this  
13 section. The state does hereby covenant with the holders of  
14 such revenue bonds that it will not take any action which will  
15 materially and adversely affect the rights of such holders so  
16 long as bonds authorized by this section are outstanding. The  
17 state does hereby additionally authorize the establishment of  
18 a covenant in connection with the bonds which provides that  
19 any additional funds received by the state from new or  
20 enhanced lottery programs, video gaming, or other similar  
21 activities will first be available for payments relating to  
22 bonds pledging revenues available pursuant to s. 24.121(2),  
23 prior to use for any other purpose.  
24           (2) The bonds shall be issued by the Division of Bond  
25 Finance of the State Board of Administration on behalf of the  
26 Department of Education in such amount as shall be requested  
27 by resolution of the State Board of Education. However, debt  
28 service and other amounts payable with respect to the bonds  
29 issued pursuant to this section shall not exceed \$35 million  
30 in any state fiscal year.  
31

1           (3) Proceeds available from bond sales shall be  
2 deposited in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund within the  
3 Department of Education.

4           (4) The facilities to be financed with the proceeds of  
5 such bonds are designated as state fixed capital outlay  
6 projects for purposes of s. 11(d), Art. VII of the State  
7 Constitution and the specific facilities to be financed shall  
8 be determined by the Department of Education in accordance  
9 with state law and appropriations from the Educational  
10 Enhancement Trust Fund. Each educational facility to be  
11 financed with the proceeds of the bonds issued pursuant to  
12 this section is hereby approved as required by s. 11(f), Art.  
13 VII of the State Constitution.

14           (5) Bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be  
15 validated in the manner provided by chapter 75. The complaint  
16 for such validation shall be filed in the circuit court of the  
17 county where the seat of state government is situated, the  
18 notice required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published  
19 only in the county where the complaint is filed, and the  
20 complaint and order of the circuit court shall be served only  
21 on the state attorney of the circuit in which the action is  
22 pending.

23           Section 868. Section 1013.71, Florida Statutes, is  
24 created to read:

25           1013.71 Lottery Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust  
26 Fund.--

27           (1)(a) The Lottery Capital Outlay and Debt Service  
28 Trust Fund is hereby created, to be administered by the  
29 Department of Education. Funds shall be credited to the trust  
30 fund from legislative appropriations and interest earnings.  
31 The purpose of the trust fund is to maintain and account for

1 lottery funds appropriated for fixed capital outlay and debt  
2 service separately from lottery funds appropriated for current  
3 operations.

4 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and  
5 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the  
6 end of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund and  
7 shall be available for carrying out the purposes of the trust  
8 fund.

9 (2) Lottery funds appropriated for fixed capital  
10 outlay and debt service, along with any interest earned  
11 thereon, shall be transferred from the Educational Enhancement  
12 Trust Fund to the Lottery Capital Outlay and Debt Service  
13 Trust Fund.

14 (3) Pursuant to the provisions of s. 19(f)(3), Art.  
15 III of the State Constitution, the trust fund is not subject  
16 to termination under s. 19(f)(2), Art. III of the State  
17 Constitution.

18 Section 869. Section 1013.72, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20 1013.72 SIT Program award eligibility; maximum cost  
21 per student station of educational facilities; frugality  
22 incentives; recognition awards.--

23 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that district  
24 school boards that seek awards of SIT Program funds use due  
25 diligence and sound business practices in the design,  
26 construction, and use of educational facilities.

27 (2) A school district may seek an award from the SIT  
28 Program, pursuant to this section and s. 1013.42, based on the  
29 district's new construction of educational facilities if the  
30 cost per student station is less than:

31 (a) \$11,600 for an elementary school,

1           (b) \$13,300 for a middle school, or  
2           (c) \$17,600 for a high school,  
3  
4 (1997) as adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index. The  
5 award shall be up to 50 percent of such savings, as  
6 recommended by the Office of Educational Facilities and SMART  
7 Schools Clearinghouse.

8           (3) A school district may seek a SMART school of the  
9 year recognition award for building the highest quality  
10 functional, frugal school. The commissioner may present a  
11 trophy or plaque and a cash award to the school recommended by  
12 the Office of Educational Facilities and SMART Schools  
13 Clearinghouse for a SMART school of the year recognition  
14 award.

15           Section 870. Section 1013.73, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17           1013.73 Effort index grants for school district  
18 facilities.--

19           (1) The Legislature hereby allocates for effort index  
20 grants the sum of \$300 million from the funds appropriated  
21 from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund by s. 46, chapter  
22 97-384, Laws of Florida, contingent upon the sale of school  
23 capital outlay bonds. From these funds, the Commissioner of  
24 Education shall allocate to the four school districts deemed  
25 eligible for an effort index grant by the SMART Schools  
26 Clearinghouse the sums of \$7,442,890 to the Clay County School  
27 District, \$62,755,920 to the Dade County School District,  
28 \$1,628,590 to the Hendry County School District, and \$414,950  
29 to the Madison County School District. The remaining funds  
30 shall be allocated among the remaining district school boards  
31 that qualify for an effort index grant by meeting the local

1 capital outlay effort criteria in paragraph (a) or paragraph  
2 (b).

3 (a) Between July 1, 1995, and June 30, 1999, the  
4 school district received direct proceeds from the  
5 one-half-cent sales surtax for public school capital outlay  
6 authorized by s. 212.055(6) or from the local government  
7 infrastructure sales surtax authorized by s. 212.055(2).

8 (b) The school district met two of the following  
9 criteria:

10 1. Levied the full 2 mills of nonvoted discretionary  
11 capital outlay authorized by s. 1011.71(2) during 1995-1996,  
12 1996-1997, 1997-1998, and 1998-1999.

13 2. Levied a cumulative voted millage for capital  
14 outlay and debt service equal to 2.5 mills for fiscal years  
15 1995 through 1999.

16 3. Received proceeds of school impact fees greater  
17 than \$500 per dwelling unit which were in effect on July 1,  
18 1998.

19 4. Received direct proceeds from either the  
20 one-half-cent sales surtax for public school capital outlay  
21 authorized by s. 212.055(6) or from the local government  
22 infrastructure sales surtax authorized by s. 212.055(2).

23 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that this  
24 program be administered as nearly as is practicable in the  
25 same manner as the capital outlay program authorized under s.  
26 9(d), Art. XII of the State Constitution. Each district school  
27 board's share of the appropriation for the effort index grants  
28 must be calculated according to the following formula using  
29 the same basis as the Classrooms First allocation formula, but  
30 the share of each district shall, at a minimum, be at least  
31

1 equal to the amount required for all payments of the district  
2 relating to bonds issued by the state on its behalf:  
3 (a) Twenty-five percent of the appropriation shall be  
4 prorated to the districts based on each district's percentage  
5 of base capital outlay full-time-equivalent membership; and 65  
6 percent shall be based on each district's percentage of growth  
7 capital outlay full-time-equivalent membership as specified  
8 for the allocation of funds from the Public Education Capital  
9 Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund by s. 1013.64(3).  
10 (b) Ten percent of the appropriation must be allocated  
11 among district school boards according to the allocation  
12 formula in s. 1013.64(1)(a).  
13 (3) A district school board shall expend the funds  
14 received under this section only to:  
15 (a) Construct, renovate, remodel, repair, or maintain  
16 educational facilities; or  
17 (b) Pay debt service on bonds issued under this  
18 section, the proceeds of which must be expended for new  
19 construction, remodeling, renovation, and major repairs. Bond  
20 proceeds shall be expended first for providing permanent  
21 classroom facilities and related auxiliary facilities. Bond  
22 proceeds may not be expended for any other facilities until  
23 all unmet needs for permanent classrooms and auxiliary  
24 facilities as defined in s. 1013.01 have been satisfied.  
25  
26 However, if more than 9 percent of a district's total square  
27 feet is more than 50 years old, the district must spend at  
28 least 25 percent of its allocation on the renovation, major  
29 repair, or remodeling of existing schools, except that  
30 districts having fewer than 10,000 full-time equivalent  
31 students are exempt from this requirement.

1           (4) Each district school board that pledges moneys  
2 under paragraph (3)(b) shall notify the Department of  
3 Education of its election at a time set by the department. The  
4 Department of Education shall review the proposal of each  
5 district school board for compliance with this section and  
6 shall forward all approved proposals to the Division of Bond  
7 Finance with a request to issue bonds on behalf of the  
8 approved school districts.

9           (5) A district school board that chooses to pledge  
10 allocations from the Classrooms First Program for the issuance  
11 of bonds must encumber those bond proceeds before pledging  
12 funds for the payment of debt service on bonds issued pursuant  
13 to this section.

14           (6) A school district may receive a distribution for  
15 use pursuant to paragraph (3)(a) only if the district school  
16 board certifies to the Commissioner of Education that the  
17 district has no unmet need for permanent classroom facilities  
18 in its 5-year capital outlay work plan. If the work plan  
19 contains such unmet needs, the district must use its  
20 distribution for the payment of bonds under paragraph (2)(b).  
21 If the district does not require its full bonded distribution  
22 to eliminate such unmet needs, it may bond only that portion  
23 of its allocation necessary to meet the needs.

24           Section 871. Section 1013.74, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26           1013.74 University authorization for fixed capital  
27 outlay projects.--

28           (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 216,  
29 including s. 216.351, a university may accomplish fixed  
30 capital outlay projects consistent with the provisions of this  
31 section. Projects authorized by this section shall not require

1 educational plant survey approval as prescribed in chapter  
2 235.

3 (2) The following types of projects may be  
4 accomplished pursuant to this section:

5 (a) Construction of any new buildings, or remodeling  
6 of existing buildings, when funded from nonstate sources such  
7 as federal grant funds, private gifts, grants, or lease  
8 arrangements if such grants or gifts are given for the  
9 specific purpose of construction;

10 (b) The replacement of any buildings destroyed by fire  
11 or other calamity;

12 (c) Construction of projects financed as provided in  
13 ss. 1010.60-1010.619 or 1013.71;

14 (d) Construction of new facilities or remodeling of  
15 existing facilities to meet needs for research, provided that  
16 such projects are financed pursuant to s. 1004.22; or

17 (e) Construction of facilities or remodeling of  
18 existing facilities to meet needs as determined by the  
19 university, provided that the amount of funds for any such  
20 project does not exceed \$1 million, and the trust funds, other  
21 than the funds used to accomplish projects contemplated in  
22 this subsection, are authorized and available for such  
23 purposes.

24 (3) Other than those projects currently authorized, no  
25 project proposed by a university which is to be funded from  
26 Capital Improvement Trust Fund fees or building fees shall be  
27 submitted to the State Board of Education for approval without  
28 prior consultation with the student government association of  
29 that university. The State Board of Education shall promulgate  
30 rules which are consistent with this requirement.

31

1           (4) The university board of trustees shall, in  
2 consultation with local and state emergency management  
3 agencies, assess existing facilities to identify the extent to  
4 which each campus has public hurricane evacuation shelter  
5 space. The board shall submit to the Governor and the  
6 Legislature by August 1 of each year a 5-year capital  
7 improvements program that identifies new or retrofitted  
8 facilities that will incorporate enhanced hurricane resistance  
9 standards and that can be used as public hurricane evacuation  
10 shelters. Enhanced hurricane resistance standards include  
11 fixed passive protection for window and door applications to  
12 provide mitigation protection, security protection with  
13 egress, and energy efficiencies that meet standards required  
14 in the 130-mile-per-hour wind zone areas. The board must also  
15 submit proposed facility retrofit projects to the Department  
16 of Community Affairs for assessment and inclusion in the  
17 annual report prepared in accordance with s. 252.385(3). Until  
18 a regional planning council region in which a campus is  
19 located has sufficient public hurricane evacuation shelter  
20 space, any campus building for which a design contract is  
21 entered into subsequent to July 1, 2001, and which has been  
22 identified by the board, with the concurrence of the local  
23 emergency management agency or the Department of Community  
24 Affairs, to be appropriate for use as a public hurricane  
25 evacuation shelter, must be constructed in accordance with  
26 public shelter standards.

27           Section 872. Section 1013.75, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29           1013.75 Cooperative funding of career and technical  
30 educational facilities.--  
31

1       (1) Each district school board operating a designated  
2 technical center may submit, prior to August 1 of each year, a  
3 request to the commissioner for funds from the Public  
4 Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund to plan,  
5 construct, and equip a career and technical educational  
6 facility identified as being critical to the economic  
7 development and the workforce needs of the school district.  
8 Prior to submitting a request, each school district shall:  
9       (a) Adopt and submit to the commissioner a resolution  
10 indicating its commitment to fund the planning, construction,  
11 and equipping of the proposed facility at 40 percent of the  
12 requested project amount. The resolution shall also designate  
13 the locale of the proposed facility. If funds from a private  
14 or noneducational public entity are to be committed to the  
15 project, then a joint resolution shall be required.  
16       (b) Except as provided in paragraph (5)(b), levy the  
17 maximum millage against the nonexempt assessed property value  
18 as provided in s. 1011.71(2).  
19       (c) Certify to the Office of Workforce and Economic  
20 Development that the project has been survey recommended.  
21       (d) Certify to the Office of Workforce and Economic  
22 Development that final phase III construction documents comply  
23 with applicable building codes and life safety codes.  
24       (e) Sign an agreement that the district school board  
25 shall advertise for bids within 90 days of receiving an  
26 encumbrance authorization from the department.  
27       (f) If a construction contract has not been signed 90  
28 days after the advertising of bids, certify to the Office of  
29 Workforce and Economic Development and the department the  
30 cause for delay. Upon request, an additional 90 days may be  
31 granted by the commissioner.

1           (2) The Office of Workforce and Economic Development  
2 shall establish the need for additional career and technical  
3 education programs and the continuation of existing programs  
4 before facility construction or renovation related to career  
5 and technical education can be included in the educational  
6 plant survey. Information used by the Office of Workforce and  
7 Economic Development to establish facility needs shall  
8 include, but not be limited to, labor market needs analysis  
9 and information submitted by the school districts.

10           (3) The total cost of the proposed facility shall be  
11 determined by the district school board using established  
12 state board averages for determining new construction cost.

13           (4)(a) A career and technical education construction  
14 committee shall be composed of the following: three  
15 representatives from the Department of Education and one  
16 representative from the Executive Office of the Governor.

17           (b) The committee shall review and evaluate the  
18 requests submitted from the school districts and rank the  
19 requests in priority order in accordance with statewide  
20 critical needs. This statewide priority list shall be  
21 submitted to the commissioner.

22           (c) The commissioner's legislative capital outlay  
23 budget request may include up to 2 percent of the new  
24 construction allocation to public schools for career and  
25 technical capital outlay projects recommended by the career  
26 and technical education construction committee.

27           (5)(a) Upon approval of a project, the commissioner  
28 shall include up to 60 percent of the total cost of the  
29 project in the legislative capital outlay budget request as  
30 provided in s. 1013.60 for educational plants. The  
31 participating district school board shall provide 40 percent

1 of the total cost of the project. When practical, the district  
2 school board shall solicit and encourage a private or  
3 noneducational public entity to commit to finance a portion of  
4 the funds to complete the planning, construction, and  
5 equipping of the facility. If a site does not exist, the  
6 purchase price or, if donated, the assessed value of a site  
7 may be included in meeting the funding requirements of the  
8 district school board, a private or noneducational public  
9 entity, or the educational agency. The value of existing  
10 sites, intended to satisfy any portion of the funding  
11 requirement of a private or noneducational public entity,  
12 shall be determined by an independent appraiser under contract  
13 with the board. The size of the site to adequately provide for  
14 the implementation of the proposed educational programs shall  
15 be determined by the board. Funds from the Public Education  
16 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund may not be expended  
17 on any project unless specifically authorized by the  
18 Legislature.

19 (b) In the event that a school district is not levying  
20 the maximum millage against the nonexempt assessed property  
21 value pursuant to paragraph (1)(b), state and school district  
22 funding pursuant to paragraph (a) shall be reduced by the same  
23 proportion as the millage actually being levied bears to the  
24 maximum allowable millage.

25 Section 873. Section 1013.76, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 1013.76 Multiyear capital improvement contracts.--Any  
28 provision of chapters 1010 and 1011 to the contrary  
29 notwithstanding, school districts are authorized to award  
30 capital improvement contracts involving expenditures to be  
31 incurred for a period of more than 1 year on the basis of

1 voter-authorized and unissued general obligation bonding  
2 authority, provided that sufficient funds are available to,  
3 and budgeted by, the school district to pay actual  
4 disbursements during any fiscal year.

5 Section 874. Section 1013.78, Florida Statutes, is  
6 created to read:

7 1013.78 Approval required for certain  
8 university-related facility acquisitions.--

9 (1) No university or university direct-support  
10 organization shall construct, accept, or purchase facilities  
11 for which the state will be asked for operating funds unless  
12 there has been prior approval for construction or acquisition  
13 granted by the Legislature.

14 (2) Legislative approval shall not be required for  
15 renovations, remodeling, replacement of existing facilities or  
16 construction of minor projects as defined in s. 1013.64.

17 Section 875. Section 1013.79, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19 1013.79 University Facility Enhancement Challenge  
20 Grant Program.--

21 (1) The Legislature recognizes that the universities  
22 do not have sufficient physical facilities to meet the current  
23 demands of their instructional and research programs. It  
24 further recognizes that, to strengthen and enhance  
25 universities, it is necessary to provide facilities in  
26 addition to those currently available from existing revenue  
27 sources. It further recognizes that there are sources of  
28 private support that, if matched with state support, can  
29 assist in constructing much-needed facilities and strengthen  
30 the commitment of citizens and organizations in promoting  
31 excellence throughout the state universities. Therefore, it is

1 the intent of the Legislature to establish a trust fund to  
2 provide the opportunity for each university to receive and  
3 match challenge grants for instructional and research-related  
4 capital facilities within the university.

5 (2) There is hereby established the Alec P. Courtelis  
6 University Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program for  
7 the purpose of assisting universities build high priority  
8 instructional and research-related capital facilities,  
9 including common areas connecting such facilities. The  
10 associated foundations that serve the universities shall  
11 solicit gifts from private sources to provide matching funds  
12 for capital facilities. For the purposes of this act, private  
13 sources of funds shall not include any federal, state, or  
14 local government funds that a university may receive.

15 (3) There is established the Alec P. Courtelis Capital  
16 Facilities Matching Trust Fund for the purpose of providing  
17 matching funds from private contributions for the development  
18 of high priority instructional and research-related capital  
19 facilities, including common areas connecting such facilities,  
20 within a university. The Legislature shall appropriate funds  
21 to be transferred to the trust fund. The Public Education  
22 Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund, Capital  
23 Improvement Trust Fund, Division of Sponsored Research Trust  
24 Fund, and Contracts and Grants Trust Fund shall not be used as  
25 the source of the state match for private contributions. All  
26 appropriated funds deposited into the trust fund shall be  
27 invested pursuant to the provisions of s. 18.125. Interest  
28 income accruing to that portion of the trust fund shall  
29 increase the total funds available for the challenge grant  
30 program. Interest income accruing from the private donations  
31 shall be returned to the participating foundation upon

1 completion of the project. The State Board of Education shall  
2 administer the trust fund and all related construction  
3 activities.

4 (4) No project shall be initiated unless all private  
5 funds for planning, construction, and equipping the facility  
6 have been received and deposited in the trust fund and the  
7 state's share for the minimum amount of funds needed to begin  
8 the project has been appropriated by the Legislature. The  
9 Legislature may appropriate the state's matching funds in one  
10 or more fiscal years for the planning, construction, and  
11 equipping of an eligible facility. However, these requirements  
12 shall not preclude the university from expending available  
13 funds from private sources to develop a prospectus, including  
14 preliminary architectural schematics and/or models, for use in  
15 its efforts to raise private funds for a facility.

16 Additionally, any private sources of funds expended for this  
17 purpose are eligible for state matching funds should the  
18 project materialize as provided for in this section.

19 (5) To be eligible to participate in the Alec P.  
20 Courtelis Capital Facilities Matching Trust Fund, a university  
21 shall raise a contribution equal to one-half of the total cost  
22 of a facilities construction project from private  
23 nongovernmental sources which shall be matched by a state  
24 appropriation equal to the amount raised for a facilities  
25 construction project subject to the General Appropriations  
26 Act.

27 (6) If the state's share of the required match is  
28 insufficient to meet the requirements of subsection (5), the  
29 university shall renegotiate the terms of the contribution  
30 with the donors. If the project is terminated, each private  
31

1 donation, plus accrued interest, reverts to the foundation for  
2 remittance to the donor.

3 (7) By September 1 of each year, the State Board of  
4 Education shall transmit to the Legislature a list of projects  
5 which meet all eligibility requirements to participate in the  
6 Alec P. Courtelis Capital Facilities Matching Trust Fund and a  
7 budget request which includes the recommended schedule  
8 necessary to complete each project.

9 (8) In order for a project to be eligible under this  
10 program, it must be included in the university 5-year Capital  
11 Improvement Plan and must receive prior approval from the  
12 State Board of Education and the Legislature.

13 (9) No university's project shall be removed from the  
14 approved 3-year PECO priority list because of its successful  
15 participation in this program until approved by the  
16 Legislature and provided for in the General Appropriations  
17 Act. When such a project is completed and removed from the  
18 list, all other projects shall move up on the 3-year PECO  
19 priority list. A university shall not use PECO funds,  
20 including the Capital Improvement Trust Fund fee and the  
21 building fee, to complete a project under this section.

22 (10) Any project funds that are unexpended after a  
23 project is completed shall revert to the Capital Facilities  
24 Matching Trust Fund. Fifty percent of such unexpended funds  
25 shall be reserved for the university which originally received  
26 the private contribution for the purpose of providing private  
27 matching funds for future facility construction projects as  
28 provided in this section. The balance of such unexpended funds  
29 shall be available to any state university for future facility  
30 construction projects conducted pursuant to this section.

31

1           (11) The surveys, architectural plans, facility, and  
2 equipment shall be the property of the State of Florida. A  
3 facility constructed pursuant to this section may be named in  
4 honor of a donor at the option of the university and the State  
5 Board of Education. No facility shall be named after a living  
6 person without prior approval by the Legislature.

7           Section 876. Section 1013.81, Florida Statutes, is  
8 created to read:

9           1013.81 Community college indebtedness; bonds and tax  
10 anticipation certificates; payment.--

11           (1) The indebtedness incurred for the benefit of  
12 community colleges and represented by bonds or motor vehicle  
13 tax anticipation certificates issued from time to time by the  
14 State Board of Education, hereinafter called "state board,"  
15 pursuant to s. 18, Art. XII of the State Constitution of 1885  
16 on behalf of the several former county boards of public  
17 instruction shall not be considered by the state board in  
18 determining the amount of bonds or motor vehicle tax  
19 anticipation certificates which the state board may issue from  
20 time to time on behalf of the several school districts under  
21 the provisions of s. 9(d), Art. XII of the State Constitution,  
22 as amended at the general election held on November 7, 1972,  
23 hereinafter called "school capital outlay amendment." Such  
24 indebtedness incurred on behalf of community colleges, as  
25 described above, shall be considered by the state board in  
26 determining the amount of bonds or motor vehicle tax  
27 anticipation certificates which the state board may issue from  
28 time to time on behalf of the several community college  
29 districts under the provisions of the school capital outlay  
30 amendment.

1           (2) The debt service requirements on the indebtedness  
2 incurred for the benefit of community colleges and represented  
3 by bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates issued  
4 from time to time by the state board on behalf of the several  
5 former county boards of public instruction, as described in  
6 subsection (1), shall be paid from funds distributable  
7 pursuant to the school capital outlay amendment to the credit  
8 of the several community college districts, and not from funds  
9 distributable pursuant to the school capital outlay amendment  
10 to the credit of the several school districts.

11           (3) Nothing herein shall be construed to authorize the  
12 state board to affect adversely or impair the contractual  
13 rights created and vested by reason of the prior issuance of  
14 bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates by the  
15 state board.

16           Section 877. Section 1013.82, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18           1013.82 Contracts of institutions for supplies,  
19 utility services, and building construction exempt from  
20 operation of county or municipal ordinance or charter.--

21           (1) University boards of trustees are authorized to  
22 contract for supplies, utility services, and building  
23 construction without regulation or restriction by municipal or  
24 county charter or ordinance. Contractual arrangements shall be  
25 in the best interests of the state and shall give  
26 consideration to rates, adequacy of service, and the  
27 dependability of the contractor.

28           (2) Any municipal or county charter, ordinance, or  
29 regulation that serves to restrict or prohibit the intent of  
30 subsection (1) shall be inoperative.  
31

1           Section 878. Section 11.061, Florida Statutes, is  
2 amended to read:

3           11.061 State, state university, and community college  
4 employee lobbyists; registration; recording attendance;  
5 penalty; exemptions.--

6           (1) Any person employed by any executive, judicial, or  
7 quasi-judicial department of the state or community college or  
8 state university ~~of the state~~ who seeks to encourage the  
9 passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation by  
10 personal appearance or attendance before the House of  
11 Representatives or the Senate, or any committee thereof,  
12 shall, prior thereto, register as a lobbyist with the joint  
13 legislative office on a form to be provided by the joint  
14 legislative office in the same manner as any other lobbyist is  
15 required to register, whether by rule of either house or  
16 otherwise. This shall not preclude any person from contacting  
17 her or his legislator regarding any matter during hours other  
18 than the established business hours of the person's respective  
19 agency, state university, or community college.

20           (2)(a) Each state, state university, or community  
21 college ~~employee or employee of a community college~~ registered  
22 pursuant to the provisions of this section shall:

23           1. Record with the chair of the committee any  
24 attendance before any committee during established business  
25 hours of the agency, state university, or community college  
26 employing the person.

27           2. Record with the joint legislative office any  
28 attendance in the legislative chambers, committee rooms,  
29 legislative offices, legislative hallways, and other areas in  
30 the immediate vicinity during the established business hours  
31

1 of the agency, state university, or community college  
2 employing the person.

3 (b) Any person who appears before a committee or  
4 subcommittee of the House of Representatives or the Senate at  
5 the request of the committee or subcommittee chair as a  
6 witness or for informational purposes shall be exempt from the  
7 provisions of this subsection.

8 (3) Any state, state university, or community college  
9 employee ~~or employee of a community college~~ who violates any  
10 provision of this section by not registering with the joint  
11 legislative office as a lobbyist or by failing to record hours  
12 spent as a lobbyist in areas and activities as set forth in  
13 this section during the established business hours of the  
14 agency, state university, or community college employing the  
15 person shall have deducted from her or his salary an amount  
16 equivalent to her or his hourly wage times the number of hours  
17 that she or he was in violation of this section.

18 (4) Any person employed by any executive, judicial, or  
19 quasi-judicial department of the state or by any community  
20 college or state university ~~of the state~~ whose position is  
21 designated in that department's budget as being used during  
22 all, or a portion of, the fiscal year for lobbying shall  
23 comply with the provisions of subsection (1), but shall be  
24 exempt from the provisions of subsections (2) and (3).

25 Section 879. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of  
26 section 11.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

27 11.40 Legislative Auditing Committee.--

28 (5) Following notification by the Auditor General, the  
29 Department of Banking and Finance, or the Division of Bond  
30 Finance of the State Board of Administration of the failure of  
31 a local governmental entity, district school board, charter

1 school, or charter technical career center to comply with the  
 2 applicable provisions within s. 11.45(5)-(7), s. 218.32(1), or  
 3 s. 218.38, the Legislative Auditing Committee may schedule a  
 4 hearing. If a hearing is scheduled, the committee shall  
 5 determine if the entity should be subject to further state  
 6 action. If the committee determines that the entity should be  
 7 subject to further state action, the committee shall:

8 (c) In the case of a charter school or charter  
 9 technical career center, notify the appropriate sponsoring  
 10 entity, which may terminate the charter pursuant to ss.  
 11 1002.33 ~~228.056~~ and 1002.34 ~~228.505~~.

12 Section 880. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2),  
 13 paragraph (a) of subsection (3), and subsection (8) of section  
 14 11.45, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

15 11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports;  
 16 rules.--

17 (2) DUTIES.--The Auditor General shall:

18 (d) Annually conduct financial audits of the accounts  
 19 and records of all district school boards in counties with  
 20 populations of fewer than 150,000 ~~125,000~~, according to the  
 21 most recent federal decennial statewide census.

22

23 The Auditor General shall perform his or her duties  
 24 independently but under the general policies established by  
 25 the Legislative Auditing Committee. This subsection does not  
 26 limit the Auditor General's discretionary authority to conduct  
 27 other audits or engagements of governmental entities as  
 28 authorized in subsection (3).

29 (3) AUTHORITY FOR AUDITS AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS.--

30 (a) The Auditor General may, pursuant to his or her  
 31 own authority, or at the direction of the Legislative Auditing

1 Committee, conduct audits or other engagements as determined  
2 appropriate by the Auditor General of:

- 3 1. The accounts and records of any governmental entity  
4 created or established by law.
- 5 2. The information technology programs, activities,  
6 functions, or systems of any governmental entity created or  
7 established by law.
- 8 3. The accounts and records of any charter school  
9 created or established by law.
- 10 4. The accounts and records of any direct-support  
11 organization or citizen support organization created or  
12 established by law. The Auditor General is authorized to  
13 require and receive any records from the direct-support  
14 organization or citizen support organization, or from its  
15 independent auditor.
- 16 5. The public records associated with any  
17 appropriation made by the General Appropriations Act to a  
18 nongovernmental agency, corporation, or person. All records of  
19 a nongovernmental agency, corporation, or person with respect  
20 to the receipt and expenditure of such an appropriation shall  
21 be public records and shall be treated in the same manner as  
22 other public records are under general law.
- 23 6. State financial assistance provided to any nonstate  
24 entity.
- 25 7. The Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation  
26 created pursuant to s. 215.56005.
- 27 8. The Florida Virtual ~~On-Line~~ High School created  
28 pursuant to s. 1002.37 ~~228.082~~.
- 29 9. Any purchases of federal surplus lands for use as  
30 sites for correctional facilities as described in s. 253.037.
- 31

1           10. Enterprise Florida, Inc., including any of its  
2 boards, advisory committees, or similar groups created by  
3 Enterprise Florida, Inc., and programs. The audit report may  
4 not reveal the identity of any person who has anonymously made  
5 a donation to Enterprise Florida, Inc., pursuant to this  
6 subparagraph. The identity of a donor or prospective donor to  
7 Enterprise Florida, Inc., who desires to remain anonymous and  
8 all information identifying such donor or prospective donor  
9 are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.  
10 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Such  
11 anonymity shall be maintained in the auditor's report.

12           11. The Florida Development Finance Corporation or the  
13 capital development board or the programs or entities created  
14 by the board. The audit or report may not reveal the identity  
15 of any person who has anonymously made a donation to the board  
16 pursuant to this subparagraph. The identity of a donor or  
17 prospective donor to the board who desires to remain anonymous  
18 and all information identifying such donor or prospective  
19 donor are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.  
20 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Such  
21 anonymity shall be maintained in the auditor's report.

22           12. The records pertaining to the use of funds from  
23 voluntary contributions on a motor vehicle registration  
24 application or on a driver's license application authorized  
25 pursuant to ss. 320.023 and 322.081.

26           13. The records pertaining to the use of funds from  
27 the sale of specialty license plates described in chapter 320.

28           14. The transportation corporations under contract  
29 with the Department of Transportation that are acting on  
30 behalf of the state to secure and obtain rights-of-way for  
31 urgently needed transportation systems and to assist in the

1 | planning and design of such systems pursuant to ss.  
2 | 339.401-339.421.  
3 |       15. The acquisitions and divestitures related to the  
4 | Florida Communities Trust Program created pursuant to chapter  
5 | 380.  
6 |       16. The Florida Water Pollution Control Financing  
7 | Corporation created pursuant to s. 403.1837.  
8 |       17. The Florida Partnership for School Readiness  
9 | created pursuant to s. 411.01.  
10 |       18. The Occupational Access and Opportunity Commission  
11 | created pursuant to s. 413.83.  
12 |       19. The Florida Special Disability Trust Fund  
13 | Financing Corporation created pursuant to s. 440.49.  
14 |       20. Workforce Florida, Inc., or the programs or  
15 | entities created by Workforce Florida, Inc., created pursuant  
16 | to s. 445.004.  
17 |       21. The corporation defined in s. 455.32 that is under  
18 | contract with the Department of Business and Professional  
19 | Regulation to provide administrative, investigative,  
20 | examination, licensing, and prosecutorial support services in  
21 | accordance with the provisions of s. 455.32 and the practice  
22 | act of the relevant profession.  
23 |       22. The Florida Engineers Management Corporation  
24 | created pursuant to chapter 471.  
25 |       23. The Investment Fraud Restoration Financing  
26 | Corporation created pursuant to chapter 517.  
27 |       24. The books and records of any permitholder that  
28 | conducts race meetings or jai alai exhibitions under chapter  
29 | 550.  
30 |  
31 |

1           25. The corporation defined in part II of chapter 946,  
2 known as the Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified  
3 Enterprises, Inc., or PRIDE Enterprises.

4           (8) RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL.--The Auditor  
5 General, in consultation with the Board of Accountancy, shall  
6 adopt rules for the form and conduct of all financial audits  
7 performed by independent certified public accountants pursuant  
8 to ss. 215.981, 218.39, 1004.28, 1004.70, and 1013.77~~237.40,~~  
9 ~~240.299, and 240.331~~. The rules for audits of local  
10 governmental entities and district school boards must include,  
11 but are not limited to, requirements for the reporting of  
12 information necessary to carry out the purposes of the Local  
13 Government Financial Emergencies Act as stated in s. 218.501.

14           Section 881. Notwithstanding subsection (7) of section  
15 3 of chapter 2000-321, Laws of Florida, section 20.15, Florida  
16 Statutes, shall not stand repealed on January 7, 2003, as  
17 scheduled by that act, but is reenacted and amended to read:

18           20.15 Department of Education.--There is created a  
19 Department of Education.

20           (1) STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.--In accordance with s.  
21 2, Art. IX of the State Constitution, the State Board of  
22 Education is a body corporate and must supervise the system of  
23 free public education as is provided by law. The State Board  
24 of Education is the head of the Department of Education the  
25 ~~chief policymaking body of public education in the state as~~  
26 ~~specified in chapter 229. The Governor is chair of the board,~~  
27 ~~and the Commissioner of Education is the secretary and~~  
28 ~~executive officer and in the absence of the Governor shall~~  
29 ~~serve as chair.~~

30           (2) COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION.--The Commissioner of  
31 Education is appointed by the State Board of Education and

1 serves as the Executive Director of the Department of  
 2 Education ~~head of the Department of Education is the~~  
 3 ~~Commissioner of Education who shall be elected by vote of the~~  
 4 ~~qualified electors of the state pursuant to s. 5, Art. IV of~~  
 5 ~~the State Constitution.~~

6 ~~(a) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a~~  
 7 ~~Deputy Commissioner for Educational Programs who has such~~  
 8 ~~powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions as are~~  
 9 ~~necessary to ensure the greatest possible coordination,~~  
 10 ~~efficiency, and effectiveness of kindergarten through~~  
 11 ~~12th grade education and vocational and continuing education~~  
 12 ~~programs, including workforce development.~~

13 ~~(b) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a~~  
 14 ~~Deputy Commissioner for Planning, Budgeting, and Management~~  
 15 ~~who has such powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions~~  
 16 ~~as are necessary to ensure the greatest possible coordination~~  
 17 ~~of policies, programs, and procedures for the statewide system~~  
 18 ~~of education and the department.~~

19 ~~(c) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a~~  
 20 ~~Deputy Commissioner for Technology and Administration who has~~  
 21 ~~such powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions as are~~  
 22 ~~necessary to ensure the greatest possible coordination and~~  
 23 ~~development of technological supports for the education system~~  
 24 ~~and efficient administration of the department.~~

25 (3) DIVISIONS.--The following divisions of the  
 26 Department of Education are established:

27 (a) Division of Community Colleges.

28 (b) Division of Public Schools ~~and Community~~  
 29 ~~Education.~~

30 (c) Division of Colleges and Universities.  
 31

1           (d) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Workforce  
 2 Development.

3           ~~(e) Division of Professional Educators.~~

4           ~~(f) Division of Administration.~~

5           ~~(g) Division of Financial Services.~~

6           ~~(h) Division of Support Services.~~

7           ~~(i) Division of Technology.~~

8           (e)(j) Division of Blind Services.

9           (4) DIRECTORS.--~~The Board of Regents is the director~~  
 10 ~~of the Division of Universities, and the State Board of~~  
 11 ~~Community Colleges is the director of the Division of~~  
 12 ~~Community Colleges, pursuant to chapter 240. The directors of~~  
 13 ~~all other~~ divisions shall be appointed by the commissioner  
 14 subject to approval by the state board.

15           (5) POWERS AND DUTIES.--The State Board of Education  
 16 and the Commissioner of Education+

17           (a) shall assign to the divisions ~~Division of Public~~  
 18 ~~Schools and Community Education~~ such powers, duties,  
 19 responsibilities, and functions as are necessary to ensure the  
 20 greatest possible coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness  
 21 of education for students in K-20 education ~~prekindergarten~~  
 22 ~~through 12th grade, for secondary school vocational education,~~  
 23 ~~and for community education.~~

24           ~~(b) Shall assign to the Division of Workforce~~  
 25 ~~Development such powers, duties, responsibilities, and~~  
 26 ~~functions as are necessary to ensure the greatest possible~~  
 27 ~~coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness of workforce~~  
 28 ~~development education.~~

29           ~~(c) Shall assign to the State Board of Community~~  
 30 ~~Colleges such powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions~~  
 31 ~~as are necessary to ensure the coordination, efficiency, and~~

1 ~~effectiveness of community colleges, except those duties~~  
 2 ~~specifically assigned to the Commissioner of Education in ss.~~  
 3 ~~229.512 and 229.551, the duties concerning physical facilities~~  
 4 ~~in chapter 235, and the duties assigned to the Division of~~  
 5 ~~Workforce Development in chapter 239.~~

6 (6) COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES.--Notwithstanding anything  
 7 contained in law to the contrary, the commissioner ~~of~~  
 8 ~~Education~~ shall appoint all members of all councils and  
 9 committees of the Department of Education, except the  
 10 ~~Commission for Independent Education and Board of Regents, the~~  
 11 ~~State Board of Community Colleges, the community college~~  
 12 ~~district boards of trustees, the Postsecondary Education~~  
 13 ~~Planning Commission, the Education Practices Commission, the~~  
 14 ~~Education Standards Commission, the State Board of Independent~~  
 15 ~~Colleges and Universities, and the State Board of Nonpublic~~  
 16 ~~Career Education.~~

17 (7) BOARDS.--Notwithstanding anything contained in law  
 18 to the contrary, all members of the ~~university Board of~~  
 19 ~~Regents, the State Board of Community Colleges, and the~~  
 20 community college ~~district~~ boards of trustees must be  
 21 appointed according to chapter ~~1001 240~~.

22 Section 882. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1),  
 23 paragraph (d) of subsection (3), and paragraph (a) of  
 24 subsection (5) of section 23.1225, Florida Statutes, are  
 25 amended to read:

26 23.1225 Mutual aid agreements.--

27 (1) The term "mutual aid agreement," as used in this  
 28 part, refers to one of the following types of agreement:

29 (a) A voluntary cooperation written agreement between  
 30 two or more law enforcement agencies, or between one or more  
 31 law enforcement agencies and either a school board that

1 employs school safety officers or a state university that  
2 employs or appoints university police officers in accordance  
3 with s. 1012.97 ~~240.268~~, which agreement permits voluntary  
4 cooperation and assistance of a routine law enforcement nature  
5 across jurisdictional lines. The agreement must specify the  
6 nature of the law enforcement assistance to be rendered, the  
7 agency or entity that shall bear any liability arising from  
8 acts undertaken under the agreement, the procedures for  
9 requesting and for authorizing assistance, the agency or  
10 entity that has command and supervisory responsibility, a time  
11 limit for the agreement, the amount of any compensation or  
12 reimbursement to the assisting agency or entity, and any other  
13 terms and conditions necessary to give it effect. Examples of  
14 law enforcement activities that may be addressed in a  
15 voluntary cooperation written agreement include, but are not  
16 limited to, establishing a joint city-county task force on  
17 narcotics smuggling, authorizing school safety officers to  
18 enforce laws in an area within 1,000 feet of a school or  
19 school board property, or establishing a joint city-county  
20 traffic enforcement task force.

21 (b) A requested operational assistance written  
22 agreement between two or more law enforcement agencies, or  
23 between one or more law enforcement agencies and either a  
24 school board that employs school safety officers or a state  
25 university that employs or appoints university police officers  
26 in accordance with s. 1012.97 ~~240.268~~, which agreement is for  
27 the rendering of assistance in a law enforcement emergency.  
28 The agreement must specify the nature of the law enforcement  
29 assistance to be rendered, the agency or entity that shall  
30 bear any liability arising from acts undertaken under the  
31 agreement, the procedures for requesting and for authorizing

1 assistance, the agency or entity that has command and  
2 supervisory responsibility, a time limit for the agreement,  
3 the amount of any compensation or reimbursement to the  
4 assisting agency or entity, and any other terms and conditions  
5 necessary to give it effect. An example of the use of a  
6 requested operational assistance written agreement is to meet  
7 a request for assistance due to a civil disturbance or other  
8 emergency as defined in s. 252.34.

9 (3) A mutual aid agreement may be entered into by:

10 (d) A state university that employs or appoints  
11 university police officers in accordance with s. 1012.97  
12 ~~240.268~~.

13 (5) In the event of a disaster or emergency such that  
14 a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to  
15 chapter 252, the requirement that a requested operational  
16 assistance agreement be a written agreement for rendering of  
17 assistance in a law enforcement emergency may be waived by the  
18 participating agencies for a period of up to 90 days from the  
19 declaration of the disaster.

20 (a) When a law enforcement agency, a school board  
21 employing school safety officers, or a state university  
22 employing or appointing university police officers in  
23 accordance with s. 1012.97 ~~240.268~~ lends assistance pursuant  
24 to this subsection, all powers, privileges, and immunities  
25 listed in s. 23.127, except with regard to interstate mutual  
26 aid agreements, apply to the agency or entity, provided that  
27 the law enforcement, school board, or university employees  
28 rendering services are being requested and coordinated by the  
29 affected local law enforcement executive in charge of law  
30 enforcement operations.

31

1           Section 883. Subsection (2) and paragraphs (c) and (d)  
 2 of subsection (5) of section 24.121, Florida Statutes, are  
 3 amended to read:  
 4           24.121 Allocation of revenues and expenditure of funds  
 5 for public education.--  
 6           (2) Each fiscal year, at least 38 percent of the gross  
 7 revenue from the sale of lottery tickets and other earned  
 8 revenue, excluding application processing fees, shall be  
 9 deposited in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund, which is  
 10 hereby created in the State Treasury to be administered by the  
 11 Department of Education. The Department of the Lottery shall  
 12 transfer moneys to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund at  
 13 least once each quarter. Funds in the Educational Enhancement  
 14 Trust Fund shall be used to the benefit of public education in  
 15 accordance with the provisions of this act. Notwithstanding  
 16 any other provision of law, a maximum of \$180 million of  
 17 lottery revenues transferred to the Educational Enhancement  
 18 Trust Fund in fiscal year 1997-1998 and for 30 years  
 19 thereafter shall be reserved as needed and used to meet the  
 20 requirements of the documents authorizing the bonds issued by  
 21 the state pursuant to s. 1013.68 ~~235.187~~ or s. 1013.70  
 22 ~~235.2195~~ or distributed to school districts for the Classrooms  
 23 First Program as provided in s. 1013.68 ~~235.187~~. Such lottery  
 24 revenues are hereby pledged to the payment of debt service on  
 25 bonds issued by the state pursuant to s. 1013.68 ~~235.187~~ or s.  
 26 1013.70 ~~235.2195~~. Debt service payable on bonds issued by the  
 27 state pursuant to s. 1013.68 ~~235.187~~ or s. 1013.70 ~~235.2195~~  
 28 shall be payable from the first lottery revenues transferred  
 29 to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund in each fiscal year.  
 30 Amounts distributable to school districts that request the  
 31 issuance of bonds pursuant to s. 1013.68(3) ~~235.187(3)~~ are

1 hereby pledged to such bonds pursuant to s. 11(d), Art. VII of  
2 the State Constitution. The amounts distributed through the  
3 Classrooms First Program shall equal \$145 million in each  
4 fiscal year. These funds are intended to provide up to \$2.5  
5 billion for public school facilities.

6 (5)

7 (c) A portion of such net revenues, as determined  
8 annually by the Legislature, shall be distributed to each  
9 school district and shall be made available to each public  
10 school in the district for enhancing school performance  
11 through development and implementation of a school improvement  
12 plan pursuant to s. 1001.42(16) ~~230.23(16)~~. A portion of these  
13 moneys, as determined annually in the General Appropriations  
14 Act, must be allocated to each school in an equal amount for  
15 each student enrolled. These moneys may be expended only on  
16 programs or projects selected by the school advisory council  
17 or by a parent advisory committee created pursuant to this  
18 paragraph. If a school does not have a school advisory  
19 council, the district advisory council must appoint a parent  
20 advisory committee composed of parents of students enrolled in  
21 that school, which committee is representative of the ethnic,  
22 racial, and economic community served by the school, to advise  
23 the school's principal on the programs or projects to be  
24 funded. A principal may not override the recommendations of  
25 the school advisory council or the parent advisory committee.  
26 These moneys may not be used for capital improvements, nor may  
27 they be used for any project or program that has a duration of  
28 more than 1 year; however, a school advisory council or parent  
29 advisory committee may independently determine that a program  
30 or project formerly funded under this paragraph should receive  
31 funds in a subsequent year.

1 (d) No funds shall be released for any purpose from  
 2 the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to any school district  
 3 in which one or more schools do not have an approved school  
 4 improvement plan pursuant to s. 1001.42(16) ~~230.23(16)~~ or do  
 5 not comply with school advisory council membership composition  
 6 requirements pursuant to s. 229.58(1). Effective July 1, 2002,  
 7 the Commissioner of Education shall withhold disbursements  
 8 from the trust fund to any school district that fails to adopt  
 9 the performance-based salary schedule required by s.  
 10 1012.22(1) ~~230.23(5)~~.

11 Section 884. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of  
 12 section 39.0015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13 39.0015 Child abuse prevention training in the  
 14 district school system.--

15 (5) PREVENTION TRAINING CENTERS; FUNCTIONS; SELECTION  
 16 PROCESS; MONITORING AND EVALUATION.--

17 (a) Each training center shall perform the following  
 18 functions:

19 1. Act as a clearinghouse to provide information on  
 20 prevention curricula which meet the requirements of this  
 21 section and the requirements of s. ss. 39.001 ~~and 231.17~~.

22 2. Assist the local school district in selecting a  
 23 prevention program model which meets the needs of the local  
 24 community.

25 3. At the request of the local school district, design  
 26 and administer training sessions to develop or expand local  
 27 primary prevention and training programs.

28 4. Provide assistance to local school districts,  
 29 including, but not limited to, all of the following:  
 30 administration, management, program development, multicultural  
 31

1 staffing, and community education, in order to better meet the  
2 requirements of this section and of s. ss. 39.001 ~~and 231.17~~.

3         5. At the request of the department or the local  
4 school district, provide ongoing program development and  
5 training to achieve all of the following:

6             a. Meet the special needs of children, including, but  
7 not limited to, the needs of disabled and high-risk children.

8             b. Conduct an outreach program to inform the  
9 surrounding communities of the existence of primary prevention  
10 and training programs and of funds to conduct such programs.

11         6. Serve as a resource to the Department of Children  
12 and Family Services and its districts.

13         Section 885. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of  
14 section 39.407, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15             39.407 Medical, psychiatric, and psychological  
16 examination and treatment of child; physical or mental  
17 examination of parent or person requesting custody of child.--

18             (3)

19             (c) The judge may also order such child to be  
20 evaluated by a district school board educational needs  
21 assessment team. The educational needs assessment provided by  
22 the district school board educational needs assessment team  
23 shall include, but not be limited to, reports of intelligence  
24 and achievement tests, screening for learning disabilities and  
25 other handicaps, and screening for the need for alternative  
26 education as defined in s. 1001.42 ~~230.23~~.

27         Section 886. Subsection (1) of section 61.13015,  
28 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

29             61.13015 Petition for suspension or denial of  
30 professional licenses and certificates.--

31

1 (1) An obligee may petition the court which entered  
 2 the support order or the court which is enforcing the support  
 3 order for an order to suspend or deny the license or  
 4 certificate issued pursuant to chapters ~~231~~, 409, 455, 456,  
 5 ~~and 559~~, and 1012 of any obligor with a delinquent support  
 6 obligation. However, no petition may be filed until the  
 7 obligee has exhausted all other available remedies. The  
 8 purpose of this section is to promote the public policy of s.  
 9 409.2551.

10 Section 887. Subsection (2) of section 105.061,  
 11 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 105.061 Electors qualified to vote.--

13 (2) The election of members of a school board shall be  
 14 by vote of the qualified electors as prescribed in chapter  
 15 1001 ~~230~~.

16 Section 888. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of  
 17 section 110.1228, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18 110.1228 Participation by small counties, small  
 19 municipalities, and district school boards located in small  
 20 counties.--

21 (1) As used in this section, the term:

22 (a) "District school board" means a district school  
 23 board located in a small county or a district school board  
 24 that receives funding pursuant to s. 1011.62(6) ~~236.081(6)~~.

25 Section 889. Paragraphs (b), (c), (f), (g), and (h) of  
 26 subsection (2) of section 110.123, Florida Statutes, are  
 27 amended to read:

28 110.123 State group insurance program.--

29 (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

30 (b) "Enrollee" means all state officers and employees,  
 31 retired state officers and employees, surviving spouses of

1 deceased state officers and employees, and terminated  
2 employees or individuals with continuation coverage who are  
3 enrolled in an insurance plan offered by the state group  
4 insurance program."Enrollee" includes all state university  
5 officers and employees, retired state university officers and  
6 employees, surviving spouses of deceased state university  
7 officers and employees, and terminated state university  
8 employees or individuals with continuation coverage who are  
9 enrolled in an insurance plan offered by the state group  
10 insurance program.

11 (c) "Full-time state employees" includes all full-time  
12 employees of all branches or agencies of state government  
13 holding salaried positions and paid by state warrant or from  
14 agency funds, and employees paid from regular salary  
15 appropriations for 8 months' employment, including university  
16 personnel on academic contracts, but in no case shall "state  
17 employee" or "salaried position" include persons paid from  
18 other-personal-services (OPS) funds."Full-time employees"  
19 includes all full-time employees of the state universities.

20 (f) "Part-time state employee" means any employee of  
21 any branch or agency of state government paid by state warrant  
22 from salary appropriations or from agency funds, and who is  
23 employed for less than the normal full-time workweek  
24 established by the department or, if on academic contract or  
25 seasonal or other type of employment which is less than  
26 year-round, is employed for less than 8 months during any  
27 12-month period, but in no case shall "part-time" employee  
28 include a person paid from other-personal-services (OPS)  
29 funds."Part-time state employee" includes any part-time  
30 employee of the state universities.

31

1 (g) "Retired state officer or employee" or "retiree"  
2 means any state or state university officer or ~~state~~ employee  
3 who retires under a state retirement system or a state  
4 optional annuity or retirement program or is placed on  
5 disability retirement, and who was insured under the state  
6 group insurance program at the time of retirement, and who  
7 begins receiving retirement benefits immediately after  
8 retirement from state or state university office or  
9 employment.

10 (h) "State agency" or "agency" means any branch,  
11 department, or agency of state government. "State agency" or  
12 "agency" includes any state university for purposes of this  
13 section only.

14 Section 890. Subsection (1) of section 110.151,  
15 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 110.151 State officers' and employees' child care  
17 services.--

18 (1) The Department of Management Services shall  
19 approve, administer, and coordinate child care services for  
20 state officers' and employees' children or dependents. Duties  
21 shall include, but not be limited to, reviewing and approving  
22 requests from state agencies for child care services;  
23 providing technical assistance on child care program startup  
24 and operation; and assisting other agencies in conducting  
25 needs assessments, designing centers, and selecting service  
26 providers. Primary emphasis for child care services shall be  
27 given to children who are not subject to compulsory school  
28 attendance pursuant to part II of chapter 1003 ~~chapter 232~~,  
29 and, to the extent possible, emphasis shall be placed on child  
30 care for children aged 2 and under.  
31

1 Section 891. Subsection (5) of section 110.181,  
2 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3 110.181 Florida State Employees' Charitable  
4 Campaign.--

5 (5) PARTICIPATION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES.--Each  
6 university may elect to participate in the Florida State  
7 Employees' Charitable Campaign, upon timely notice to the  
8 department. Each university may also conduct annual  
9 charitable fundraising drives for employees under the  
10 authority granted in s. 1001.74(19) ~~240.209(3)(f)~~.

11 Section 892. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of  
12 section 110.205, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13 110.205 Career service; exemptions.--

14 (2) EXEMPT POSITIONS.--The exempt positions that are  
15 not covered by this part include the following:

16 (d) All officers and employees of the state  
17 universities ~~University System~~ and the Correctional Education  
18 Program within the Department of Corrections, and the academic  
19 personnel and academic administrative personnel of the Florida  
20 School for the Deaf and the Blind. In accordance with the  
21 provisions of s. 1002.36 ~~chapter 242~~, the salaries for  
22 academic personnel and academic administrative personnel of  
23 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be set by  
24 the board of trustees for the school, subject only to the  
25 approval of the State Board of Education. The salaries for all  
26 instructional personnel and all administrative and  
27 noninstructional personnel of the Correctional Education  
28 Program shall be set by the Department of Corrections, subject  
29 to the approval of the Department of Management Services.

30 Section 893. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1)  
31 of section 112.1915, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1           112.1915 Teachers and school administrators; death  
2 benefits.--Any other provision of law to the contrary  
3 notwithstanding:

4           (1) As used in this section, the term:

5           (b) "Teacher" means any instructional staff personnel  
6 as described in s. 1012.01(2) ~~228.041(9)~~.

7           (c) "School administrator" means any school  
8 administrator as described in s. 1012.01(3) ~~228.041(10)(c)~~.

9           Section 894. Paragraph (h) of subsection (12) of  
10 section 112.313, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11           112.313 Standards of conduct for public officers,  
12 employees of agencies, and local government attorneys.--

13           (12) EXEMPTION.--The requirements of subsections (3)  
14 and (7) as they pertain to persons serving on advisory boards  
15 may be waived in a particular instance by the body which  
16 appointed the person to the advisory board, upon a full  
17 disclosure of the transaction or relationship to the  
18 appointing body prior to the waiver and an affirmative vote in  
19 favor of waiver by two-thirds vote of that body. In instances  
20 in which appointment to the advisory board is made by an  
21 individual, waiver may be effected, after public hearing, by a  
22 determination by the appointing person and full disclosure of  
23 the transaction or relationship by the appointee to the  
24 appointing person. In addition, no person shall be held in  
25 violation of subsection (3) or subsection (7) if:

26           (h) The transaction is made pursuant to s. 1004.22  
27 ~~240.229~~ or s. 1004.23 ~~240.241~~ and is specifically approved by  
28 the president and the chair of the university board of  
29 trustees Chancellor. The chair of the university board of  
30 trustees Chancellor shall submit to the Governor and the  
31 Legislature by March 1 of each year a report of the

1 transactions approved pursuant to this paragraph during the  
2 preceding year.

3 Section 895. Subsection (6) of section 120.52, Florida  
4 Statutes, is amended to read:

5 120.52 Definitions.--As used in this act:

6 (6) "Educational unit" means a local school district,  
7 a community college district, the Florida School for the Deaf  
8 and the Blind, or a state university ~~unit of the State~~  
9 ~~University System other than the Board of Regents.~~

10 Section 896. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of  
11 section 120.55, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 120.55 Publication.--

13 (1) The Department of State shall:

14 (a)1. Publish in a permanent compilation entitled  
15 "Florida Administrative Code" all rules adopted by each  
16 agency, citing the specific rulemaking authority pursuant to  
17 which each rule was adopted, all history notes as authorized  
18 in s. 120.545(9), and complete indexes to all rules contained  
19 in the code. Supplementation shall be made as often as  
20 practicable, but at least monthly. The department may  
21 contract with a publishing firm for the publication, in a  
22 timely and useful form, of the Florida Administrative Code;  
23 however, the department shall retain responsibility for the  
24 code as provided in this section. This publication shall be  
25 the official compilation of the administrative rules of this  
26 state. The Department of State shall retain the copyright  
27 over the Florida Administrative Code.

28 2. Rules general in form but applicable to only one  
29 school district, community college district, or county, or a  
30 part thereof, or state university rules relating to internal  
31 personnel or business and finance shall not be published in

1 the Florida Administrative Code. Exclusion from publication in  
2 the Florida Administrative Code shall not affect the validity  
3 or effectiveness of such rules.

4           3. At the beginning of the section of the code dealing  
5 with an agency that files copies of its rules with the  
6 department, the department shall publish the address and  
7 telephone number of the executive offices of each agency, the  
8 manner by which the agency indexes its rules, a listing of all  
9 rules of that agency excluded from publication in the code,  
10 and a statement as to where those rules may be inspected.

11           4. Forms shall not be published in the Florida  
12 Administrative Code; but any form which an agency uses in its  
13 dealings with the public, along with any accompanying  
14 instructions, shall be filed with the committee before it is  
15 used. Any form or instruction which meets the definition of  
16 "rule" provided in s. 120.52 shall be incorporated by  
17 reference into the appropriate rule. The reference shall  
18 specifically state that the form is being incorporated by  
19 reference and shall include the number, title, and effective  
20 date of the form and an explanation of how the form may be  
21 obtained.

22           Section 897. Paragraphs (a), (c), (e), (g), (i), and  
23 (j) of subsection (1) of section 120.81, Florida Statutes, are  
24 amended to read:

25           120.81 Exceptions and special requirements; general  
26 areas.--

27           (1) EDUCATIONAL UNITS.--

28           (a) Notwithstanding s. 120.536(1) and the flush left  
29 provisions of s. 120.52(8), district school boards may adopt  
30 rules to implement their general powers under s. 1001.41  
31 ~~230.22~~.

1 (c) Notwithstanding s. 120.52(15), any tests, test  
2 scoring criteria, or testing procedures relating to student  
3 assessment which are developed or administered by the  
4 Department of Education pursuant to s. 1003.43 ~~229.57~~, s.  
5 1003.438, s. 1008.22 ~~232.245~~, or s. 1008.25 ~~232.246~~, or s.  
6 ~~232.247~~, or any other statewide educational tests required by  
7 law, are not rules.

8 (e) Educational units, other than the state  
9 universities ~~units of the State University System~~ and the  
10 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, shall not be  
11 required to make filings with the committee of the documents  
12 required to be filed by s. 120.54 or s. 120.55(1)(a)4.

13 (g) Sections 120.569 and 120.57 do not apply to any  
14 proceeding in which the substantial interests of a student are  
15 determined by a state university ~~the State University System~~  
16 or a community college ~~district~~. ~~The Board of Regents shall~~  
17 ~~establish a committee, at least half of whom shall be~~  
18 ~~appointed by the Council of Student Body Presidents, which~~  
19 ~~shall establish rules and guidelines ensuring fairness and due~~  
20 ~~process in judicial proceedings involving students in the~~  
21 ~~State University System.~~

22 (i) For purposes of s. 120.68, a district school board  
23 whose decision is reviewed under the provisions of s. 1012.33  
24 ~~231.36~~ and whose final action is modified by a superior  
25 administrative decision shall be a party entitled to judicial  
26 review of the final action.

27 (j) Notwithstanding s. 120.525(2), the agenda for a  
28 special meeting of a district school board under authority of  
29 s. 1001.372(1) ~~230.16~~ shall be prepared upon the calling of  
30 the meeting, but not less than 48 hours prior to the meeting.  
31

1           Section 898. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of  
2 section 121.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:  
3           121.051 Participation in the system.--  
4           (2) OPTIONAL PARTICIPATION.--  
5           (c) Employees of ~~members of the Florida~~ community  
6 colleges ~~College System~~ or charter technical career centers  
7 sponsored by members of the ~~Florida~~ community colleges ~~College~~  
8 ~~System~~, as designated in s. 1000.21(3) ~~240.3031~~, who are  
9 members of the Regular Class of the Florida Retirement System  
10 and who comply with the criteria set forth in this paragraph  
11 and in s. 1012.875 ~~240.3195~~ may elect, in lieu of  
12 participating in the Florida Retirement System, to withdraw  
13 from the Florida Retirement System altogether and participate  
14 in a lifetime monthly annuity program, to be known as the  
15 State Community College System Optional Retirement Program,  
16 which may be provided by the employing agency under s.  
17 1012.875 ~~240.3195~~. Pursuant thereto:  
18           1. Through June 30, 2001, the cost to the employer for  
19 such annuity shall equal the normal cost portion of the  
20 employer retirement contribution which would be required if  
21 the employee were a member of the Regular Class defined  
22 benefit program, plus the portion of the contribution rate  
23 required by s. 112.363(8) that would otherwise be assigned to  
24 the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Trust Fund. Effective  
25 July 1, 2001, each employer shall contribute on behalf of each  
26 participant in the optional program an amount equal to 10.43  
27 percent of the participant's gross monthly compensation. The  
28 employer shall deduct an amount to provide for the  
29 administration of the optional retirement program. The  
30 employer providing such annuity shall contribute an additional  
31 amount to the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund equal to

1 the unfunded actuarial accrued liability portion of the  
2 Regular Class contribution rate.

3           2. The decision to participate in such an optional  
4 retirement program shall be irrevocable for as long as the  
5 employee holds a position eligible for participation. Any  
6 service creditable under the Florida Retirement System shall  
7 be retained after the member withdraws from the Florida  
8 Retirement System; however, additional service credit in the  
9 Florida Retirement System shall not be earned while a member  
10 of the optional retirement program.

11           3. Participation in an optional annuity program shall  
12 be limited to those employees who satisfy the following  
13 eligibility criteria:

14           a. The employee must be otherwise eligible for  
15 membership in the Regular Class of the Florida Retirement  
16 System, as provided in s. 121.021(11) and (12).

17           b. The employee must be employed in a full-time  
18 position classified in the Accounting Manual for Florida's  
19 Public Community Colleges as:

20           (I) Instructional; or

21           (II) Executive Management, Instructional Management,  
22 or Institutional Management, if a community college determines  
23 that recruiting to fill a vacancy in the position is to be  
24 conducted in the national or regional market, and:

25           (A) The duties and responsibilities of the position  
26 include either the formulation, interpretation, or  
27 implementation of policies; or

28           (B) The duties and responsibilities of the position  
29 include the performance of functions that are unique or  
30 specialized within higher education and that frequently  
31 involve the support of the mission of the community college.

1 c. The employee must be employed in a position not  
2 included in the Senior Management Service Class of the Florida  
3 Retirement System, as described in s. 121.055.

4 4. Participants in the program are subject to the same  
5 reemployment limitations, renewed membership provisions, and  
6 forfeiture provisions as are applicable to regular members of  
7 the Florida Retirement System under ss. 121.091(9), 121.122,  
8 and 121.091(5), respectively.

9 5. Eligible community college employees shall be  
10 compulsory members of the Florida Retirement System until,  
11 pursuant to the procedures set forth in s. 1012.875 ~~240.3195~~,  
12 the first day of the next full calendar month following the  
13 filing of both a written election to withdraw and a completed  
14 application for an individual contract or certificate with the  
15 program administrator and receipt of such election by the  
16 division.

17 Section 899. Paragraph (a) of subsection (13) of  
18 section 121.091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 121.091 Benefits payable under the system.--Benefits  
20 may not be paid under this section unless the member has  
21 terminated employment as provided in s. 121.021(39)(a) or  
22 begun participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program  
23 as provided in subsection (13), and a proper application has  
24 been filed in the manner prescribed by the department. The  
25 department may cancel an application for retirement benefits  
26 when the member or beneficiary fails to timely provide the  
27 information and documents required by this chapter and the  
28 department's rules. The department shall adopt rules  
29 establishing procedures for application for retirement  
30 benefits and for the cancellation of such application when the  
31 required information or documents are not received.

1           (13) DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM.--In general,  
2 and subject to the provisions of this section, the Deferred  
3 Retirement Option Program, hereinafter referred to as the  
4 DROP, is a program under which an eligible member of the  
5 Florida Retirement System may elect to participate, deferring  
6 receipt of retirement benefits while continuing employment  
7 with his or her Florida Retirement System employer. The  
8 deferred monthly benefits shall accrue in the System Trust  
9 Fund on behalf of the participant, plus interest compounded  
10 monthly, for the specified period of the DROP participation,  
11 as provided in paragraph (c). Upon termination of employment,  
12 the participant shall receive the total DROP benefits and  
13 begin to receive the previously determined normal retirement  
14 benefits. Participation in the DROP does not guarantee  
15 employment for the specified period of DROP.

16           (a) Eligibility of member to participate in the  
17 DROP.--All active Florida Retirement System members in a  
18 regularly established position, and all active members of  
19 either the Teachers' Retirement System established in chapter  
20 238 or the State and County Officers' and Employees'  
21 Retirement System established in chapter 122 which systems are  
22 consolidated within the Florida Retirement System under s.  
23 121.011, are eligible to elect participation in the DROP  
24 provided that:

25           1. The member is not a renewed member of the Florida  
26 Retirement System under s. 121.122, or a member of the State  
27 Community College System Optional Retirement Program under s.  
28 121.051, the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity  
29 Program under s. 121.055, or the optional retirement program  
30 for the State University System under s. 121.35.  
31

1           2. Except as provided in subparagraph 6., election to  
2 participate is made within 12 months immediately following the  
3 date on which the member first reaches normal retirement date,  
4 or, for a member who reaches normal retirement date based on  
5 service before he or she reaches age 62, or age 55 for Special  
6 Risk Class members, election to participate may be deferred to  
7 the 12 months immediately following the date the member  
8 attains 57, or age 52 for Special Risk Class members. For a  
9 member who first reached normal retirement date or the  
10 deferred eligibility date described above prior to the  
11 effective date of this section, election to participate shall  
12 be made within 12 months after the effective date of this  
13 section. A member who fails to make an election within such  
14 12-month limitation period shall forfeit all rights to  
15 participate in the DROP. The member shall advise his or her  
16 employer and the division in writing of the date on which the  
17 DROP shall begin. Such beginning date may be subsequent to the  
18 12-month election period, but must be within the 60-month  
19 limitation period as provided in subparagraph (b)1. When  
20 establishing eligibility of the member to participate in the  
21 DROP for the 60-month maximum participation period, the member  
22 may elect to include or exclude any optional service credit  
23 purchased by the member from the total service used to  
24 establish the normal retirement date. A member with dual  
25 normal retirement dates shall be eligible to elect to  
26 participate in DROP within 12 months after attaining normal  
27 retirement date in either class.

28           3. The employer of a member electing to participate in  
29 the DROP, or employers if dually employed, shall acknowledge  
30 in writing to the division the date the member's participation  
31

1 in the DROP begins and the date the member's employment and  
2 DROP participation will terminate.

3 4. Simultaneous employment of a participant by  
4 additional Florida Retirement System employers subsequent to  
5 the commencement of participation in the DROP shall be  
6 permissible provided such employers acknowledge in writing a  
7 DROP termination date no later than the participant's existing  
8 termination date or the 60-month limitation period as provided  
9 in subparagraph (b)1.

10 5. A DROP participant may change employers while  
11 participating in the DROP, subject to the following:

12 a. A change of employment must take place without a  
13 break in service so that the member receives salary for each  
14 month of continuous DROP participation. If a member receives  
15 no salary during a month, DROP participation shall cease  
16 unless the employer verifies a continuation of the employment  
17 relationship for such participant pursuant to s.  
18 121.021(39)(b).

19 b. Such participant and new employer shall notify the  
20 division on forms required by the division as to the identity  
21 of the new employer.

22 c. The new employer shall acknowledge, in writing, the  
23 participant's DROP termination date, which may be extended but  
24 not beyond the original 60-month period provided in  
25 subparagraph (b)1., shall acknowledge liability for any  
26 additional retirement contributions and interest required if  
27 the participant fails to timely terminate employment, and  
28 shall be subject to the adjustment required in  
29 sub-subparagraph (c)5.d.

30 6. Effective July 1, 2001, for instructional personnel  
31 as defined in s. 1012.01(2) ~~228.041(9)(a)-(d)~~, election to

1 participate in the DROP shall be made at any time following  
 2 the date on which the member first reaches normal retirement  
 3 date. The member shall advise his or her employer and the  
 4 division in writing of the date on which the Deferred  
 5 Retirement Option Program shall begin. When establishing  
 6 eligibility of the member to participate in the DROP for the  
 7 60-month maximum participation period, as provided in  
 8 subparagraph (b)1., the member may elect to include or exclude  
 9 any optional service credit purchased by the member from the  
 10 total service used to establish the normal retirement date. A  
 11 member with dual normal retirement dates shall be eligible to  
 12 elect to participate in either class.

13 Section 900. Subsection (2) of section 145.131,  
 14 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15 145.131 Repeal of other laws relating to compensation;  
 16 exceptions.--

17 (2) The compensation of any official whose salary is  
 18 fixed by this chapter shall be the subject of general law  
 19 only, except that the compensation of certain school  
 20 superintendents may be set by school boards in accordance with  
 21 the provisions of s. 1001.47 ~~230.303~~.

22 Section 901. Subsection (2) of section 145.19, Florida  
 23 Statutes, is amended to read:

24 145.19 Annual percentage increases based on increase  
 25 for state career service employees; limitation.--

26 (2) Each fiscal year, the salaries of all officials  
 27 listed in this chapter and s. 1001.47 ~~ss. 230.202 and 230.303~~  
 28 shall be adjusted by the annual factor. The Department of  
 29 Management Services shall certify the annual factor and the  
 30 cumulative annual factors. The adjusted salary rate shall be  
 31 the product, rounded to the nearest dollar, of the salary rate

1 granted by the appropriate section of this chapter multiplied  
2 first by the initial factor, then by the cumulative annual  
3 factor, and finally by the annual factor. Any special  
4 qualification salary received under this chapter shall be  
5 added to such adjusted salary rate, which special  
6 qualification salary shall be \$2,000, but shall not exceed  
7 \$2,000.

8 Section 902. Section 153.77, Florida Statutes, is  
9 amended to read:

10 153.77 District bonds as securities for public  
11 bodies.--All revenue bonds, general obligation bonds, or  
12 assessment bonds issued pursuant to this law shall be and  
13 constitute legal investments for state, county, municipal, and  
14 all other public funds and for banks, savings banks, insurance  
15 companies, executors, administrators, trustees, and all other  
16 fiduciaries and shall also be and constitute securities  
17 eligible as collateral security for all state, county,  
18 municipal, or other public funds, subject to the restrictions  
19 and limitations of chapters 18, 136, ~~237~~, 518, 655, 657, 658,  
20 ~~and~~ 660-665, and 1011.

21 Section 903. Subsection (22) of section 159.27,  
22 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

23 159.27 Definitions.--The following words and terms,  
24 unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning,  
25 shall have the following meanings:

26 (22) "Educational facility" means:

27 (a) Property, limited to a structure suitable for use  
28 as a dormitory or other housing facility or a dining facility,  
29 that is operated in the public sector and used for or useful  
30 in connection with the operation of an institution for higher  
31 education, as defined in s. 243.20(8), which offers the

1 baccalaureate or a higher degree and that is constructed in  
2 compliance with applicable codes as determined by appropriate  
3 state agencies.

4 (b) Property that comprises the buildings and  
5 equipment, structures, and special education use areas that  
6 are built, installed, or established to serve primarily the  
7 educational purposes of operating any nonprofit private  
8 preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, or  
9 high school that is established under chapter 617 or chapter  
10 623, or that is owned or operated by an organization described  
11 in s. 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, or  
12 operating any preschool, kindergarten, elementary school,  
13 middle school, or high school that is owned or operated as  
14 part of the state's system of public education, including, but  
15 not limited to, a charter school or a developmental research  
16 school operated under chapter 1002 ~~228~~. The requirements of  
17 this part for the financing of projects through local agencies  
18 shall also apply to such schools. Bonds issued under the  
19 provisions of this part for such schools shall not be deemed  
20 to constitute a debt, liability, or obligation of the state or  
21 any political subdivision thereof, or a pledge of the faith  
22 and credit of the state or of any such political subdivision,  
23 but shall be payable solely from the revenues provided  
24 therefor.

25 Section 904. Paragraph (h) of subsection (6) and  
26 paragraph (a) of subsection (12) of section 163.3177, Florida  
27 Statutes, are amended to read:

28 163.3177 Required and optional elements of  
29 comprehensive plan; studies and surveys.--  
30  
31

1           (6) In addition to the requirements of subsections  
2 (1)-(5), the comprehensive plan shall include the following  
3 elements:

4           (h)1. An intergovernmental coordination element  
5 showing relationships and stating principles and guidelines to  
6 be used in the accomplishment of coordination of the adopted  
7 comprehensive plan with the plans of school boards and other  
8 units of local government providing services but not having  
9 regulatory authority over the use of land, with the  
10 comprehensive plans of adjacent municipalities, the county,  
11 adjacent counties, or the region, and with the state  
12 comprehensive plan, as the case may require and as such  
13 adopted plans or plans in preparation may exist. This element  
14 of the local comprehensive plan shall demonstrate  
15 consideration of the particular effects of the local plan,  
16 when adopted, upon the development of adjacent municipalities,  
17 the county, adjacent counties, or the region, or upon the  
18 state comprehensive plan, as the case may require.

19           a. The intergovernmental coordination element shall  
20 provide for procedures to identify and implement joint  
21 planning areas, especially for the purpose of annexation,  
22 municipal incorporation, and joint infrastructure service  
23 areas.

24           b. The intergovernmental coordination element shall  
25 provide for recognition of campus master plans prepared  
26 pursuant to s. 1013.30 ~~240.155~~.

27           c. The intergovernmental coordination element may  
28 provide for a voluntary dispute resolution process as  
29 established pursuant to s. 186.509 for bringing to closure in  
30 a timely manner intergovernmental disputes. A local  
31

1 government may develop and use an alternative local dispute  
2 resolution process for this purpose.

3           2. The intergovernmental coordination element shall  
4 further state principles and guidelines to be used in the  
5 accomplishment of coordination of the adopted comprehensive  
6 plan with the plans of school boards and other units of local  
7 government providing facilities and services but not having  
8 regulatory authority over the use of land. In addition, the  
9 intergovernmental coordination element shall describe joint  
10 processes for collaborative planning and decisionmaking on  
11 population projections and public school siting, the location  
12 and extension of public facilities subject to concurrency, and  
13 siting facilities with countywide significance, including  
14 locally unwanted land uses whose nature and identity are  
15 established in an agreement. Within 1 year of adopting their  
16 intergovernmental coordination elements, each county, all the  
17 municipalities within that county, the district school board,  
18 and any unit of local government service providers in that  
19 county shall establish by interlocal or other formal agreement  
20 executed by all affected entities, the joint processes  
21 described in this subparagraph consistent with their adopted  
22 intergovernmental coordination elements.

23           3. To foster coordination between special districts  
24 and local general-purpose governments as local general-purpose  
25 governments implement local comprehensive plans, each  
26 independent special district must submit a public facilities  
27 report to the appropriate local government as required by s.  
28 189.415.

29           4. The state land planning agency shall establish a  
30 schedule for phased completion and transmittal of plan  
31 amendments to implement subparagraphs 1., 2., and 3. from all

1 jurisdictions so as to accomplish their adoption by December  
2 31, 1999. A local government may complete and transmit its  
3 plan amendments to carry out these provisions prior to the  
4 scheduled date established by the state land planning agency.  
5 The plan amendments are exempt from the provisions of s.  
6 163.3187(1).

7 (12) A public school facilities element adopted to  
8 implement a school concurrency program shall meet the  
9 requirements of this subsection.

10 (a) A public school facilities element shall be based  
11 upon data and analyses that address, among other items, how  
12 level-of-service standards will be achieved and maintained.  
13 Such data and analyses must include, at a minimum, such items  
14 as: the 5-year school district facilities work program adopted  
15 pursuant to s. 1013.35 ~~235.185~~; the educational plant survey  
16 and an existing educational and ancillary plant map or map  
17 series; information on existing development and development  
18 anticipated for the next 5 years and the long-term planning  
19 period; an analysis of problems and opportunities for existing  
20 schools and schools anticipated in the future; an analysis of  
21 opportunities to collocate future schools with other public  
22 facilities such as parks, libraries, and community centers; an  
23 analysis of the need for supporting public facilities for  
24 existing and future schools; an analysis of opportunities to  
25 locate schools to serve as community focal points; projected  
26 future population and associated demographics, including  
27 development patterns year by year for the upcoming 5-year and  
28 long-term planning periods; and anticipated educational and  
29 ancillary plants with land area requirements.

30 Section 905. Paragraph (k) of subsection (2) of  
31 section 163.3191, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1           163.3191 Evaluation and appraisal of comprehensive  
2 plan.--

3           (2) The report shall present an evaluation and  
4 assessment of the comprehensive plan and shall contain  
5 appropriate statements to update the comprehensive plan,  
6 including, but not limited to, words, maps, illustrations, or  
7 other media, related to:

8           (k) The coordination of the comprehensive plan with  
9 existing public schools and those identified in the applicable  
10 5-year school district facilities work program adopted  
11 pursuant to s. 1013.35 ~~235.185~~. The assessment shall address,  
12 where relevant, the success or failure of the coordination of  
13 the future land use map and associated planned residential  
14 development with public schools and their capacities, as well  
15 as the joint decisionmaking processes engaged in by the local  
16 government and the school board in regard to establishing  
17 appropriate population projections and the planning and siting  
18 of public school facilities. If the issues are not relevant,  
19 the local government shall demonstrate that they are not  
20 relevant.

21           Section 906. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of  
22 section 195.096, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

23           195.096 Review of assessment rolls.--

24           (3)

25           (b) When necessary for compliance with s. 1011.62  
26 ~~236.081~~, and for those counties not being studied in the  
27 current year, the department shall project value-weighted mean  
28 levels of assessment for each county. The department shall  
29 make its projection based upon the best information available,  
30 utilizing professionally accepted methodology, and shall  
31 separately allocate changes in total assessed value to:

- 1           1. New construction, additions, and deletions.
- 2           2. Changes in the value of the dollar.
- 3           3. Changes in the market value of property other than
- 4 those attributable to changes in the value of the dollar.
- 5           4. Changes in the level of assessment.

6  
7 In lieu of the statistical and analytical measures published  
8 pursuant to paragraph (a), the department shall publish  
9 details concerning the computation of estimated assessment  
10 levels and the allocation of changes in assessed value for  
11 those counties not subject to an in-depth review.

12           Section 907. Subsection (5) of section 196.012,  
13 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14           196.012 Definitions.--For the purpose of this chapter,  
15 the following terms are defined as follows, except where the  
16 context clearly indicates otherwise:

17           (5) "Educational institution" means a federal, state,  
18 parochial, church, or private school, college, or university  
19 conducting regular classes and courses of study required for  
20 eligibility to certification by, accreditation to, or  
21 membership in the State Department of Education of Florida,  
22 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or the Florida  
23 Council of Independent Schools; a nonprofit private school the  
24 principal activity of which is conducting regular classes and  
25 courses of study accepted for continuing postgraduate dental  
26 education credit by a board of the Division of Medical Quality  
27 Assurance; educational direct-support organizations created  
28 pursuant to ss. 1001.24, 1004.28, and 1004.70 ~~229.8021,~~  
29 ~~240.299, and 240.331~~; facilities located on the property of  
30 eligible entities which will become owned by those entities on  
31 a date certain; and institutions of higher education, as

1 defined under and participating in the Higher Educational  
2 Facilities Financing Act.

3           Section 908. Subsection (4) of section 196.031,  
4 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5           196.031 Exemption of homesteads.--

6           (4) The property appraisers of the various counties  
7 shall each year compile a list of taxable property and its  
8 value removed from the assessment rolls of each school  
9 district as a result of the excess of exempt value above that  
10 amount allowed for nonschool levies as provided in subsections  
11 (1) and (3), as well as a statement of the loss of tax revenue  
12 to each school district from levies other than the minimum  
13 financial effort required pursuant to s. 1011.60(6) ~~236.02(6)~~,  
14 and shall deliver a copy thereof to the Department of Revenue  
15 upon certification of the assessment roll to the tax  
16 collector.

17           Section 909. Section 196.1983, Florida Statutes, is  
18 amended to read:

19           196.1983 Charter school exemption from ad valorem  
20 taxes.--Any facility, or portion thereof, used to house a  
21 charter school whose charter has been approved by the sponsor  
22 and the governing board pursuant to s. 1002.33(9) ~~228.056(9)~~  
23 shall be exempt from ad valorem taxes. For leasehold  
24 properties, the landlord must certify by affidavit to the  
25 charter school that the lease payments shall be reduced to the  
26 extent of the exemption received. The owner of the property  
27 shall disclose to a charter school the full amount of the  
28 benefit derived from the exemption and the method for ensuring  
29 that the charter school receives such benefit. The charter  
30 school shall receive the full benefit derived from the  
31

1 exemption through either an annual or monthly credit to the  
2 charter school's lease payments.

3           Section 910. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (d) of  
4 subsection (3) of section 200.001, Florida Statutes, are  
5 amended to read:

6           200.001 Millages; definitions and general  
7 provisions.--

8           (3) School millages shall be composed of five  
9 categories of millage rates, as follows:

10           (a) Nonvoted required school operating millage, which  
11 shall be that nonvoted millage rate set by the county school  
12 board for current operating purposes and imposed pursuant to  
13 s. 1011.60(6) ~~236.02(6)~~.

14           (b) Nonvoted discretionary school operating millage,  
15 which shall be that nonvoted millage rate set by the county  
16 school board for operating purposes other than the rate  
17 imposed pursuant to s. 1011.60(6) ~~236.02(6)~~ and other than the  
18 rate authorized in s. 1011.71(2) ~~236.25(2)~~.

19           (d) Nonvoted district school capital improvement  
20 millage, which shall be that millage rate set by the district  
21 school board for capital improvements as authorized in s.  
22 1011.71(2) ~~236.25(2)~~.

23           Section 911. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2),  
24 paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (3), paragraph (a) of  
25 subsection (9), subsection (10), and paragraph (b) of  
26 subsection (12) of section 200.065, Florida Statutes, are  
27 amended to read:

28           200.065 Method of fixing millage.--

29           (2) No millage shall be levied until a resolution or  
30 ordinance has been approved by the governing board of the  
31 taxing authority which resolution or ordinance must be

1 approved by the taxing authority according to the following  
2 procedure:

3 (a)1. Upon preparation of a tentative budget, but  
4 prior to adoption thereof, each taxing authority shall compute  
5 a proposed millage rate necessary to fund the tentative budget  
6 other than the portion of the budget to be funded from sources  
7 other than ad valorem taxes. In computing proposed or final  
8 millage rates, each taxing authority shall utilize not less  
9 than 95 percent of the taxable value certified pursuant to  
10 subsection (1).

11 2. The tentative budget of the county commission shall  
12 be prepared and submitted in accordance with s. 129.03.

13 3. The tentative budget of the school district shall  
14 be prepared and submitted in accordance with chapter 1011 ~~237~~,  
15 provided that the date of submission shall not be later than  
16 24 days after certification of value pursuant to subsection  
17 (1).

18 4. Taxing authorities other than the county and school  
19 district shall prepare and consider tentative and final  
20 budgets in accordance with this section and applicable  
21 provisions of law, including budget procedures applicable to  
22 the taxing authority, provided such procedures do not conflict  
23 with general law.

24 (3) The advertisement shall be no less than  
25 one-quarter page in size of a standard size or a tabloid size  
26 newspaper, and the headline in the advertisement shall be in a  
27 type no smaller than 18 point. The advertisement shall not be  
28 placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices  
29 and classified advertisements appear. The advertisement shall  
30 be published in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the  
31 county or in a geographically limited insert of such

1 newspaper. The geographic boundaries in which such insert is  
 2 circulated shall include the geographic boundaries of the  
 3 taxing authority. It is the legislative intent that, whenever  
 4 possible, the advertisement appear in a newspaper that is  
 5 published at least 5 days a week unless the only newspaper in  
 6 the county is published less than 5 days a week, or that the  
 7 advertisement appear in a geographically limited insert of  
 8 such newspaper which insert is published throughout the taxing  
 9 authority's jurisdiction at least twice each week. It is  
 10 further the legislative intent that the newspaper selected be  
 11 one of general interest and readership in the community and  
 12 not one of limited subject matter, pursuant to chapter 50.

13 (c) For school districts which have proposed a millage  
 14 rate in excess of 100 percent of the rolled-back rate computed  
 15 pursuant to subsection (1) and which propose to levy nonvoted  
 16 millage in excess of the minimum amount required pursuant to  
 17 s. 1011.60(6) ~~236.02(6)~~, the advertisement shall be in the  
 18 following form:

19  
 20 NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE  
 21

22 The ...(name of school district)... will soon consider  
 23 a measure to increase its property tax levy.

24 Last year's property tax levy:

- 25 A. Initially proposed tax levy.....\$XX,XXX,XXX
- 26 B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board  
 27 and other assessment changes.....(\$XX,XXX,XXX)
- 28 C. Actual property tax levy.....\$XX,XXX,XXX

29 This year's proposed tax levy.....\$XX,XXX,XXX

30 A portion of the tax levy is required under state law  
 31 in order for the school board to receive \$...(amount A)... in

1 state education grants. The required portion has ...(increased  
2 or decreased)... by ...(amount B)... percent and represents  
3 approximately ...(amount C)... of the total proposed taxes.

4 The remainder of the taxes is proposed solely at the  
5 discretion of the school board.

6 All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing  
7 on the tax increase to be held on ...(date and time)... at  
8 ...(meeting place)....

9 A DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget  
10 will be made at this hearing.

11

12 1. AMOUNT A shall be an estimate, provided by the  
13 Department of Education, of the amount to be received in the  
14 current fiscal year by the district from state appropriations  
15 for the Florida Education Finance Program.

16 2. AMOUNT B shall be the percent increase over the  
17 rolled-back rate necessary to levy only the required local  
18 effort in the current fiscal year, computed as though in the  
19 preceding fiscal year only the required local effort was  
20 levied.

21 3. AMOUNT C shall be the quotient of required  
22 local-effort millage divided by the total proposed nonvoted  
23 millage, rounded to the nearest tenth and stated in words;  
24 however, the stated amount shall not exceed nine-tenths.

25

26 (d) For school districts which have proposed a millage  
27 rate in excess of 100 percent of the rolled-back rate computed  
28 pursuant to subsection (1) and which propose to levy as  
29 nonvoted millage only the minimum amount required pursuant to  
30 s. 1011.60(6) ~~236.02(6)~~, the advertisement shall be the same

31

1 as provided in paragraph (c), except that the second and third  
2 paragraphs shall be replaced with the following paragraph:

3

4           This increase is required under state law in order for  
5 the school board to receive \$...(amount A)... in state  
6 education grants.

7

8           (9)(a) In addition to the notice required in  
9 subsection (3), a district school board shall publish a second  
10 notice of intent to levy additional taxes under s. 1011.71(2)  
11 ~~236.25(2)~~. Such notice shall specify the projects or number  
12 of school buses anticipated to be funded by such additional  
13 taxes and shall be published in the size, within the time  
14 periods, adjacent to, and in substantial conformity with the  
15 advertisement required under subsection (3). The projects  
16 shall be listed in priority within each category as follows:  
17 construction and remodeling; maintenance, renovation, and  
18 repair; motor vehicle purchases; new and replacement  
19 equipment; payments for educational facilities and sites due  
20 under a lease-purchase agreement; payments for renting and  
21 leasing educational facilities and sites; payments of loans  
22 approved pursuant to ss. 1011.14 ~~237.161~~ and 1011.15 ~~237.162~~;  
23 payment of costs of compliance with environmental statutes and  
24 regulations; and payment of costs of leasing relocatable  
25 educational facilities. The additional notice shall be in the  
26 following form, except that if the district school board is  
27 proposing to levy the same millage under s. 1011.71(2)  
28 ~~236.25(2)~~ which it levied in the prior year, the words  
29 "continue to" shall be inserted before the word "impose" in  
30 the first sentence, and except that the second sentence of the  
31

1 second paragraph shall be deleted if the district is  
 2 advertising pursuant to paragraph (3)(e):

3  
 4 NOTICE OF TAX FOR SCHOOL  
 5 CAPITAL OUTLAY  
 6

7 The ...(name of school district)... will soon consider  
 8 a measure to impose a ...(number)... mill property tax for the  
 9 capital outlay projects listed herein.

10 This tax is in addition to the school board's proposed  
 11 tax of ...(number)... mills for operating expenses and is  
 12 proposed solely at the discretion of the school board. THE  
 13 PROPOSED COMBINED SCHOOL BOARD TAX INCREASE FOR BOTH OPERATING  
 14 EXPENSES AND CAPITAL OUTLAY IS SHOWN IN THE ADJACENT NOTICE.

15 The capital outlay tax will generate approximately  
 16 \$...(amount)..., to be used for the following projects:

17  
 18 ...(list of capital outlay projects)...

19  
 20 All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing  
 21 to be held on ...(date and time)... at ...(meeting place)....

22 A DECISION on the proposed CAPITAL OUTLAY TAXES will be  
 23 made at this hearing.

24  
 25 (10) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph  
 26 (2)(b) and s. 200.069(4)(c) to the contrary, the proposed  
 27 millage rates provided to the property appraiser by the taxing  
 28 authority, except for millage rates adopted by referendum, for  
 29 rates authorized by s. 1011.71 ~~236.25~~, and for rates required  
 30 by law to be in a specified millage amount, shall be adjusted  
 31 in the event that a review notice is issued pursuant to s.

1 193.1142(4) and the taxable value on the approved roll is at  
2 variance with the taxable value certified pursuant to  
3 subsection (1). The adjustment shall be made by the property  
4 appraiser, who shall notify the taxing authorities affected by  
5 the adjustment within 5 days of the date the roll is approved  
6 pursuant to s. 193.1142(4). The adjustment shall be such as  
7 to provide for no change in the dollar amount of taxes levied  
8 from that initially proposed by the taxing authority.

9 (12)

10 (b) Within 30 days of the deadline for certification  
11 of compliance required by s. 200.068, the department shall  
12 notify any taxing authority in violation of this section that  
13 it is subject to paragraph (c). Except for revenues from voted  
14 levies or levies imposed pursuant to s. 1011.60(6) ~~236.02(6)~~,  
15 the revenues of any taxing authority in violation of this  
16 section collected in excess of the rolled-back rate shall be  
17 held in escrow until the process required by paragraph (c) is  
18 completed and approved by the department. The department shall  
19 direct the tax collector to so hold such funds.

20 Section 912. Subsection (3) and paragraph (a) of  
21 subsection (4) of section 200.069, Florida Statutes, are  
22 amended to read:

23 200.069 Notice of proposed property taxes and non-ad  
24 valorem assessments.--Pursuant to s. 200.065(2)(b), the  
25 property appraiser, in the name of the taxing authorities and  
26 local governing boards levying non-ad valorem assessments  
27 within his or her jurisdiction and at the expense of the  
28 county, shall prepare and deliver by first-class mail to each  
29 taxpayer to be listed on the current year's assessment roll a  
30 notice of proposed property taxes, which notice shall be in  
31 substantially the following form. Notwithstanding the

1 provisions of s. 195.022, no county officer shall use a form  
2 other than that provided by the department for this purpose,  
3 except as provided in s. 200.065(13).

4 (3) There shall be under each column heading an entry  
5 for the county; the school district levy required pursuant to  
6 s. 1011.60(6) ~~236.02(6)~~; other operating school levies; the  
7 municipality or municipal service taxing unit or units in  
8 which the parcel lies, if any; the water management district  
9 levying pursuant to s. 373.503; the independent special  
10 districts in which the parcel lies, if any; and for all voted  
11 levies for debt service applicable to the parcel, if any.

12 (4) For each entry listed in subsection (3), there  
13 shall appear on the notice the following:

14 (a) In the first column, a brief, commonly used name  
15 for the taxing authority or its governing body. The entry in  
16 the first column for the levy required pursuant to s.  
17 1011.60(6) ~~236.02(6)~~ shall be "By State Law." The entry for  
18 other operating school district levies shall be "By Local  
19 Board." Both school levy entries shall be indented and  
20 preceded by the notation "Public Schools:". For each voted  
21 levy for debt service, the entry shall be "Voter Approved Debt  
22 Payments."

23 Section 913. Subsection (2) of section 201.24, Florida  
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25 201.24 Obligations of municipalities, political  
26 subdivisions, and agencies of the state.--There shall be  
27 exempt from all taxes imposed by this chapter:

28 (2) Any assignment, transfer, or other disposition, or  
29 any document, which arises out of a rental, lease, or  
30 lease-purchase for real property agreement entered pursuant to  
31 s. 1013.15(2) or (4) ~~235.056(2) or (3)~~.

1           Section 914. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of  
2 section 210.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3           210.20 Employees and assistants; distribution of  
4 funds.--

5           (2) As collections are received by the division from  
6 such cigarette taxes, it shall pay the same into a trust fund  
7 in the State Treasury designated "Cigarette Tax Collection  
8 Trust Fund" which shall be paid and distributed as follows:

9           (b) Beginning January 1, 1999, and continuing for 10  
10 years thereafter, the division shall from month to month  
11 certify to the Comptroller the amount derived from the  
12 cigarette tax imposed by s. 210.02, less the service charges  
13 provided for in s. 215.20 and less 0.9 percent of the amount  
14 derived from the cigarette tax imposed by s. 210.02 which  
15 shall be deposited into the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco  
16 Trust Fund, specifying an amount equal to 2.59 percent of the  
17 net collections, and that amount shall be paid to the Board of  
18 Directors of the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research  
19 Institute, established under s. 1004.43 ~~240.512~~, by warrant  
20 drawn by the Comptroller upon the State Treasury. These funds  
21 are hereby appropriated monthly out of the Cigarette Tax  
22 Collection Trust Fund, to be used for the purpose of  
23 constructing, furnishing, and equipping a cancer research  
24 facility at the University of South Florida adjacent to the H.  
25 Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute. In fiscal  
26 years 1999-2000 and thereafter with the exception of fiscal  
27 year 2008-2009, the appropriation to the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer  
28 Center and Research Institute authorized by this paragraph  
29 shall not be less than the amount which would have been paid  
30 to the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute for  
31

1 fiscal year 1998-1999 had payments been made for the entire  
2 fiscal year rather than for a 6-month period thereof.

3 Section 915. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of  
4 section 212.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5 212.04 Admissions tax; rate, procedure, enforcement.--

6 (2)(a)1. No tax shall be levied on admissions to  
7 athletic or other events sponsored by elementary schools,  
8 junior high schools, middle schools, high schools, community  
9 colleges, public or private colleges and universities, deaf  
10 and blind schools, facilities of the youth services programs  
11 of the Department of Children and Family Services, and state  
12 correctional institutions when only student, faculty, or  
13 inmate talent is used. However, this exemption shall not apply  
14 to admission to athletic events sponsored by a ~~an~~ institution  
15 ~~within the state university system~~, and the proceeds of the  
16 tax collected on such admissions shall be retained and used by  
17 each institution to support women's athletics as provided in  
18 s. 1006.71(2)(c) ~~240.533(3)(c)~~.

19 2.a. No tax shall be levied on dues, membership fees,  
20 and admission charges imposed by not-for-profit sponsoring  
21 organizations. To receive this exemption, the sponsoring  
22 organization must qualify as a not-for-profit entity under the  
23 provisions of s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
24 1954, as amended.

25 b. No tax shall be levied on admission charges to an  
26 event sponsored by a governmental entity, sports authority, or  
27 sports commission when held in a convention hall, exhibition  
28 hall, auditorium, stadium, theater, arena, civic center,  
29 performing arts center, or publicly owned recreational  
30 facility and when 100 percent of the risk of success or  
31 failure lies with the sponsor of the event and 100 percent of

1 the funds at risk for the event belong to the sponsor, and  
2 student or faculty talent is not exclusively used. As used in  
3 this sub-subparagraph, the terms "sports authority" and  
4 "sports commission" mean a nonprofit organization that is  
5 exempt from federal income tax under s. 501(c)(3) of the  
6 Internal Revenue Code and that contracts with a county or  
7 municipal government for the purpose of promoting and  
8 attracting sports-tourism events to the community with which  
9 it contracts.

10         3. No tax shall be levied on an admission paid by a  
11 student, or on the student's behalf, to any required place of  
12 sport or recreation if the student's participation in the  
13 sport or recreational activity is required as a part of a  
14 program or activity sponsored by, and under the jurisdiction  
15 of, the student's educational institution, provided his or her  
16 attendance is as a participant and not as a spectator.

17         4. No tax shall be levied on admissions to the  
18 National Football League championship game, on admissions to  
19 any semifinal game or championship game of a national  
20 collegiate tournament, or on admissions to a Major League  
21 Baseball all-star game.

22         5. A participation fee or sponsorship fee imposed by a  
23 governmental entity as described in s. 212.08(6) for an  
24 athletic or recreational program is exempt when the  
25 governmental entity by itself, or in conjunction with an  
26 organization exempt under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue  
27 Code of 1954, as amended, sponsors, administers, plans,  
28 supervises, directs, and controls the athletic or recreational  
29 program.

30         6. Also exempt from the tax imposed by this section to  
31 the extent provided in this subparagraph are admissions to

1 live theater, live opera, or live ballet productions in this  
2 state which are sponsored by an organization that has received  
3 a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that the  
4 organization is exempt from federal income tax under s.  
5 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, if  
6 the organization actively participates in planning and  
7 conducting the event, is responsible for the safety and  
8 success of the event, is organized for the purpose of  
9 sponsoring live theater, live opera, or live ballet  
10 productions in this state, has more than 10,000 subscribing  
11 members and has among the stated purposes in its charter the  
12 promotion of arts education in the communities which it  
13 serves, and will receive at least 20 percent of the net  
14 profits, if any, of the events which the organization sponsors  
15 and will bear the risk of at least 20 percent of the losses,  
16 if any, from the events which it sponsors if the organization  
17 employs other persons as agents to provide services in  
18 connection with a sponsored event. Prior to March 1 of each  
19 year, such organization may apply to the department for a  
20 certificate of exemption for admissions to such events  
21 sponsored in this state by the organization during the  
22 immediately following state fiscal year. The application shall  
23 state the total dollar amount of admissions receipts collected  
24 by the organization or its agents from such events in this  
25 state sponsored by the organization or its agents in the year  
26 immediately preceding the year in which the organization  
27 applies for the exemption. Such organization shall receive the  
28 exemption only to the extent of \$1.5 million multiplied by the  
29 ratio that such receipts bear to the total of such receipts of  
30 all organizations applying for the exemption in such year;  
31 however, in no event shall such exemption granted to any

1 organization exceed 6 percent of such admissions receipts  
2 collected by the organization or its agents in the year  
3 immediately preceding the year in which the organization  
4 applies for the exemption. Each organization receiving the  
5 exemption shall report each month to the department the total  
6 admissions receipts collected from such events sponsored by  
7 the organization during the preceding month and shall remit to  
8 the department an amount equal to 6 percent of such receipts  
9 reduced by any amount remaining under the exemption. Tickets  
10 for such events sold by such organizations shall not reflect  
11 the tax otherwise imposed under this section.

12           7. Also exempt from the tax imposed by this section  
13 are entry fees for participation in freshwater fishing  
14 tournaments.

15           8. Also exempt from the tax imposed by this section  
16 are participation or entry fees charged to participants in a  
17 game, race, or other sport or recreational event if spectators  
18 are charged a taxable admission to such event.

19           9. No tax shall be levied on admissions to any  
20 postseason collegiate football game sanctioned by the National  
21 Collegiate Athletic Association.

22           Section 916. Effective July 1, 2003, paragraph (a) of  
23 subsection (2) of section 212.04, Florida Statutes, as amended  
24 by section 4 of chapter 2000-345, Laws of Florida, is amended  
25 to read:

26           212.04 Admissions tax; rate, procedure, enforcement.--

27           (2)(a)1. No tax shall be levied on admissions to  
28 athletic or other events sponsored by elementary schools,  
29 junior high schools, middle schools, high schools, community  
30 colleges, public or private colleges and universities, deaf  
31 and blind schools, facilities of the youth services programs

1 of the Department of Children and Family Services, and state  
2 correctional institutions when only student, faculty, or  
3 inmate talent is used. However, this exemption shall not apply  
4 to admission to athletic events sponsored by ~~a an institution~~  
5 ~~within the~~ state university ~~System~~, and the proceeds of the  
6 tax collected on such admissions shall be retained and used by  
7 each institution to support women's athletics as provided in  
8 s. 1006.71(2)(c) ~~240.533(3)(c)~~.

9         2. No tax shall be levied on dues, membership fees,  
10 and admission charges imposed by not-for-profit sponsoring  
11 organizations. To receive this exemption, the sponsoring  
12 organization must qualify as a not-for-profit entity under the  
13 provisions of s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
14 1954, as amended.

15         3. No tax shall be levied on an admission paid by a  
16 student, or on the student's behalf, to any required place of  
17 sport or recreation if the student's participation in the  
18 sport or recreational activity is required as a part of a  
19 program or activity sponsored by, and under the jurisdiction  
20 of, the student's educational institution, provided his or her  
21 attendance is as a participant and not as a spectator.

22         4. No tax shall be levied on admissions to the  
23 National Football League championship game, on admissions to  
24 any semifinal game or championship game of a national  
25 collegiate tournament, or on admissions to a Major League  
26 Baseball all-star game.

27         5. A participation fee or sponsorship fee imposed by a  
28 governmental entity as described in s. 212.08(6) for an  
29 athletic or recreational program is exempt when the  
30 governmental entity by itself, or in conjunction with an  
31 organization exempt under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue

1 Code of 1954, as amended, sponsors, administers, plans,  
2 supervises, directs, and controls the athletic or recreational  
3 program.

4         6. Also exempt from the tax imposed by this section to  
5 the extent provided in this subparagraph are admissions to  
6 live theater, live opera, or live ballet productions in this  
7 state which are sponsored by an organization that has received  
8 a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that the  
9 organization is exempt from federal income tax under s.  
10 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, if  
11 the organization actively participates in planning and  
12 conducting the event, is responsible for the safety and  
13 success of the event, is organized for the purpose of  
14 sponsoring live theater, live opera, or live ballet  
15 productions in this state, has more than 10,000 subscribing  
16 members and has among the stated purposes in its charter the  
17 promotion of arts education in the communities which it  
18 serves, and will receive at least 20 percent of the net  
19 profits, if any, of the events which the organization sponsors  
20 and will bear the risk of at least 20 percent of the losses,  
21 if any, from the events which it sponsors if the organization  
22 employs other persons as agents to provide services in  
23 connection with a sponsored event. Prior to March 1 of each  
24 year, such organization may apply to the department for a  
25 certificate of exemption for admissions to such events  
26 sponsored in this state by the organization during the  
27 immediately following state fiscal year. The application shall  
28 state the total dollar amount of admissions receipts collected  
29 by the organization or its agents from such events in this  
30 state sponsored by the organization or its agents in the year  
31 immediately preceding the year in which the organization

1 applies for the exemption. Such organization shall receive the  
2 exemption only to the extent of \$1.5 million multiplied by the  
3 ratio that such receipts bear to the total of such receipts of  
4 all organizations applying for the exemption in such year;  
5 however, in no event shall such exemption granted to any  
6 organization exceed 6 percent of such admissions receipts  
7 collected by the organization or its agents in the year  
8 immediately preceding the year in which the organization  
9 applies for the exemption. Each organization receiving the  
10 exemption shall report each month to the department the total  
11 admissions receipts collected from such events sponsored by  
12 the organization during the preceding month and shall remit to  
13 the department an amount equal to 6 percent of such receipts  
14 reduced by any amount remaining under the exemption. Tickets  
15 for such events sold by such organizations shall not reflect  
16 the tax otherwise imposed under this section.

17         7. Also exempt from the tax imposed by this section  
18 are entry fees for participation in freshwater fishing  
19 tournaments.

20         8. Also exempt from the tax imposed by this section  
21 are participation or entry fees charged to participants in a  
22 game, race, or other sport or recreational event if spectators  
23 are charged a taxable admission to such event.

24         9. No tax shall be levied on admissions to any  
25 postseason collegiate football game sanctioned by the National  
26 Collegiate Athletic Association.

27         Section 917. Section 212.0602, Florida Statutes, is  
28 amended to read:

29         212.0602 Education; limited exemption.--To facilitate  
30 investment in education and job training, there is also exempt  
31 from the taxes levied under this chapter, subject to the

1 provisions of this section, the purchase or lease of  
 2 materials, equipment, and other items or the license in or  
 3 lease of real property by any entity, institution, or  
 4 organization that is primarily engaged in teaching students to  
 5 perform any of the activities or services described in s.  
 6 212.031(1)(a)9., that conducts classes at a fixed location  
 7 located in this state, that is licensed under chapter 1005  
 8 ~~246~~, and that has at least 500 enrolled students. Any entity,  
 9 institution, or organization meeting the requirements of this  
 10 section shall be deemed to qualify for the exemptions in ss.  
 11 212.031(1)(a)9. and 212.08(5)(f) and (12), and to qualify for  
 12 an exemption for its purchase or lease of materials,  
 13 equipment, and other items used for education or demonstration  
 14 of the school's curriculum, including supporting operations.  
 15 Nothing in this section shall preclude an entity described in  
 16 this section from qualifying for any other exemption provided  
 17 for in this chapter.

18 Section 918. Paragraph (q) of subsection (5) of  
 19 section 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution,  
 21 and storage tax; specified exemptions.--The sale at retail,  
 22 the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and  
 23 the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the  
 24 following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed  
 25 by this chapter.

26 (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.--

27 (q) Community contribution tax credit for donations.--

28 1. Authorization.--Beginning July 1, 2001, persons who  
 29 are registered with the department under s. 212.18 to collect  
 30 or remit sales or use tax and who make donations to eligible  
 31

1 sponsors are eligible for tax credits against their state  
2 sales and use tax liabilities as provided in this paragraph:  
3       a. The credit shall be computed as 50 percent of the  
4 person's approved annual community contribution;  
5       b. The credit shall be granted as a refund against  
6 state sales and use taxes reported on returns and remitted in  
7 the 12 months preceding the date of application to the  
8 department for the credit as required in sub-subparagraph 3.c.  
9 If the annual credit is not fully used through such refund  
10 because of insufficient tax payments during the applicable  
11 12-month period, the unused amount may be included in an  
12 application for a refund made pursuant to sub-subparagraph  
13 3.c. in subsequent years against the total tax payments made  
14 for such year. Carryover credits may be applied for a 3-year  
15 period without regard to any time limitation that would  
16 otherwise apply under s. 215.26;  
17       c. No person shall receive more than \$200,000 in  
18 annual tax credits for all approved community contributions  
19 made in any one year;  
20       d. All proposals for the granting of the tax credit  
21 shall require the prior approval of the Office of Tourism,  
22 Trade, and Economic Development;  
23       e. The total amount of tax credits which may be  
24 granted for all programs approved under this paragraph, s.  
25 220.183, and s. 624.5105 is \$10 million annually; and  
26       f. A person who is eligible to receive the credit  
27 provided for in this paragraph, s. 220.183, or s. 624.5105 may  
28 receive the credit only under the one section of the person's  
29 choice.  
30       2. Eligibility requirements.--  
31

1           a. A community contribution by a person must be in the  
2 following form:  
3           (I) Cash or other liquid assets;  
4           (II) Real property;  
5           (III) Goods or inventory; or  
6           (IV) Other physical resources as identified by the  
7 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.  
8           b. All community contributions must be reserved  
9 exclusively for use in a project. As used in this  
10 sub-subparagraph, the term "project" means any activity  
11 undertaken by an eligible sponsor which is designed to  
12 construct, improve, or substantially rehabilitate housing that  
13 is affordable to low-income or very-low-income households as  
14 defined in s. 420.9071(19) and (28); designed to provide  
15 commercial, industrial, or public resources and facilities; or  
16 designed to improve entrepreneurial and job-development  
17 opportunities for low-income persons. A project may be the  
18 investment necessary to increase access to high-speed  
19 broadband capability in rural communities with enterprise  
20 zones, including projects that result in improvements to  
21 communications assets that are owned by a business. A project  
22 may include the provision of museum educational programs and  
23 materials that are directly related to any project approved  
24 between January 1, 1996, and December 31, 1999, and located in  
25 an enterprise zone as referenced in s. 290.00675. This  
26 paragraph does not preclude projects that propose to construct  
27 or rehabilitate housing for low-income or very-low-income  
28 households on scattered sites. The Office of Tourism, Trade,  
29 and Economic Development may reserve up to 50 percent of the  
30 available annual tax credits for housing for very-low-income  
31 households pursuant to s. 420.9071(28) for the first 6 months

1 of the fiscal year. With respect to housing, contributions may  
2 be used to pay the following eligible low-income and  
3 very-low-income housing-related activities:

- 4 (I) Project development impact and management fees for  
5 low-income or very-low-income housing projects;
- 6 (II) Down payment and closing costs for eligible  
7 persons, as defined in s. 420.9071(19) and (28);
- 8 (III) Administrative costs, including housing  
9 counseling and marketing fees, not to exceed 10 percent of the  
10 community contribution, directly related to low-income or  
11 very-low-income projects; and
- 12 (IV) Removal of liens recorded against residential  
13 property by municipal, county, or special district local  
14 governments when satisfaction of the lien is a necessary  
15 precedent to the transfer of the property to an eligible  
16 person, as defined in s. 420.9071(19) and (28), for the  
17 purpose of promoting home ownership. Contributions for lien  
18 removal must be received from a nonrelated third party.

19 c. The project must be undertaken by an "eligible  
20 sponsor," which includes:

- 21 (I) A community action program;
- 22 (II) A nonprofit community-based development  
23 organization whose mission is the provision of housing for  
24 low-income or very-low-income households or increasing  
25 entrepreneurial and job-development opportunities for  
26 low-income persons;
- 27 (III) A neighborhood housing services corporation;
- 28 (IV) A local housing authority created under chapter  
29 421;
- 30 (V) A community redevelopment agency created under s.  
31 163.356;

- 1 (VI) The Florida Industrial Development Corporation;
- 2 (VII) A historic preservation district agency or  
3 organization;
- 4 (VIII) A regional workforce board;
- 5 (IX) A direct-support organization as provided in s.  
6 1009.983 ~~240.551~~;
- 7 (X) An enterprise zone development agency created  
8 under s. 290.0056;
- 9 (XI) A community-based organization incorporated under  
10 chapter 617 which is recognized as educational, charitable, or  
11 scientific pursuant to s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue  
12 Code and whose bylaws and articles of incorporation include  
13 affordable housing, economic development, or community  
14 development as the primary mission of the corporation;
- 15 (XII) Units of local government;
- 16 (XIII) Units of state government; or
- 17 (XIV) Any other agency that the Office of Tourism,  
18 Trade, and Economic Development designates by rule.
- 19
- 20 In no event may a contributing person have a financial  
21 interest in the eligible sponsor.
- 22 d. The project must be located in an area designated  
23 an enterprise zone or a Front Porch Florida Community pursuant  
24 to s. 14.2015(9)(b), unless the project increases access to  
25 high-speed broadband capability for rural communities with  
26 enterprise zones but is physically located outside the  
27 designated rural zone boundaries. Any project designed to  
28 construct or rehabilitate housing for low-income or  
29 very-low-income households as defined in s. 420.0971(19) and  
30 (28) is exempt from the area requirement of this  
31 sub-subparagraph.

1           3. Application requirements.--

2           a. Any eligible sponsor seeking to participate in this  
3 program must submit a proposal to the Office of Tourism,  
4 Trade, and Economic Development which sets forth the name of  
5 the sponsor, a description of the project, and the area in  
6 which the project is located, together with such supporting  
7 information as is prescribed by rule. The proposal must also  
8 contain a resolution from the local governmental unit in which  
9 the project is located certifying that the project is  
10 consistent with local plans and regulations.

11           b. Any person seeking to participate in this program  
12 must submit an application for tax credit to the Office of  
13 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development which sets forth the  
14 name of the sponsor, a description of the project, and the  
15 type, value, and purpose of the contribution. The sponsor  
16 shall verify the terms of the application and indicate its  
17 receipt of the contribution, which verification must be in  
18 writing and accompany the application for tax credit. The  
19 person must submit a separate tax credit application to the  
20 office for each individual contribution that it makes to each  
21 individual project.

22           c. Any person who has received notification from the  
23 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development that a tax  
24 credit has been approved must apply to the department to  
25 receive the refund. Application must be made on the form  
26 prescribed for claiming refunds of sales and use taxes and be  
27 accompanied by a copy of the notification. A person may submit  
28 only one application for refund to the department within any  
29 12-month period.

30           4. Administration.--

31

1           a. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
2 Development may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and  
3 120.54 necessary to administer this paragraph, including rules  
4 for the approval or disapproval of proposals by a person.

5           b. The decision of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and  
6 Economic Development must be in writing, and, if approved, the  
7 notification shall state the maximum credit allowable to the  
8 person. Upon approval, the office shall transmit a copy of the  
9 decision to the Department of Revenue.

10          c. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
11 Development shall periodically monitor all projects in a  
12 manner consistent with available resources to ensure that  
13 resources are used in accordance with this paragraph; however,  
14 each project must be reviewed at least once every 2 years.

15          d. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
16 Development shall, in consultation with the Department of  
17 Community Affairs, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation,  
18 and the statewide and regional housing and financial  
19 intermediaries, market the availability of the community  
20 contribution tax credit program to community-based  
21 organizations.

22          5. Expiration.--This paragraph expires June 30, 2005;  
23 however, any accrued credit carryover that is unused on that  
24 date may be used until the expiration of the 3-year carryover  
25 period for such credit.

26          Section 919. Subsection (6) of section 213.053,  
27 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

28          213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.--

29          (6) Any information received by the Department of  
30 Revenue in connection with the administration of taxes,  
31 including, but not limited to, information contained in

1 returns, reports, accounts, or declarations filed by persons  
2 subject to tax, shall be made available by the department to  
3 the Auditor General or his or her authorized agent, the  
4 director of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
5 Government Accountability or his or her authorized agent, the  
6 Comptroller or his or her authorized agent, the Insurance  
7 Commissioner or his or her authorized agent, the Treasurer or  
8 his or her authorized agent, or a property appraiser or tax  
9 collector or their authorized agents pursuant to s.  
10 195.084(1), in the performance of their official duties, or to  
11 designated employees of the Department of Education solely for  
12 determination of each school district's price level index  
13 pursuant to s. 1011.62(2) ~~236.081(2)~~; however, no information  
14 shall be disclosed to the Auditor General or his or her  
15 authorized agent, the director of the Office of Program Policy  
16 Analysis and Government Accountability or his or her  
17 authorized agent, the Comptroller or his or her authorized  
18 agent, the Insurance Commissioner or his or her authorized  
19 agent, the Treasurer or his or her authorized agent, or to a  
20 property appraiser or tax collector or their authorized  
21 agents, or to designated employees of the Department of  
22 Education if such disclosure is prohibited by federal law. The  
23 Auditor General or his or her authorized agent, the director  
24 of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government  
25 Accountability or his or her authorized agent, the Comptroller  
26 or his or her authorized agent, the Treasurer or his or her  
27 authorized agent, and the property appraiser or tax collector  
28 and their authorized agents, or designated employees of the  
29 Department of Education shall be subject to the same  
30 requirements of confidentiality and the same penalties for  
31 violation of the requirements as the department. For the

1 purpose of this subsection, "designated employees of the  
2 Department of Education" means only those employees directly  
3 responsible for calculation of price level indices pursuant to  
4 s. 1011.62(2) ~~236.081(2)~~. It does not include the supervisors  
5 of such employees or any other employees or elected officials  
6 within the Department of Education.

7 Section 920. Paragraph (j) of subsection (4) of  
8 section 215.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

9 215.20 Certain income and certain trust funds to  
10 contribute to the General Revenue Fund.--

11 (4) The income of a revenue nature deposited in the  
12 following described trust funds, by whatever name designated,  
13 is that from which the deductions authorized by subsection (3)  
14 shall be made:

15 (j) The Educational Certification and Service Trust  
16 Fund created by s. 1012.59 ~~231.30~~.

17

18 The enumeration of the foregoing moneys or trust funds shall  
19 not prohibit the applicability thereto of s. 215.24 should the  
20 Governor determine that for the reasons mentioned in s. 215.24  
21 the money or trust funds should be exempt herefrom, as it is  
22 the purpose of this law to exempt income from its force and  
23 effect when, by the operation of this law, federal matching  
24 funds or contributions or private grants to any trust fund  
25 would be lost to the state.

26 Section 921. Subsection (2) of section 215.82, Florida  
27 Statutes, is amended to read:

28 215.82 Validation; when required.--

29 (2) Any bonds issued pursuant to this act which are  
30 validated shall be validated in the manner provided by chapter  
31 75. In actions to validate bonds to be issued in the name of

1 the State Board of Education under s. 9(a) and (d), Art. XII  
2 of the State Constitution and bonds to be issued pursuant to  
3 chapter 259, the Land Conservation Act of 1972, the complaint  
4 shall be filed in the circuit court of the county where the  
5 seat of state government is situated, the notice required to  
6 be published by s. 75.06 shall be published only in the county  
7 where the complaint is filed, and the complaint and order of  
8 the circuit court shall be served only on the state attorney  
9 of the circuit in which the action is pending. In any action  
10 to validate bonds issued pursuant to ss. 1010.61-1010.619 ~~part~~  
11 ~~of chapter 243~~ or issued pursuant to s. 9(a)(1), Art. XII of  
12 the State Constitution or issued pursuant to s. 215.605 or s.  
13 338.227, the complaint shall be filed in the circuit court of  
14 the county where the seat of state government is situated, the  
15 notice required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published  
16 in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the  
17 complaint is filed and in two other newspapers of general  
18 circulation in the state, and the complaint and order of the  
19 circuit court shall be served only on the state attorney of  
20 the circuit in which the action is pending; provided, however,  
21 that if publication of notice pursuant to this section would  
22 require publication in more newspapers than would publication  
23 pursuant to s. 75.06, such publication shall be made pursuant  
24 to s. 75.06.

25 Section 922. Subsection (7) of section 216.181,  
26 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

27 216.181 Approved budgets for operations and fixed  
28 capital outlay.--

29 (7) The Executive Office of the Governor may, for the  
30 purpose of improved contract administration, authorize the  
31 consolidation of two or more fixed capital outlay

1 appropriations for an agency, and the Chief Justice of the  
2 Supreme Court for the judicial branch, except for projects  
3 authorized under chapter 1013 235, provided the original scope  
4 and purpose of each project are not changed.

5 Section 923. Subsection (3) of section 216.301,  
6 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 216.301 Appropriations; undisbursed balances.--

8 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2),  
9 the unexpended balance of any appropriation for fixed capital  
10 outlay subject to but not under the terms of a binding  
11 contract or a general construction contract prior to February  
12 1 of the second fiscal year, or the third fiscal year if it is  
13 for an educational facility as defined in chapter 1013 235 or  
14 a construction project of the Board of Regents, of the  
15 appropriation shall revert on February 1 of such year to the  
16 fund from which appropriated and shall be available for  
17 reappropriation. The Executive Office of the Governor shall,  
18 not later than February 20 of each year, furnish the  
19 Comptroller, the legislative appropriations committees, and  
20 the Auditor General a report listing in detail the items and  
21 amounts reverting under the authority of this subsection,  
22 including the fund to which reverted and the agency affected.

23 Section 924. Paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (1)  
24 of section 218.39, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

25 218.39 Annual financial audit reports.--

26 (1) If, by the first day in any fiscal year, a local  
27 governmental entity, district school board, charter school, or  
28 charter technical career center has not been notified that a  
29 financial audit for that fiscal year will be performed by the  
30 Auditor General, each of the following entities shall have an  
31 annual financial audit of its accounts and records completed

1 within 12 months after the end of its fiscal year by an  
 2 independent certified public accountant retained by it and  
 3 paid from its public funds:

4 (e) Each charter school established under s. 1002.33  
 5 ~~228.056~~.

6 (f) Each charter technical center established under s.  
 7 1002.34 ~~228.505~~.

8 Section 925. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of  
 9 section 220.183, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

10 220.183 Community contribution tax credit.--

11 (2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.--

12 (c) The project must be undertaken by an "eligible  
 13 sponsor," defined here as:

14 1. A community action program;

15 2. A nonprofit community-based development  
 16 organization whose mission is the provision of housing for  
 17 low-income or very-low-income households or increasing  
 18 entrepreneurial and job-development opportunities for  
 19 low-income persons;

20 3. A neighborhood housing services corporation;

21 4. A local housing authority, created pursuant to  
 22 chapter 421;

23 5. A community redevelopment agency, created pursuant  
 24 to s. 163.356;

25 6. The Florida Industrial Development Corporation;

26 7. An historic preservation district agency or  
 27 organization;

28 8. A regional workforce board;

29 9. A direct-support organization as provided in s.  
 30 1009.983 ~~240.551~~;

31

- 1           10. An enterprise zone development agency created  
2 pursuant to s. 290.0056;
- 3           11. A community-based organization incorporated under  
4 chapter 617 which is recognized as educational, charitable, or  
5 scientific pursuant to s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue  
6 Code and whose bylaws and articles of incorporation include  
7 affordable housing, economic development, or community  
8 development as the primary mission of the corporation;
- 9           12. Units of local government;
- 10          13. Units of state government; or
- 11          14. Such other agency as the Office of Tourism, Trade,  
12 and Economic Development may, from time to time, designate by  
13 rule.
- 14
- 15 In no event shall a contributing business firm have a  
16 financial interest in the eligible sponsor.
- 17          Section 926. Subsection (1) of section 222.22, Florida  
18 Statutes, is amended to read:
- 19          222.22 Exemption of moneys in the Prepaid College  
20 Trust Fund or in a Medical Savings Account from legal  
21 process.--
- 22          (1)(a) Moneys paid into or out of the Florida Prepaid  
23 College Trust Fund by or on behalf of a purchaser or qualified  
24 beneficiary pursuant to an advance payment contract made under  
25 part IV of chapter 1009 ~~s. 240.551~~, which contract has not  
26 been terminated, are not liable to attachment, garnishment, or  
27 legal process in the state in favor of any creditor of the  
28 purchaser or beneficiary of such advance payment contract.
- 29          (b) Moneys paid into or out of the Prepaid College  
30 Trust Fund by or on behalf of a benefactor or designated  
31 beneficiary pursuant to a participation agreement made under

1 s. 1009.981 ~~240.553~~, which agreement has not been terminated,  
2 are not liable to attachment, garnishment, or legal process in  
3 the state in favor of any creditor of the purchaser or  
4 beneficiary of such participation agreement.

5 Section 927. Subsection (4) of section 250.115,  
6 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 250.115 Department of Military Affairs direct-support  
8 organization.--

9 (4) ACTIVITIES; RESTRICTIONS.--Any transaction or  
10 agreement between the direct-support organization organized  
11 pursuant to this section and another direct-support  
12 organization or center of technology innovation designated  
13 under s. 1004.77 ~~240.3335~~ must be approved by the Adjutant  
14 General.

15 Section 928. Section 255.0515, Florida Statutes, is  
16 amended to read:

17 255.0515 Bids for state contracts; substitution of  
18 subcontractors.--With respect to state contracts let pursuant  
19 to competitive bidding, whether under chapter 1013 ~~235~~,  
20 relating to educational facilities, or this chapter, relating  
21 to public buildings, the contractor shall not remove or  
22 replace subcontractors listed in the bid subsequent to the  
23 lists being made public at the bid opening, except upon good  
24 cause shown.

25 Section 929. Section 255.0516, Florida Statutes, is  
26 amended to read:

27 255.0516 Bid protests by educational boards.--With  
28 respect to state contracts and bids pursuant to competitive  
29 bidding, whether under chapter 1013 ~~235~~, relating to  
30 educational facilities, or under this chapter, relating to  
31 public buildings, if a school board, a community college board

1 of trustees, or a state university board of trustees ~~the Board~~  
2 ~~of Regents~~ uses procedures pursuant to chapter 120 for bid  
3 protests, the board may require the protestor to post a bond  
4 amounting to:

5 (1) Twenty-five thousand dollars or 2 percent of the  
6 lowest accepted bid, whichever is greater, for projects valued  
7 over \$500,000; and

8 (2) Five percent of the lowest accepted bid for all  
9 other projects,

10

11 conditioned upon payment of all costs and fees which may be  
12 adjudged against the protestor in the administrative hearing.  
13 If at the hearing the agency prevails, it shall recover all  
14 costs and attorney's fees from the protestor; if the protestor  
15 prevails, the protestor shall recover from the agency all  
16 costs and attorney's fees.

17 Section 930. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of  
18 section 265.2861, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 265.2861 Cultural Institutions Program; trust fund.--

20 (1) CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS TRUST FUND.--There is  
21 created a Cultural Institutions Trust Fund to be administered  
22 by the Department of State for the purposes set forth in this  
23 section and to support the following programs as follows:

24 (e)1. For the officially designated Art Museum of the  
25 State of Florida described in s. 1004.45 ~~240.711~~, \$2.2  
26 million, and for state-owned cultural facilities assigned to  
27 the Department of State, which receive a portion of any  
28 operating funds from the Department of State and one of the  
29 primary purposes of which is the presentation of fine arts or  
30 performing arts, \$500,000.

31

1           2. For fiscal year 2001-2002 only, the provisions of  
2 subparagraph 1. relating to state-owned cultural facilities  
3 shall not be applicable. This subparagraph expires July 1,  
4 2002.

5  
6 The trust fund shall consist of moneys appropriated by the  
7 Legislature, moneys deposited pursuant to s. 607.1901(2), and  
8 moneys contributed to the fund from any other source.

9           Section 931. Paragraph (d) of subsection (5) of  
10 section 265.603, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11           265.603 Definitions relating to Cultural Endowment  
12 Program.--The following terms and phrases when used in ss.  
13 265.601-265.607 shall have the meaning ascribed to them in  
14 this section, except where the context clearly indicates a  
15 different meaning:

16           (5) "Sponsoring organization" means a cultural  
17 organization which:

18           (d) Is primarily and directly responsible for  
19 conducting, creating, producing, presenting, staging, or  
20 sponsoring a cultural exhibit, performance, or event. This  
21 provision includes museums owned and operated by political  
22 subdivisions of the state, except those constituted pursuant  
23 to s. 1004.67 ~~240.317~~.

24           Section 932. Subsection (8) of section 267.173,  
25 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26           267.173 Historic preservation in West Florida; goals;  
27 contracts for historic preservation; powers and duties.--

28           (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the  
29 University of West Florida and its direct-support organization  
30 are eligible to match state funds in the Trust Fund for Major  
31 Gifts established pursuant to s. 1011.94 ~~240.2605~~.

1           Section 933. Subsections (4), (5), (7), and (9) of  
2 section 267.1732, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3           267.1732 Direct-support organization.--

4           (4) The university may authorize a direct-support  
5 organization to use its property (except money), facilities,  
6 and personal services, subject to the provisions of this  
7 section and s. 1004.28 ~~240.299~~. A direct-support organization  
8 that does not provide equal employment opportunities to all  
9 persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, or  
10 national origin may not use the property, facilities, or  
11 personal services of the university. For the purposes of this  
12 subsection, the term "personal services" includes full-time  
13 personnel and part-time personnel as well as payroll  
14 processing.

15           (5) The university shall establish policies and may  
16 adopt rules pursuant to s. 1004.28 ~~240.299~~ prescribing the  
17 procedures by which the direct-support organization is  
18 governed and any conditions with which a direct-support  
19 organization must comply to use property, facilities, or  
20 personal services of the university.

21           (7) The direct-support organization shall provide for  
22 an annual financial ~~and compliance~~ audit in accordance with s.  
23 1004.28 ~~of its financial accounts and records by an~~  
24 ~~independent certified public accountant in accordance with s.~~  
25 ~~251.981 and generally accepted accounting standards. The~~  
26 ~~annual audit report must be submitted to the university for~~  
27 ~~review and approval. The university, the Auditor General, and~~  
28 ~~others authorized in s. 240.299 shall have the authority to~~  
29 ~~require and receive from the direct support organization, or~~  
30 ~~from its independent auditor, any detail or supplemental data~~  
31 ~~relative to the operation of the organization. Upon approval,~~

1 ~~the university shall certify the audit report to the Auditor~~  
 2 ~~General for review.~~

3 (9) Provisions governing direct-support organizations  
 4 in s. 1004.28 ~~240.99~~ and not provided in this section shall  
 5 apply to the direct-support organization.

6 Section 934. Subsection (9) of section 282.005,  
 7 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8 282.005 Legislative findings and intent.--The  
 9 Legislature finds that:

10 (9) To ensure the best management of the state's  
 11 information technology and notwithstanding other provisions of  
 12 law to the contrary, the functions of information technology  
 13 are ~~hereby~~ assigned to the university boards of trustees ~~Board~~  
 14 ~~of Regents as the agency responsible~~ for the development and  
 15 implementation of ~~policy~~, planning, management, rulemaking,  
 16 standards, and guidelines for the state universities ~~State~~  
 17 ~~University System; to the community college boards of trustees~~  
 18 ~~State Board of Community Colleges as the agency responsible~~  
 19 for establishing and developing rules ~~and policies~~ for the  
 20 community colleges ~~Florida Community College System; to the~~  
 21 Supreme Court, for the judicial branch; to each state attorney  
 22 and public defender; and to the State Technology Office for  
 23 the executive branch of state government.

24 Section 935. Subsections (1) and (3) of section  
 25 282.103, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

26 282.103 SUNCOM Network; exemptions from the required  
 27 use.--

28 (1) There is created within the State Technology  
 29 Office the SUNCOM Network which shall be developed to serve as  
 30 the state communications system for providing local and  
 31 long-distance communications services to state agencies,

1 political subdivisions of the state, municipalities, state  
2 universities, and nonprofit corporations pursuant to ss.  
3 282.101-282.111. The SUNCOM Network shall be developed to  
4 transmit all types of communications signals, including, but  
5 not limited to, voice, data, video, image, and radio. State  
6 agencies shall cooperate and assist in the development and  
7 joint use of communications systems and services.

8 (3) All state agencies and state universities are  
9 required to use the SUNCOM Network for agency and state  
10 university communications services as the services become  
11 available; however, no agency or university is relieved of  
12 responsibility for maintaining communications services  
13 necessary for effective management of its programs and  
14 functions. If a SUNCOM Network service does not meet the  
15 communications requirements of an agency or university, the  
16 agency or university shall notify the State Technology Office  
17 in writing and detail the requirements for that communications  
18 service. If the office is unable to meet an agency's or  
19 university's requirements by enhancing SUNCOM Network service,  
20 the office may grant the agency or university an exemption  
21 from the required use of specified SUNCOM Network services.

22 Section 936. Subsection (4) of section 282.105,  
23 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

24 282.105 Use of state SUNCOM Network by nonprofit  
25 corporations.--

26 (4) Institutions qualified to participate in the  
27 William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program  
28 pursuant to s. 1009.89 ~~240.605~~ shall be eligible to use the  
29 state SUNCOM Network, subject to the terms and conditions of  
30 the office. Such entities shall not be required to satisfy the  
31 other criteria of this section.

1           Section 937. Section 282.106, Florida Statutes, is  
2 amended to read:

3           282.106 Use of SUNCOM Network by libraries.--The State  
4 Technology Office may provide SUNCOM Network services to any  
5 library in the state, including libraries in public schools,  
6 community colleges, state universities ~~the State University~~  
7 ~~System~~, and nonprofit private postsecondary educational  
8 institutions, and libraries owned and operated by  
9 municipalities and political subdivisions.

10           Section 938. Section 282.3031, Florida Statutes, is  
11 amended to read:

12           282.3031 Assignment of information resources  
13 management responsibilities.--For purposes of ss.  
14 282.303-282.322, to ensure the best management of state  
15 information technology resources, and notwithstanding other  
16 provisions of law to the contrary, the functions of  
17 information resources management are ~~hereby~~ assigned to the  
18 university boards of trustees ~~Board of Regents as the agency~~  
19 ~~responsible~~ for the development and implementation of ~~policy,~~  
20 planning, management, rulemaking, standards, and guidelines  
21 for the state universities ~~State University System~~; to the  
22 community college boards of trustees ~~State Board of Community~~  
23 ~~Colleges as the agency responsible~~ for establishing and  
24 developing rules ~~and policies~~ for the community colleges  
25 ~~Florida Community College System~~; to the Supreme Court for the  
26 judicial branch; to each state attorney and public defender;  
27 and to the State Technology Office for the agencies within the  
28 executive branch of state government.

29           Section 939. Subsection (1) of section 282.3063,  
30 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31

1           282.3063 Agency Annual Enterprise Resource Planning  
2 and Management Report.--

3           (1) By September 1 of each year, ~~and for the State~~  
4 ~~University System within 90 days after completion of the~~  
5 ~~expenditure analysis developed pursuant to s. 240.271(4)~~, each  
6 Agency Chief Information Officer shall prepare and submit to  
7 the State Technology Office an Agency Annual Enterprise  
8 Resource Planning and Management Report. Following  
9 consultation with the State Technology Office and the Agency  
10 Chief Information Officers Council, the Executive Office of  
11 the Governor and the fiscal committees of the Legislature  
12 shall jointly develop and issue instructions for the format  
13 and contents of the report.

14           Section 940. Subsection (2) of section 282.310,  
15 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16           282.310 State Annual Report on Enterprise Resource  
17 Planning and Management.--

18           (2) The State Annual Report on Enterprise Resource  
19 Planning and Management shall contain, at a minimum, the  
20 following:

21           (a) The state vision for enterprise resource planning  
22 and management.

23           (b) A forecast of the state enterprise resource  
24 planning and management priorities and initiatives for the  
25 ensuing 2 years.

26           (c) A summary of major statewide policies recommended  
27 by the State Technology Office for enterprise resource  
28 planning and management.

29           (d) A summary of memoranda issued by the Executive  
30 Office of the Governor.

31

1 (e) An assessment of the overall progress toward an  
2 integrated electronic system for deploying government  
3 products, services, and information to individuals and  
4 businesses and state enterprise resource planning and  
5 management initiatives and priorities for the past fiscal  
6 year.

7 (f) A summary of major statewide issues related to  
8 improving enterprise resource planning and management by the  
9 state.

10 (g) An inventory list, by major categories, of state  
11 information technology resources.

12 (h) A summary of the total agency expenditures or  
13 descriptions of agreements, contracts, or partnerships for  
14 enterprise resource planning and management and of  
15 enterprise-wide procurements done by the office on behalf of  
16 the state.

17 (i) A summary of the opportunities for government  
18 agencies or entities to share enterprise resource planning and  
19 management projects or initiatives with other governmental or  
20 private sector entities.

21  
22 The state annual report shall also include enterprise resource  
23 planning and management information from the annual reports  
24 prepared by the state universities and the community colleges  
25 ~~Board of Regents for the State University System, from the~~  
26 ~~State Board of Community Colleges for the Florida Community~~  
27 ~~College System~~, from the Supreme Court for the judicial  
28 branch, and from the Justice Administrative Commission on  
29 behalf of the state attorneys and public defenders.  
30 Expenditure information shall be taken from each agency's  
31 annual report as well as the annual reports of the state

1 ~~universities and the community colleges Board of Regents, the~~  
 2 ~~State Board of Community Colleges, the Supreme Court, and the~~  
 3 Justice Administrative Commission.

4 Section 941. Section 284.34, Florida Statutes, is  
 5 amended to read:

6 284.34 Professional medical liability of the  
 7 ~~university boards of trustees Board of Regents~~ and nuclear  
 8 energy liability excluded.--Unless specifically authorized by  
 9 the Department of Insurance, no coverages shall be provided by  
 10 this fund for professional medical liability insurance for the  
 11 ~~university boards of trustees Board of Regents~~ or the  
 12 physicians, officers, employees, or agents of any ~~the~~ board or  
 13 for liability related to nuclear energy which is ordinarily  
 14 subject to the standard nuclear energy liability exclusion of  
 15 conventional liability insurance policies. This section does  
 16 ~~shall not affect be construed as affecting~~ the self-insurance  
 17 programs of the ~~university boards of trustees Board of Regents~~  
 18 established pursuant to s. 1004.24 ~~240.213~~.

19 Section 942. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of  
 20 section 285.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21 285.18 Tribal council as governing body; powers and  
 22 duties.--

23 (2) The governing bodies of the special improvement  
 24 districts shall have the duty and power:

25 (b) To contract with the district school board of any  
 26 district adjoining the local school district, when deemed  
 27 necessary by the tribal council, to provide public education  
 28 and educational programs for their members, notwithstanding  
 29 the provisions of s. 1001.42 ~~230.23~~ that authorize school  
 30 boards to establish attendance areas for their districts or  
 31 approve plans for attendance in other districts.

1           Section 943. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of  
2 section 287.042, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:  
3           287.042 Powers, duties, and functions.--The department  
4 shall have the following powers, duties, and functions:  
5           (2)(a) To plan and coordinate purchases in volume and  
6 to negotiate and execute purchasing agreements and contracts  
7 for commodities and contractual services under which state  
8 agencies shall make purchases pursuant to s. 287.056, and  
9 under which a federal, county, municipality, institutions  
10 qualified to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida  
11 Resident Access Grant Program pursuant to s. 1009.89 ~~240.605~~,  
12 private nonprofit community transportation coordinator  
13 designated pursuant to chapter 427, while conducting business  
14 related solely to the Commission for the Transportation  
15 Disadvantaged, or other local public agency may make  
16 purchases. The department may restrict purchases from some  
17 term contracts to state agencies only for those term contracts  
18 where the inclusion of other governmental entities will have  
19 an adverse effect on competition or to those federal  
20 facilities located in this state. In such planning or  
21 purchasing the Office of Supplier Diversity may monitor to  
22 ensure that opportunities are afforded for contracting with  
23 minority business enterprises. The department, for state term  
24 contracts, and all agencies, for multiyear contractual  
25 services or term contracts, shall explore reasonable and  
26 economical means to utilize certified minority business  
27 enterprises. Purchases by any county, municipality, private  
28 nonprofit community transportation coordinator designated  
29 pursuant to chapter 427, while conducting business related  
30 solely to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged,  
31 or other local public agency under the provisions in the state

1 purchasing contracts, and purchases, from the corporation  
2 operating the correctional work programs, of products or  
3 services that are subject to paragraph (1)(f), are exempt from  
4 the competitive sealed bid requirements otherwise applying to  
5 their purchases.

6 Section 944. Paragraph (c) of subsection (9) and  
7 subsections (10) and (11) of section 287.055, Florida  
8 Statutes, are amended to read:

9 287.055 Acquisition of professional architectural,  
10 engineering, landscape architectural, or surveying and mapping  
11 services; definitions; procedures; contingent fees prohibited;  
12 penalties.--

13 (9) APPLICABILITY TO DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTS.--

14 (c) Except as otherwise provided in ~~s. 240.209(3)~~ or  
15 s. 337.11(7), the Department of Management Services shall  
16 adopt rules for the award of design-build contracts to be  
17 followed by state agencies. Each other agency must adopt  
18 rules or ordinances for the award of design-build contracts.  
19 Municipalities, political subdivisions, school districts, and  
20 school boards shall award design-build contracts by the use of  
21 a competitive proposal selection process as described in this  
22 subsection, or by the use of a qualifications-based selection  
23 process pursuant to subsections (3), (4), and (5) for entering  
24 into a contract whereby the selected firm will subsequently  
25 establish a guaranteed maximum price and guaranteed completion  
26 date. If the procuring agency elects the option of  
27 qualifications-based selection, during the selection of the  
28 design-build firm the procuring agency shall employ or retain  
29 a licensed design professional appropriate to the project to  
30 serve as the agency's representative. Procedures for the use  
31

1 of a competitive proposal selection process must include as a  
2 minimum the following:

3 1. The preparation of a design criteria package for  
4 the design and construction of the public construction  
5 project.

6 2. The qualification and selection of no fewer than  
7 three design-build firms as the most qualified, based on the  
8 qualifications, availability, and past work of the firms,  
9 including the partners or members thereof.

10 3. The criteria, procedures, and standards for the  
11 evaluation of design-build contract proposals or bids, based  
12 on price, technical, and design aspects of the public  
13 construction project, weighted for the project.

14 4. The solicitation of competitive proposals, pursuant  
15 to a design criteria package, from those qualified  
16 design-build firms and the evaluation of the responses or bids  
17 submitted by those firms based on the evaluation criteria and  
18 procedures established prior to the solicitation of  
19 competitive proposals.

20 5. For consultation with the employed or retained  
21 design criteria professional concerning the evaluation of the  
22 responses or bids submitted by the design-build firms, the  
23 supervision or approval by the agency of the detailed working  
24 drawings of the project; and for evaluation of the compliance  
25 of the project construction with the design criteria package  
26 by the design criteria professional.

27 6. In the case of public emergencies, for the agency  
28 head to declare an emergency and authorize negotiations with  
29 the best qualified design-build firm available at that time.

30 (10) REUSE OF EXISTING PLANS.--Notwithstanding any  
31 other provision of this section, there shall be no public

1 notice requirement or utilization of the selection process as  
 2 provided in this section for projects in which the agency is  
 3 able to reuse existing plans from a prior project of the  
 4 agency, or, in the case of a board as defined in s. 1013.01  
 5 ~~chapter 235~~, a prior project of that or any other board.  
 6 Except for plans of a board as defined in s. 1013.01 ~~chapter~~  
 7 ~~235~~, public notice for any plans that are intended to be  
 8 reused at some future time must contain a statement that  
 9 provides that the plans are subject to reuse in accordance  
 10 with the provisions of this subsection.

11 (11) CONSTRUCTION OF LAW.--Nothing in the amendment of  
 12 this section by chapter 75-281, Laws of Florida, is intended  
 13 to supersede the provisions of ss. 1013.45 and 1013.46 ~~235.211~~  
 14 ~~and 235.31~~.

15 Section 945. Subsection (1) of section 287.064,  
 16 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17 287.064 Consolidated financing of deferred-payment  
 18 purchases.--

19 (1) The Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of  
 20 Administration and the Comptroller shall plan and coordinate  
 21 deferred-payment purchases made by or on behalf of the state  
 22 or its agencies or by or on behalf of state community colleges  
 23 participating under this section pursuant to s. 1001.64(26)  
 24 ~~240.319(4)(p)~~. The Division of Bond Finance shall negotiate  
 25 and the Comptroller shall execute agreements and contracts to  
 26 establish master equipment financing agreements for  
 27 consolidated financing of deferred-payment, installment sale,  
 28 or lease purchases with a financial institution or a  
 29 consortium of financial institutions. As used in this act, the  
 30 term "deferred-payment" includes installment sale and  
 31 lease-purchase.

1 (a) The period during which equipment may be acquired  
 2 under any one master equipment financing agreement shall be  
 3 limited to not more than 3 years.

4 (b) Repayment of the whole or a part of the funds  
 5 drawn pursuant to the master equipment financing agreement may  
 6 continue beyond the period established pursuant to paragraph  
 7 (a).

8 (c) The interest rate component of any master  
 9 equipment financing agreement shall be deemed to comply with  
 10 the interest rate limitation imposed in s. 287.063 so long as  
 11 the interest rate component of every interagency or community  
 12 college agreement entered into under such master equipment  
 13 financing agreement complies with the interest rate limitation  
 14 imposed in s. 287.063. Such interest rate limitation does not  
 15 apply when the payment obligation under the master equipment  
 16 financing agreement is rated by a nationally recognized rating  
 17 service in any one of the three highest classifications, which  
 18 rating services and classifications are determined pursuant to  
 19 rules adopted by the Comptroller.

20 Section 946. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of  
 21 section 288.039, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

22 288.039 Employing and Training our Youths (ENTRY).--

23 (1) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section:

24 (f) "Public school" shall have the same meaning as in  
 25 s. 1000.04(1) ~~228.041(1)(a)~~.

26 Section 947. Subsection (6) of section 288.8175,  
 27 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

28 288.8175 Linkage institutes between postsecondary  
 29 institutions in this state and foreign countries.--

30 (6) Each institute is allowed to exempt from s.  
 31 1009.21 ~~240.1201~~ up to 25 full-time equivalent students per

1 year from the respective host countries to study in any of the  
2 state universities or community colleges in this state as  
3 resident students for tuition purposes. The institute  
4 directors shall develop criteria, to be approved by the  
5 Department of Education, for the selection of these students.  
6 Students must return home within 3 years after their tenure of  
7 graduate or undergraduate study for a length of time equal to  
8 their exemption period.

9 Section 948. Subsection (2) of section 295.01, Florida  
10 Statutes, is amended to read:

11 295.01 Children of deceased or disabled veterans;  
12 education.--

13 (2) The provisions of ss. ~~240.404~~, 295.03, 295.04, ~~and~~  
14 295.05, and 1009.40 shall apply.

15 Section 949. Subsection (2) of section 295.015,  
16 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17 295.015 Children of prisoners of war and persons  
18 missing in action; education.--

19 (2) The provisions of ss. ~~240.404~~, 295.03, 295.04, ~~and~~  
20 295.05, and 1009.40 shall apply.

21 Section 950. Subsection (2) of section 295.016,  
22 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

23 295.016 Children of service members who died or became  
24 disabled in Operation Eagle Claw.--

25 (2) The provisions of ss. ~~240.404~~, 295.03, 295.04, ~~and~~  
26 295.05, and 1009.40 shall apply.

27 Section 951. Subsection (2) of section 295.017,  
28 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

29 295.017 Children of service members who died or became  
30 disabled in the Lebanon and Grenada military arenas;  
31 educational opportunity.--

1           (2) The provisions of ss. ~~240.404~~, 295.03, 295.04, ~~and~~  
2 295.05, and 1009.40 shall apply.

3           Section 952. Subsection (2) of section 295.018,  
4 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5           295.018 Children of service members who died in  
6 Newfoundland air tragedy; educational opportunity.--

7           (2) The provisions of ss. ~~240.404~~, 295.03, 295.04, ~~and~~  
8 295.05, and 1009.40 shall apply.

9           Section 953. Subsection (2) of section 295.019,  
10 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11           295.019 Children of service members who died in U.S.S.  
12 Stark attack.--

13           (2) The provisions of ss. ~~240.404~~, 295.03, 295.04, ~~and~~  
14 295.05, and 1009.40 shall apply.

15           Section 954. Subsection (2) of section 295.0195,  
16 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17           295.0195 Children of deceased or disabled military  
18 personnel who died or became disabled in the Mideast Persian  
19 Gulf military arena during hostilities with Iraq or in the  
20 military action in Panama known as Operation Just Cause.--

21           (2) The provisions of ss. ~~240.404~~, 295.03, 295.04, ~~and~~  
22 295.05, and 1009.40 shall apply.

23           Section 955. Subsection (45) of section 316.003,  
24 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25           316.003 Definitions.--The following words and phrases,  
26 when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings  
27 respectively ascribed to them in this section, except where  
28 the context otherwise requires:

29           (45) SCHOOL BUS.--Any motor vehicle that complies with  
30 the color and identification requirements of chapter 1006 ~~234~~  
31 and is used to transport children to or from public or private

1 school or in connection with school activities, but not  
 2 including buses operated by common carriers in urban  
 3 transportation of school children. The term "school" includes  
 4 all preelementary, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary  
 5 schools.

6 Section 956. Subsection (4) of section 316.027,  
 7 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8 316.027 Crash involving death or personal injuries.--

9 (4) A person whose commission of a noncriminal traffic  
 10 infraction or any violation of this chapter or s. 1006.66  
 11 ~~240.265~~ causes or results in the death of another person may,  
 12 in addition to any other civil, criminal, or administrative  
 13 penalty imposed, be required by the court to serve 120  
 14 community service hours in a trauma center or hospital that  
 15 regularly receives victims of vehicle accidents, under the  
 16 supervision of a registered nurse, an emergency room  
 17 physician, or an emergency medical technician pursuant to a  
 18 voluntary community service program operated by the trauma  
 19 center or hospital.

20 Section 957. Paragraph (b) of subsection (9) of  
 21 section 316.515, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

22 316.515 Maximum width, height, length.--

23 (9) BUSES AND PRIVATE MOTOR COACHES.--

24 (b) School buses which are subject to the provisions  
 25 of ~~chapter 234~~ or s. 316.615 or chapter 1006 are exempt from  
 26 the provisions of this subsection.

27 Section 958. Subsection (5) of section 316.6145,  
 28 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

29 316.6145 School buses; safety belts or other restraint  
 30 systems required.--

31

1 (5) The provisions of this section shall not apply to  
2 vehicles as defined in s. 1006.25(1)(b) ~~234.051(1)(b)~~.

3 Section 959. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1)  
4 of section 316.615, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

5 316.615 School buses; physical requirements of  
6 drivers.--

7 (1)(a) All motor vehicles, with a seating capacity of  
8 24 or more pupils, which are regularly used for the  
9 transportation of pupils to or from school, or to or from  
10 school activities, shall comply with the requirements for  
11 school buses of chapter 1006 ~~234~~.

12 (c) A bus operated by an organization that holds a tax  
13 exemption pursuant to 26 U.S.C. s. 501(c)(3) is exempt from  
14 the color, pupil-warning-lamp-system, stop-arm, and  
15 crossing-arm requirements for school buses in chapter 1006 ~~234~~  
16 if:

17 1. The bus does not pick up pupils from home or  
18 deliver pupils to home;

19 2. The bus makes no intermittent stops to unload or  
20 load pupils; and

21 3. The bus is not operated by or under the purview of  
22 the state or political subdivision.

23 Section 960. Subsection (3) of section 316.70, Florida  
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25 316.70 Nonpublic sector buses; safety rules.--

26 (3) School buses subject to the provisions of chapter  
27 1006 ~~234~~ or s. 316.615 are exempt from the provisions of this  
28 section.

29 Section 961. Subsection (2) of section 316.72, Florida  
30 Statutes, is amended to read:

31

1           316.72 Buses simulating school buses in color and  
2 insignia; conditions of use.--

3           (2) Any educational, recreational, religious, or  
4 charitable organization may own, operate, rent, or lease any  
5 bus which has been painted the orange or yellow color known as  
6 "school bus chrome" and which has been equipped with the  
7 signs, lights, insignia, and other features which normally  
8 characterize a school bus, as defined in s. 1006.25 ~~234.051~~,  
9 consistent with the provisions of this section.

10           Section 962. Section 318.12, Florida Statutes, is  
11 amended to read:

12           318.12 Purpose.--It is the legislative intent in the  
13 adoption of this chapter to decriminalize certain violations  
14 of chapter 316, the Florida Uniform Traffic Control Law;  
15 chapter 320, Motor Vehicle Licenses; chapter 322, Drivers'  
16 Licenses; ~~chapter 240, Postsecondary Education; and chapter~~  
17 338, Florida Intrastate Highway System and Toll Facilities;  
18 and chapter 1006, Support of Learning, thereby facilitating  
19 the implementation of a more uniform and expeditious system  
20 for the disposition of traffic infractions.

21           Section 963. Subsection (1) of section 318.14, Florida  
22 Statutes, is amended to read:

23           318.14 Noncriminal traffic infractions; exception;  
24 procedures.--

25           (1) Except as provided in ss. 318.17 and 320.07(3)(c),  
26 any person cited for a violation of s. 1006.66(3) ~~240.265~~,  
27 chapter 316, s. 320.0605, s. 320.07(3)(a) or (b), s. 322.065,  
28 s. 322.15(1), s. 322.16(2) or (3), s. 322.161(5), ~~or~~ s.  
29 322.19, or s. 1006.66 is charged with a noncriminal infraction  
30 and must be cited for such an infraction and cited to appear  
31 before an official. If another person dies as a result of the

1 noncriminal infraction, the person cited may be required to  
2 perform 120 community service hours under s. 316.027(4), in  
3 addition to any other penalties.

4 Section 964. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of  
5 section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

6 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

7 (2) CHALLENGER LICENSE PLATES.--

8 (c) Fifty percent must be distributed to the  
9 Technological Research and Development Authority created by s.  
10 2, chapter 87-455, Laws of Florida, for the purpose of funding  
11 space-related research grants, the Teacher/Quest Scholarship  
12 Program under s. 1009.61 ~~240.4082~~ as approved by the Florida  
13 Department of Education, and space-related economic  
14 development programs. The Technological Research and  
15 Development Authority shall coordinate and distribute  
16 available resources among state universities and independent  
17 colleges and universities based on the research strengths of  
18 such institutions in space science technology, community  
19 colleges, public school districts, and not-for-profit  
20 educational organizations.

21 Section 965. Subsection (1) of section 320.20, Florida  
22 Statutes, is amended to read:

23 320.20 Disposition of license tax moneys.--The revenue  
24 derived from the registration of motor vehicles, including any  
25 delinquent fees and excluding those revenues collected and  
26 distributed under the provisions of s. 320.081, must be  
27 distributed monthly, as collected, as follows:

28 (1) The first proceeds, to the extent necessary to  
29 comply with the provisions of s. 18, Art. XII of the State  
30 Constitution of 1885, as adopted by s. 9(d), Art. XII, 1968  
31 revised constitution, and the additional provisions of s. 9(d)

1 and s. 1010.57 ~~236.602~~, must be deposited in the district  
2 Capital Outlay and Debt Service School Trust Fund.

3 Section 966. Section 320.38, Florida Statutes, is  
4 amended to read:

5 320.38 When nonresident exemption not allowed.--The  
6 provisions of s. 320.37 authorizing the operation of motor  
7 vehicles over the roads of this state by nonresidents of this  
8 state when such vehicles are duly registered or licensed under  
9 the laws of some other state or foreign country do not apply  
10 to any nonresident who accepts employment or engages in any  
11 trade, profession, or occupation in this state, except a  
12 nonresident migrant farm worker as defined in s. 316.003(61).  
13 In every case in which a nonresident, except a nonresident  
14 migrant farm worker as defined in s. 316.003(61), accepts  
15 employment or engages in any trade, profession, or occupation  
16 in this state or enters his or her children to be educated in  
17 the public schools of this state, such nonresident shall,  
18 within 10 days after the commencement of such employment or  
19 education, register his or her motor vehicles in this state if  
20 such motor vehicles are proposed to be operated on the roads  
21 of this state. Any person who is enrolled as a student in a  
22 college or university and who is a nonresident but who is in  
23 this state for a period of up to 6 months engaged in a  
24 work-study program for which academic credits are earned from  
25 a college whose credits or degrees are accepted for credit by  
26 at least three accredited institutions of higher learning, as  
27 defined in s. 1005.02 ~~246.021~~, is not required to have a  
28 Florida registration for the duration of the work-study  
29 program if the person's vehicle is properly registered in  
30 another jurisdiction. Any nonresident who is enrolled as a  
31

1 full-time student in such institution of higher learning is  
 2 also exempt for the duration of such enrollment.

3           Section 967. Subsection (3) of section 322.031,  
 4 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5           322.031 Nonresident; when license required.--

6           (3) A nonresident who is domiciled in another state  
 7 and who commutes into this state in order to work shall not be  
 8 required to obtain a Florida driver's license under this  
 9 section solely because he or she has accepted employment or  
 10 engages in any trade, profession, or occupation in this state  
 11 if he or she has a valid driver's license issued by another  
 12 state. Further, any person who is enrolled as a student in a  
 13 college or university and who is a nonresident but is in this  
 14 state for a period of up to 6 months engaged in a work-study  
 15 program for which academic credits are earned from a college  
 16 whose credits or degrees are accepted for credit by at least  
 17 three accredited institutions of higher learning, as defined  
 18 in s. 1005.02 ~~246.021~~, shall not be required to obtain a  
 19 Florida driver's license for the duration of the work-study  
 20 program if such person has a valid driver's license issued by  
 21 another state. Any nonresident who is enrolled as a full-time  
 22 student in any such institution of higher learning is also  
 23 exempt from the requirement of obtaining a Florida driver's  
 24 license for the duration of such enrollment.

25           Section 968. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) and  
 26 paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 322.091, Florida  
 27 Statutes, are amended to read:

28           322.091 Attendance requirements.--

29           (1) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR DRIVING  
 30 PRIVILEGES.--A minor is not eligible for driving privileges  
 31 unless that minor:

1 (e) Has been issued a certificate of exemption  
 2 according to s. 1003.21(3) ~~232.06~~; or

3  
 4 The department may not issue a driver's license or learner's  
 5 driver's license to, or shall suspend the driver's license or  
 6 learner's driver's license of, any minor concerning whom the  
 7 department receives notification of noncompliance with the  
 8 requirements of this section.

9 (2) NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO SUSPEND; SUSPENSION;  
 10 RECORD OF NONCOMPLIANCE.--

11 (a) The department shall notify each minor for whom  
 12 the department has received notification of noncompliance with  
 13 the requirements of this section as provided in s. 1003.27  
 14 ~~232.19~~, and the minor's parent or guardian, of the  
 15 department's intent to suspend the minor's driving privileges.

16 Section 969. Subsection (5) of section 322.095,  
 17 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18 322.095 Traffic law and substance abuse education  
 19 program for driver's license applicants.--

20 (5) The provisions of this section do not apply to any  
 21 person who has been licensed in any other jurisdiction or who  
 22 has satisfactorily completed a Department of Education  
 23 driver's education course offered pursuant to s. 1003.48  
 24 ~~233.063~~.

25 Section 970. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of  
 26 subsection (1) of section 322.21, Florida Statutes, are  
 27 amended to read:

28 322.21 License fees; procedure for handling and  
 29 collecting fees.--

30 (1) Except as otherwise provided herein, the fee for:  
 31

1 (a) An original or renewal commercial driver's license  
2 is \$50, which shall include the fee for driver education  
3 provided by s. 1003.48 ~~233.063~~; however, if an applicant has  
4 completed training and is applying for employment or is  
5 currently employed in a public or nonpublic school system that  
6 requires the commercial license, the fee shall be the same as  
7 for a Class E driver's license. A delinquent fee of \$1 shall  
8 be added for a renewal made not more than 12 months after the  
9 license expiration date.

10 (b) An original Class D or Class E driver's license is  
11 \$20, which shall include the fee for driver's education  
12 provided by s. 1003.48 ~~233.063~~; however, if an applicant has  
13 completed training and is applying for employment or is  
14 currently employed in a public or nonpublic school system that  
15 requires a commercial driver license, the fee shall be the  
16 same as for a Class E license.

17 (c) The renewal or extension of a Class D or Class E  
18 driver's license or of a license restricted to motorcycle use  
19 only is \$15, except that a delinquent fee of \$1 shall be added  
20 for a renewal or extension made not more than 12 months after  
21 the license expiration date. The fee provided in this  
22 paragraph shall include the fee for driver's education  
23 provided by s. 1003.48 ~~233.063~~.

24 (d) An original driver's license restricted to  
25 motorcycle use only is \$20, which shall include the fee for  
26 driver's education provided by s. 1003.48 ~~233.063~~.

27 Section 971. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (2)  
28 and subsection (6) of section 333.03, Florida Statutes, are  
29 amended to read:

30 333.03 Power to adopt airport zoning regulations.--  
31

1           (2) In the manner provided in subsection (1), interim  
2 airport land use compatibility zoning regulations shall be  
3 adopted. When political subdivisions have adopted land  
4 development regulations in accordance with the provisions of  
5 chapter 163 which address the use of land in the manner  
6 consistent with the provisions herein, adoption of airport  
7 land use compatibility regulations pursuant to this subsection  
8 shall not be required. Interim airport land use compatibility  
9 zoning regulations shall consider the following:

10           (c) Where an airport authority or other governing body  
11 operating a publicly owned, public-use airport has conducted a  
12 noise study in accordance with the provisions of 14 C.F.R.  
13 part 150, neither residential construction nor any educational  
14 facility as defined in chapter 1013 ~~235~~, with the exception of  
15 aviation school facilities, shall be permitted within the area  
16 contiguous to the airport defined by an outer noise contour  
17 that is considered incompatible with that type of construction  
18 by 14 C.F.R. part 150, Appendix A or an equivalent noise level  
19 as established by other types of noise studies.

20           (d) Where an airport authority or other governing body  
21 operating a publicly owned, public-use airport has not  
22 conducted a noise study, neither residential construction nor  
23 any educational facility as defined in chapter 1013 ~~235~~, with  
24 the exception of aviation school facilities, shall be  
25 permitted within an area contiguous to the airport measuring  
26 one-half the length of the longest runway on either side of  
27 and at the end of each runway centerline.

28           (6) Nothing in subsection (2) or subsection (3) shall  
29 be construed to require the removal, alteration, sound  
30 conditioning, or other change, or to interfere with the  
31 continued use or adjacent expansion of any educational

1 structure or site in existence on July 1, 1993, or be  
2 construed to prohibit the construction of any new structure  
3 for which a site has been determined as provided in former s.  
4 235.19, as of July 1, 1993.

5 Section 972. Subsection (7) of section 364.508,  
6 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 364.508 Definitions.--As used in this part:

8 (7) "Eligible facilities" means all approved campuses  
9 and instructional centers of all public universities, public  
10 community colleges, area technical centers, public elementary  
11 schools, middle schools, and high schools, including school  
12 administrative offices, public libraries, teaching hospitals,  
13 the research institute described in s. 1004.43 ~~240.512~~, and  
14 rural public hospitals as defined in s. 395.602. If no rural  
15 public hospital exists in a community, the public health  
16 clinic which is responsible for individuals before they can be  
17 transferred to a regional hospital shall be considered  
18 eligible.

19 Section 973. Paragraph (k) of subsection (3) of  
20 section 380.0651, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21 380.0651 Statewide guidelines and standards.--

22 (3) The following statewide guidelines and standards  
23 shall be applied in the manner described in s. 380.06(2) to  
24 determine whether the following developments shall be required  
25 to undergo development-of-regional-impact review:

26 (k) Schools.--

27 1. The proposed construction of any public, private,  
28 or proprietary postsecondary educational campus which provides  
29 for a design population of more than 5,000 full-time  
30 equivalent students, or the proposed physical expansion of any  
31 public, private, or proprietary postsecondary educational

1 campus having such a design population that would increase the  
2 population by at least 20 percent of the design population.

3           2. As used in this paragraph, "full-time equivalent  
4 student" means enrollment for 15 or more quarter hours during  
5 a single academic semester. In technical ~~area vocational~~  
6 schools or other institutions which do not employ semester  
7 hours or quarter hours in accounting for student  
8 participation, enrollment for 18 contact hours shall be  
9 considered equivalent to one quarter hour, and enrollment for  
10 27 contact hours shall be considered equivalent to one  
11 semester hour.

12           3. This paragraph does not apply to institutions which  
13 are the subject of a campus master plan adopted by the  
14 university board of trustees ~~Board of Regents~~ pursuant to s.  
15 1013.30 ~~240.155~~.

16           Section 974. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of  
17 section 381.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18           381.003 Communicable disease and AIDS prevention and  
19 control.--

20           (1) The department shall conduct a communicable  
21 disease prevention and control program as part of fulfilling  
22 its public health mission. A communicable disease is any  
23 disease caused by transmission of a specific infectious agent,  
24 or its toxic products, from an infected person, an infected  
25 animal, or the environment to a susceptible host, either  
26 directly or indirectly. The communicable disease program must  
27 include, but need not be limited to:

28           (e) Programs for the prevention and control of  
29 vaccine-preventable diseases, including programs to immunize  
30 school children as required by s. 1003.22(3)-(11) ~~232.032~~ and  
31 the development of an automated, electronic, and centralized

1 database or registry of immunizations. The department shall  
2 ensure that all children in this state are immunized against  
3 vaccine-preventable diseases. The immunization registry shall  
4 allow the department to enhance current immunization  
5 activities for the purpose of improving the immunization of  
6 all children in this state.

7       1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2., the  
8 department shall include all children born in this state in  
9 the immunization registry by using the birth records from the  
10 Office of Vital Statistics. The department shall add other  
11 children to the registry as immunization services are  
12 provided.

13       2. The parent or guardian of a child may refuse to  
14 have the child included in the immunization registry by  
15 signing a form obtained from the department, or from the  
16 health care practitioner or entity that provides the  
17 immunization, which indicates that the parent or guardian does  
18 not wish to have the child included in the immunization  
19 registry. The decision to not participate in the immunization  
20 registry must be noted in the registry.

21       3. The immunization registry shall allow for  
22 immunization records to be electronically transferred to  
23 entities that are required by law to have such records,  
24 including schools, licensed child care facilities, and any  
25 other entity that is required by law to obtain proof of a  
26 child's immunizations.

27       4. Any health care practitioner licensed under chapter  
28 458, chapter 459, or chapter 464 in this state who complies  
29 with rules adopted by the department to access the  
30 immunization registry may, through the immunization registry,  
31 directly access immunization records and update a child's

1 immunization history or exchange immunization information with  
2 another authorized practitioner, entity, or agency involved in  
3 a child's care. The information included in the immunization  
4 registry must include the child's name, date of birth,  
5 address, and any other unique identifier necessary to  
6 correctly identify the child; the immunization record,  
7 including the date, type of administered vaccine, and vaccine  
8 lot number; and the presence or absence of any adverse  
9 reaction or contraindication related to the immunization.  
10 Information received by the department for the immunization  
11 registry retains its status as confidential medical  
12 information and the department must maintain the  
13 confidentiality of that information as otherwise required by  
14 law. A health care practitioner or other agency that obtains  
15 information from the immunization registry must maintain the  
16 confidentiality of any medical records in accordance with s.  
17 456.057 or as otherwise required by law.

18           Section 975. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of  
19 section 381.005, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20           381.005 Primary and preventive health services.--

21           (1) The department shall conduct a primary and  
22 preventive health care program as part of fulfilling its  
23 public health mission. This program shall include, but is not  
24 limited to:

25           (d) School health services in accordance with chapters  
26 1003 and 1006 ~~chapter 232~~.

27           Section 976. Paragraph (p) of subsection (5) of  
28 section 381.0056, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

29           381.0056 School health services program.--

30           (5) Each county health department shall develop,  
31 jointly with the district school board and the local school

1 health advisory committee, a school health services plan; and  
 2 the plan shall include, at a minimum, provisions for:

3 (p) Maintenance of records on incidents of health  
 4 problems, corrective measures taken, and such other  
 5 information as may be needed to plan and evaluate health  
 6 programs; except, however, that provisions in the plan for  
 7 maintenance of health records of individual students must be  
 8 in accordance with s. 1002.22 ~~228.093~~;

9 Section 977. Subsection (9) of section 381.0302,  
 10 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 381.0302 Florida Health Services Corps.--

12 (9) Persons who receive loan repayment assistance  
 13 under s. 1009.65 ~~240.4067~~ shall be members of the Florida  
 14 Health Services Corps.

15 Section 978. Subsection (3) of section 391.055,  
 16 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17 391.055 Service delivery systems.--

18 (3) The Children's Medical Services network may  
 19 contract with school districts participating in the certified  
 20 school match program pursuant to ss. ~~236.0812~~ and 409.908(21)  
 21 and 1011.70 for the provision of school-based services, as  
 22 provided for in s. 409.9071, for Medicaid-eligible children  
 23 who are enrolled in the Children's Medical Services network.

24 Section 979. Section 393.0657, Florida Statutes, is  
 25 amended to read:

26 393.0657 Persons not required to be refingerprinted or  
 27 rescreened.--Any provision of law to the contrary  
 28 notwithstanding, human resource personnel who have been  
 29 fingerprinted or screened pursuant to chapters 393, 394, 397,  
 30 402, and 409, and teachers who have been fingerprinted  
 31 pursuant to chapter 1012 ~~231~~, who have not been unemployed for

1 more than 90 days thereafter, and who under the penalty of  
 2 perjury attest to the completion of such fingerprinting or  
 3 screening and to compliance with the provisions of this  
 4 section and the standards for good moral character as  
 5 contained in such provisions as ss. 110.1127(3), 393.0655(1),  
 6 394.457(6), 397.451, 402.305(2), and 409.175(4), shall not be  
 7 required to be refingerprinted or rescreened in order to  
 8 comply with any direct service provider screening or  
 9 fingerprinting requirements.

10 Section 980. Subsection (3) of section 394.4572,  
 11 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 394.4572 Screening of mental health personnel.--

13 (3) Prospective mental health personnel who have  
 14 previously been fingerprinted or screened pursuant to this  
 15 chapter, chapter 393, chapter 397, chapter 402, or chapter  
 16 409, or teachers who have been fingerprinted pursuant to  
 17 chapter 1012 ~~231~~, who have not been unemployed for more than  
 18 90 days thereafter, and who under the penalty of perjury  
 19 attest to the completion of such fingerprinting or screening  
 20 and to compliance with the provisions of this section and the  
 21 standards for level 1 screening contained in chapter 435,  
 22 shall not be required to be refingerprinted or rescreened in  
 23 order to comply with any screening requirements of this part.

24 Section 981. Subsection (5) of section 394.495,  
 25 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26 394.495 Child and adolescent mental health system of  
 27 care; programs and services.--

28 (5) In order to enhance collaboration between agencies  
 29 and to facilitate the provision of services by the child and  
 30 adolescent mental health treatment and support system and the  
 31 school district, the local child and adolescent mental health

1 system of care shall include the local educational multiagency  
2 network for severely emotionally disturbed students specified  
3 in s. 1006.04 ~~230.2317~~.

4 Section 982. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of  
5 section 394.498, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

6 394.498 Child and Adolescent Interagency System of  
7 Care Demonstration Models.--

8 (4) ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS.--

9 (c) In order for children, adolescents, and families  
10 of children and adolescents to receive timely and effective  
11 services, the basic provider network identified in each  
12 demonstration model must be well designed and managed. The  
13 provider network should be able to meet the needs of a  
14 significant proportion of the target population. The applicant  
15 must demonstrate the capability to manage the network of  
16 providers for the purchasers that participate in the  
17 demonstration model. The applicant must demonstrate its  
18 ability to perform the following network management functions:

19 1. Identify providers within the designated area of  
20 the demonstration model which are currently funded by the  
21 state agencies included in the model, and identify additional  
22 providers that are needed to provide additional services for  
23 the target population. The network of providers may include:

24 a. Licensed mental health professionals as defined in  
25 s. 394.455(2), (4), (21), (23), or (24);

26 b. Professionals licensed under chapter 491;

27 c. Teachers certified under s. 1012.56 ~~231.17~~;

28 d. Facilities licensed under chapter 395, as a  
29 hospital; s. 394.875, as a crisis stabilization unit or  
30 short-term residential facility; or s. 409.175, as a  
31 residential child-caring agency; and

1 e. Other community agencies.  
2 2. Define access points and service linkages of  
3 providers in the network.  
4 3. Define the ways in which providers and  
5 participating state agencies are expected to collaborate in  
6 providing services.  
7 4. Define methods to measure the collective  
8 performance outcomes of services provided by providers and  
9 state agencies, measure the performance of individual  
10 agencies, and implement a quality improvement process across  
11 the provider network.  
12 5. Develop brochures for family members which are  
13 written in understandable terminology, to help families  
14 identify appropriate service providers, choose the provider,  
15 and access care directly whenever possible.  
16 6. Ensure that families are given a substantial role  
17 in planning and monitoring the provider network.  
18 7. Train all providers with respect to the principles  
19 of care outlined in this section, including effective  
20 techniques of cooperation, the wraparound process and  
21 strengths-based assessment, the development of service plans,  
22 and techniques of case management.  
23 Section 983. Subsection (3) of section 395.602,  
24 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:  
25 395.602 Rural hospitals.--  
26 (3) USE OF FUNDS.--It is the intent of the Legislature  
27 that funds as appropriated shall be utilized by the department  
28 for the purpose of increasing the number of primary care  
29 physicians, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives,  
30 nurse practitioners, and nurses in rural areas, either through  
31 the Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program

1 as defined by s. 1009.65 ~~240.4067~~ or through a federal loan  
2 repayment program which requires state matching funds. The  
3 department may use funds appropriated for the Medical  
4 Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program as matching  
5 funds for federal loan repayment programs for health care  
6 personnel, such as that authorized in Pub. L. No. 100-177, s.  
7 203. If the department receives federal matching funds, the  
8 department shall only implement the federal program.  
9 Reimbursement through either program shall be limited to:  
10 (a) Primary care physicians, physician assistants,  
11 certified nurse midwives, nurse practitioners, and nurses  
12 employed by or affiliated with rural hospitals, as defined in  
13 this act; and  
14 (b) Primary care physicians, physician assistants,  
15 certified nurse midwives, nurse practitioners, and nurses  
16 employed by or affiliated with rural area health education  
17 centers, as defined in this section. These personnel shall  
18 practice:  
19 1. In a county with a population density of no greater  
20 than 100 persons per square mile; or  
21 2. Within the boundaries of a hospital tax district  
22 which encompasses a population of no greater than 100 persons  
23 per square mile.  
24  
25 If the department administers a federal loan repayment  
26 program, priority shall be given to obligating state and  
27 federal matching funds pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b).  
28 The department may use federal matching funds in other health  
29 workforce shortage areas and medically underserved areas in  
30 the state for loan repayment programs for primary care  
31 physicians, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives,

1 nurse practitioners, and nurses who are employed by publicly  
2 financed health care programs that serve medically indigent  
3 persons.

4 Section 984. Subsection (3) of section 395.605,  
5 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

6 395.605 Emergency care hospitals.--

7 (3) For the purpose of participation in the Medical  
8 Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program as defined  
9 in s. 1009.65 ~~240.4067~~ or other loan repayment or incentive  
10 programs designed to relieve medical workforce shortages, the  
11 department shall treat emergency care hospitals in the same  
12 manner as rural hospitals.

13 Section 985. Subsection (3) of section 397.405,  
14 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15 397.405 Exemptions from licensure.--The following are  
16 exempt from the licensing provisions of this chapter:

17 (3) A substance abuse education program established  
18 pursuant to s. 1003.42 ~~233.061~~.

19  
20 The exemptions from licensure in this section do not apply to  
21 any facility or entity which receives an appropriation, grant,  
22 or contract from the state to operate as a service provider as  
23 defined in this chapter or to any substance abuse program  
24 regulated pursuant to s. 397.406. No provision of this  
25 chapter shall be construed to limit the practice of a  
26 physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, a  
27 psychologist licensed under chapter 490, or a psychotherapist  
28 licensed under chapter 491, providing outpatient or inpatient  
29 substance abuse treatment to a voluntary patient, so long as  
30 the physician, psychologist, or psychotherapist does not  
31 represent to the public that he or she is a licensed service

1 provider under this act. Failure to comply with any  
2 requirement necessary to maintain an exempt status under this  
3 section is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as  
4 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

5 Section 986. Subsection (4) of section 397.451,  
6 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 397.451 Background checks of service provider  
8 personnel who have direct contact with unmarried minor clients  
9 or clients who are developmentally disabled.--

10 (4) PERSONNEL EXEMPT FROM BEING REFINGERPRINTED OR  
11 RECHECKED.--Service provider personnel who have been  
12 fingerprinted or had their backgrounds checked pursuant to  
13 chapter 393, chapter 394, chapter 402, or chapter 409, or this  
14 section, and teachers who have been fingerprinted pursuant to  
15 chapter 1012 ~~231~~, who have not been unemployed for more than  
16 90 days thereafter and who, under the penalty of perjury,  
17 attest to the completion of such fingerprinting or background  
18 checks and to compliance with the provisions of this section  
19 and the standards contained in chapter 435 and this section,  
20 are not required to be refingerprinted or rechecked in order  
21 to comply with service provider personnel fingerprinting or  
22 background check requirements.

23 Section 987. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of  
24 section 397.951, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25 397.951 Treatment and sanctions.--The Legislature  
26 recognizes that the integration of treatment and sanctions  
27 greatly increases the effectiveness of substance abuse  
28 treatment. It is the responsibility of the department and the  
29 substance abuse treatment provider to employ the full measure  
30 of sanctions available to require participation and completion  
31

1 of treatment to ensure successful outcomes for children in  
2 substance abuse treatment.

3 (2) The department shall ensure that substance abuse  
4 treatment providers employ any and all appropriate available  
5 sanctions necessary to engage, motivate, and maintain a child  
6 in treatment, including, but not limited to, provisions in law  
7 that:

8 (h) Provide that the use, possession, or sale of  
9 controlled substances, as defined in chapter 893, or  
10 possession of electronic telephone pagers, by any student  
11 while such student is upon school property or in attendance at  
12 a school function is grounds for disciplinary action by the  
13 school and may also result in criminal penalties being imposed  
14 pursuant to s. 1006.09(1)-(4) ~~232.26~~.

15 Section 988. Subsection (2), (4), and (7) of section  
16 402.22, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

17 402.22 Education program for students who reside in  
18 residential care facilities operated by the Department of  
19 Children and Family Services.--

20 (2) District school boards shall establish educational  
21 programs for all students ages 5 through 18 under the  
22 residential care of the Department of Children and Family  
23 Services and may provide for students below age 3 as provided  
24 for in s. 1003.21(1)(e) ~~232.01(1)(e)~~. Funding of such programs  
25 shall be pursuant to s. 1011.62 ~~236.081~~.

26 (4) Students age 18 and under who are under the  
27 residential care of the Department of Children and Family  
28 Services and who receive an education program shall be  
29 calculated as full-time equivalent student membership in the  
30 appropriate cost factor as provided for in s. 1011.62(1)(c)  
31 ~~236.081(1)(e)~~. Residential care facilities of the Department

1 of Children and Family Services shall include, but not be  
2 limited to, developmental services institutions and state  
3 mental health facilities. All students shall receive their  
4 education program from the district school system, and funding  
5 shall be allocated through the Florida Education Finance  
6 Program for the district school system.

7 (7) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 1001.42(4)(n)  
8 ~~230.23(4)(n)~~, the educational program at the Marianna Sunland  
9 Center in Jackson County shall be operated by the Department  
10 of Education, either directly or through grants or contractual  
11 agreements with other public educational agencies. The annual  
12 state allocation to any such agency shall be computed pursuant  
13 to s. 1011.62(1), (2), and (5) ~~236.081(1), (2), and (5)~~ and  
14 allocated in the amount that would have been provided the  
15 local school district in which the residential facility is  
16 located.

17 Section 989. Subsection (3) of section 402.302,  
18 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 402.302 Definitions.--

20 (3) "Child care personnel" means all owners,  
21 operators, employees, and volunteers working in a child care  
22 facility. The term does not include persons who work in a  
23 child care facility after hours when children are not present  
24 or parents of children in Head Start. For purposes of  
25 screening, the term includes any member, over the age of 12  
26 years, of a child care facility operator's family, or person,  
27 over the age of 12 years, residing with a child care facility  
28 operator if the child care facility is located in or adjacent  
29 to the home of the operator or if the family member of, or  
30 person residing with, the child care facility operator has any  
31 direct contact with the children in the facility during its

1 hours of operation. Members of the operator's family or  
2 persons residing with the operator who are between the ages of  
3 12 years and 18 years shall not be required to be  
4 fingerprinted but shall be screened for delinquency records.  
5 For purposes of screening, the term shall also include persons  
6 who work in child care programs which provide care for  
7 children 15 hours or more each week in public or nonpublic  
8 schools, summer day camps, family day care homes, or those  
9 programs otherwise exempted under s. 402.316. The term does  
10 not include public or nonpublic school personnel who are  
11 providing care during regular school hours, or after hours for  
12 activities related to a school's program for grades  
13 kindergarten through 12 ~~as required under chapter 232~~. A  
14 volunteer who assists on an intermittent basis for less than  
15 40 hours per month is not included in the term "personnel" for  
16 the purposes of screening and training, provided that the  
17 volunteer is under direct and constant supervision by persons  
18 who meet the personnel requirements of s. 402.305(2).  
19 Students who observe and participate in a child care facility  
20 as a part of their required coursework shall not be considered  
21 child care personnel, provided such observation and  
22 participation are on an intermittent basis and the students  
23 are under direct and constant supervision of child care  
24 personnel.

25 Section 990. Section 402.3057, Florida Statutes, is  
26 amended to read:

27 402.3057 Persons not required to be refingerprinted or  
28 rescreened.--Any provision of law to the contrary  
29 notwithstanding, human resource personnel who have been  
30 fingerprinted or screened pursuant to chapters 393, 394, 397,  
31 402, and 409, and teachers and noninstructional personnel who

1 have been fingerprinted pursuant to chapter 1012 231, who have  
2 not been unemployed for more than 90 days thereafter, and who  
3 under the penalty of perjury attest to the completion of such  
4 fingerprinting or screening and to compliance with the  
5 provisions of this section and the standards for good moral  
6 character as contained in such provisions as ss. 110.1127(3),  
7 393.0655(1), 394.457(6), 397.451, 402.305(2), and 409.175(4),  
8 shall not be required to be refingerprinted or rescreened in  
9 order to comply with any caretaker screening or fingerprinting  
10 requirements.

11 Section 991. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3)  
12 of section 409.145, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

13 409.145 Care of children.--

14 (3)(a) The department is authorized to continue to  
15 provide the services of the children's foster care program to  
16 individuals 18 to 21 years of age who are enrolled in high  
17 school, in a program leading to a high school equivalency  
18 diploma as defined in s. 1003.435 229-814, or in a full-time  
19 career education program, and to continue to provide services  
20 of the children's foster care program to individuals 18 to 23  
21 years of age who are enrolled full-time in a postsecondary  
22 educational institution granting a degree, a certificate, or  
23 an applied technology diploma, if the following requirements  
24 are met:

25 1. The individual was committed to the legal custody  
26 of the department for placement in foster care as a dependent  
27 child;

28 2. All other resources have been thoroughly explored,  
29 and it can be clearly established that there are no  
30 alternative resources for placement; and  
31

1           3. A written service agreement which specifies  
2 responsibilities and expectations for all parties involved has  
3 been signed by a representative of the department, the  
4 individual, and the foster parent or licensed child-caring  
5 agency providing the placement resources.

6           (b) The services of the foster care program shall  
7 continue for those individuals 18 to 21 years of age only for  
8 the period of time the individual is continuously enrolled in  
9 high school, in a program leading to a high school equivalency  
10 diploma as defined in s. 1003.435 ~~229.814~~, or in a full-time  
11 career education program; and shall continue for those  
12 individuals 18 to 23 years of age only for the period of time  
13 the individual is continuously enrolled full-time in a  
14 postsecondary educational institution granting a degree, a  
15 certificate, or an applied technology diploma. Services shall  
16 be terminated upon completion of or withdrawal or permanent  
17 expulsion from high school, the program leading to a high  
18 school equivalency diploma, the full-time career and technical  
19 education program, or the postsecondary educational  
20 institution granting a degree, a certificate, or an applied  
21 technology diploma. In addition, the department may, based  
22 upon the availability of funds, provide assistance to those  
23 individuals who leave foster care when they attain 18 years of  
24 age and subsequently request assistance prior to their 21st  
25 birthday. The following are examples of assistance that may be  
26 provided: referrals for employment, services for educational  
27 or career ~~vocational~~ development, and housing assistance.

28           Section 992. Section 409.1757, Florida Statutes, is  
29 amended to read:

30           409.1757 Persons not required to be refingerprinted or  
31 rescreened.--Any provision of law to the contrary

1 notwithstanding, human resource personnel who have been  
2 fingerprinted or screened pursuant to chapters 393, 394, 397,  
3 402, and this chapter, and teachers who have been  
4 fingerprinted pursuant to chapter 1012 ~~231~~, who have not been  
5 unemployed for more than 90 days thereafter, and who under the  
6 penalty of perjury attest to the completion of such  
7 fingerprinting or screening and to compliance with the  
8 provisions of this section and the standards for good moral  
9 character as contained in such provisions as ss. 110.1127(3),  
10 393.0655(1), 394.457(6), 397.451, 402.305(2), and 409.175(4),  
11 shall not be required to be refingerprinted or rescreened in  
12 order to comply with any caretaker screening or fingerprinting  
13 requirements.

14 Section 993. Subsections (1) and (2) of section  
15 409.2598, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

16 409.2598 Suspension or denial of new or renewal  
17 licenses; registrations; certifications.--

18 (1) The Title IV-D agency may petition the court that  
19 entered the support order or the court that is enforcing the  
20 support order to deny or suspend the license, registration, or  
21 certificate issued under ~~chapter 231~~, chapter 370, chapter  
22 372, chapter 409, chapter 455, chapter 456, chapter 559,  
23 chapter 1012, s. 328.42, or s. 597.010 of any obligor with a  
24 delinquent support obligation or who fails, after receiving  
25 appropriate notice, to comply with subpoenas, orders to  
26 appear, orders to show cause, or similar orders relating to  
27 paternity or support proceedings. However, a petition may not  
28 be filed until the Title IV-D agency has exhausted all other  
29 available remedies. The purpose of this section is to promote  
30 the public policy of the state as established in s. 409.2551.  
31

1           (2) The Title IV-D agency is authorized to screen all  
2 applicants for new or renewal licenses, registrations, or  
3 certificates and current licenses, registrations, or  
4 certificates and current licensees, registration holders, and  
5 certificateholders of all licenses, registrations, and  
6 certificates issued under ~~chapter 231~~, chapter 370, ~~chapter~~  
7 ~~372~~, chapter 409, chapter 455, chapter 456, ~~or~~ chapter 559,  
8 chapter 1012, or s. 328.42 to ensure compliance with any  
9 support obligation and any subpoenas, orders to appear, orders  
10 to show cause, or similar orders relating to paternity or  
11 support proceedings. If the Title IV-D agency determines that  
12 an applicant, licensee, registration holder, or  
13 certificateholder is an obligor who is delinquent on a support  
14 obligation or who is not in compliance with a subpoena, order  
15 to appear, order to show cause, or similar order relating to  
16 paternity or support proceedings, the Title IV-D agency shall  
17 certify the delinquency pursuant to s. 61.14.

18           Section 994. Subsections (1) and (6) of section  
19 409.9071, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter  
20 97-168, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

21           409.9071 Medicaid provider agreements for school  
22 districts certifying state match.--

23           (1) The agency shall submit a state plan amendment by  
24 September 1, 1997, for the purpose of obtaining federal  
25 authorization to reimburse school-based services as provided  
26 in former s. 236.0812 pursuant to the rehabilitative services  
27 option provided under 42 U.S.C. s. 1396d(a)(13). For purposes  
28 of this section, billing agent consulting services shall be  
29 considered billing agent services, as that term is used in s.  
30 409.913(9), and, as such, payments to such persons shall not  
31 be based on amounts for which they bill nor based on the

1 amount a provider receives from the Medicaid program. This  
 2 provision shall not restrict privatization of Medicaid  
 3 school-based services. Subject to any limitations provided for  
 4 in the General Appropriations Act, the agency, in compliance  
 5 with appropriate federal authorization, shall develop policies  
 6 and procedures and shall allow for certification of state and  
 7 local education funds which have been provided for  
 8 school-based services as specified in s. 1011.70 ~~236.0812~~ and  
 9 authorized by a physician's order where required by federal  
 10 Medicaid law. Any state or local funds certified pursuant to  
 11 this section shall be for children with specified disabilities  
 12 who are eligible for both Medicaid and part B or part H of the  
 13 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), or the  
 14 exceptional student education program, or who have an  
 15 individualized educational plan.

16 (6) Retroactive reimbursements for services as  
 17 specified in former s. 236.0812 as of July 1, 1996, including  
 18 reimbursement for the 1995-1996 and 1996-1997 school years,  
 19 subject to federal approval.

20 Section 995. Subsection (1) of section 409.9071,  
 21 Florida Statutes, as amended by sections 13 and 18 of chapter  
 22 97-263, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

23 409.9071 Medicaid provider agreements for school  
 24 districts certifying state match.--

25 (1) Subject to any limitations provided for in the  
 26 General Appropriations Act, the agency, in compliance with  
 27 appropriate federal authorization, shall develop policies and  
 28 procedures to allow for certification of state and local  
 29 education funds which have been provided for services as  
 30 authorized in s. 1011.70 ~~236.0812~~. Any state or local funds  
 31 certified pursuant to this section shall be for children with

1 specified disabilities who are eligible for Medicaid and who  
2 have an individualized educational plan that demonstrates that  
3 such services are medically necessary and a physician  
4 authorization order if required by federal Medicaid laws.

5 Section 996. Subsection (21) of section 409.908,  
6 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 409.908 Reimbursement of Medicaid providers.--Subject  
8 to specific appropriations, the agency shall reimburse  
9 Medicaid providers, in accordance with state and federal law,  
10 according to methodologies set forth in the rules of the  
11 agency and in policy manuals and handbooks incorporated by  
12 reference therein. These methodologies may include fee  
13 schedules, reimbursement methods based on cost reporting,  
14 negotiated fees, competitive bidding pursuant to s. 287.057,  
15 and other mechanisms the agency considers efficient and  
16 effective for purchasing services or goods on behalf of  
17 recipients. Payment for Medicaid compensable services made on  
18 behalf of Medicaid eligible persons is subject to the  
19 availability of moneys and any limitations or directions  
20 provided for in the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216.  
21 Further, nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent  
22 or limit the agency from adjusting fees, reimbursement rates,  
23 lengths of stay, number of visits, or number of services, or  
24 making any other adjustments necessary to comply with the  
25 availability of moneys and any limitations or directions  
26 provided for in the General Appropriations Act, provided the  
27 adjustment is consistent with legislative intent.

28 (21) The agency shall reimburse school districts which  
29 certify the state match pursuant to ss. 1011.70 ~~236.0812~~ and  
30 409.9071 for the federal portion of the school district's  
31 allowable costs to deliver the services, based on the

1 reimbursement schedule. The school district shall determine  
2 the costs for delivering services as authorized in ss. 1011.70  
3 ~~236.0812~~ and 409.9071 for which the state match will be  
4 certified. Reimbursement of school-based providers is  
5 contingent on such providers being enrolled as Medicaid  
6 providers and meeting the qualifications contained in 42  
7 C.F.R. s. 440.110, unless otherwise waived by the federal  
8 Health Care Financing Administration. Speech therapy providers  
9 who are certified through the Department of Education pursuant  
10 to rule 6A-4.0176, Florida Administrative Code, are eligible  
11 for reimbursement for services that are provided on school  
12 premises. Any employee of the school district who has been  
13 fingerprinted and has received a criminal background check in  
14 accordance with Department of Education rules and guidelines  
15 shall be exempt from any agency requirements relating to  
16 criminal background checks.

17 Section 997. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of  
18 section 409.9122, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 409.9122 Mandatory Medicaid managed care enrollment;  
20 programs and procedures.--

21 (2)(a) The agency shall enroll in a managed care plan  
22 or MediPass all Medicaid recipients, except those Medicaid  
23 recipients who are: in an institution; enrolled in the  
24 Medicaid medically needy program; or eligible for both  
25 Medicaid and Medicare. However, to the extent permitted by  
26 federal law, the agency may enroll in a managed care plan or  
27 MediPass a Medicaid recipient who is exempt from mandatory  
28 managed care enrollment, provided that:

29 1. The recipient's decision to enroll in a managed  
30 care plan or MediPass is voluntary;  
31

1           2. If the recipient chooses to enroll in a managed  
2 care plan, the agency has determined that the managed care  
3 plan provides specific programs and services which address the  
4 special health needs of the recipient; and

5           3. The agency receives any necessary waivers from the  
6 federal Health Care Financing Administration.

7  
8 The agency shall develop rules to establish policies by which  
9 exceptions to the mandatory managed care enrollment  
10 requirement may be made on a case-by-case basis. The rules  
11 shall include the specific criteria to be applied when making  
12 a determination as to whether to exempt a recipient from  
13 mandatory enrollment in a managed care plan or MediPass.  
14 School districts participating in the certified school match  
15 program pursuant to ss. 1011.70 ~~236.0812~~ and 409.908(21) shall  
16 be reimbursed by Medicaid, subject to the limitations of s.  
17 1011.70(1) ~~236.0812(1) and (2)~~, for a Medicaid-eligible child  
18 participating in the services as authorized in s. 1011.70  
19 ~~236.0812~~, as provided for in s. 409.9071, regardless of  
20 whether the child is enrolled in MediPass or a managed care  
21 plan. Managed care plans shall make a good faith effort to  
22 execute agreements with school districts regarding the  
23 coordinated provision of services authorized under s. 1011.70  
24 ~~236.0812~~. County health departments delivering school-based  
25 services pursuant to ss. 381.0056 and 381.0057 shall be  
26 reimbursed by Medicaid for the federal share for a  
27 Medicaid-eligible child who receives Medicaid-covered services  
28 in a school setting, regardless of whether the child is  
29 enrolled in MediPass or a managed care plan. Managed care  
30 plans shall make a good faith effort to execute agreements  
31 with county health departments regarding the coordinated

1 provision of services to a Medicaid-eligible child. To ensure  
2 continuity of care for Medicaid patients, the agency, the  
3 Department of Health, and the Department of Education shall  
4 develop procedures for ensuring that a student's managed care  
5 plan or MediPass provider receives information relating to  
6 services provided in accordance with ss. ~~236.0812~~, 381.0056,  
7 381.0057, ~~and~~ 409.9071, and 1011.70.

8 Section 998. Paragraph (d) of subsection (5) and  
9 subsection (10) of section 411.01, Florida Statutes, are  
10 amended to read:

11 411.01 Florida Partnership for School Readiness;  
12 school readiness coalitions.--

13 (5) CREATION OF SCHOOL READINESS COALITIONS.--

14 (d) Implementation.--

15 1. The school readiness program is to be phased in.  
16 Until the coalition implements its plan, the county shall  
17 continue to receive the services identified in subsection (3)  
18 through the various agencies that would be responsible for  
19 delivering those services under current law. Plan  
20 implementation is subject to approval of the coalition and the  
21 plan by the Florida Partnership for School Readiness.

22 2. Each school readiness coalition shall develop a  
23 plan for implementing the school readiness program to meet the  
24 requirements of this section and the performance standards and  
25 outcome measures established by the partnership. The plan must  
26 include a written description of the role of the program in  
27 the coalition's effort to meet the first state education goal,  
28 readiness to start school, including a description of the plan  
29 to involve the prekindergarten early intervention programs,  
30 Head Start Programs, programs offered by public or private  
31 providers of child care, preschool programs for children with

1 disabilities, programs for migrant children, Title I programs,  
2 subsidized child care programs, and teen parent programs. The  
3 plan must also demonstrate how the program will ensure that  
4 each 3-year-old and 4-year-old child in a publicly funded  
5 school readiness program receives scheduled activities and  
6 instruction designed to prepare children to enter kindergarten  
7 ready to learn. Prior to implementation of the program, the  
8 school readiness coalition must submit the plan to the  
9 partnership for approval. The partnership may approve the  
10 plan, reject the plan, or approve the plan with conditions.  
11 The Florida Partnership for School Readiness shall review  
12 coalition plans at least annually.

13 3. The plan for the school readiness program must  
14 include the following minimum standards and provisions:

15 a. A sliding fee scale establishing a copayment for  
16 parents based upon their ability to pay, which is the same for  
17 all program providers, to be implemented and reflected in each  
18 program's budget.

19 b. A choice of settings and locations in licensed,  
20 registered, religious-exempt, or school-based programs to be  
21 provided to parents.

22 c. Instructional staff who have completed the training  
23 course as required in s. 402.305(2)(d)1., as well as staff who  
24 have additional training or credentials as required by the  
25 partnership. The plan must provide a method for assuring the  
26 qualifications of all personnel in all program settings.

27 d. Specific eligibility priorities for children within  
28 the coalition's county pursuant to subsection (6).

29 e. Performance standards and outcome measures  
30 established by the partnership or alternatively, standards and  
31

1 outcome measures to be used until such time as the partnership  
2 adopts such standards and outcome measures.

3 f. Reimbursement rates that have been developed by the  
4 coalition. Reimbursement rates shall not have the effect of  
5 limiting parental choice or creating standards or levels of  
6 services that have not been authorized by the Legislature.

7 g. Systems support services, including a central  
8 agency, child care resource and referral, eligibility  
9 determinations, training of providers, and parent support and  
10 involvement.

11 h. Direct enhancement services to families and  
12 children. System support and direct enhancement services shall  
13 be in addition to payments for the placement of children in  
14 school readiness programs.

15 i. A business plan, which must include the contract  
16 with a school readiness agent if the coalition is not a  
17 legally established corporate entity. Coalitions may contract  
18 with other coalitions to achieve efficiency in multiple-county  
19 services, and such contracts may be part of the coalition's  
20 business plan.

21 j. Strategies to meet the needs of unique populations,  
22 such as migrant workers.

23  
24 As part of the plan, the coalition may request the Governor to  
25 apply for a waiver to allow the coalition to administer the  
26 Head Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school  
27 readiness program. If any school readiness plan can  
28 demonstrate that specific statutory goals can be achieved more  
29 effectively by using procedures that require modification of  
30 existing rules, policies, or procedures, a request for a  
31 waiver to the partnership may be made as part of the plan.

1 Upon review, the partnership may grant the proposed  
2 modification.

3           4. Persons with an early childhood teaching  
4 certificate may provide support and supervision to other staff  
5 in the school readiness program.

6           5. The coalition may not implement its plan until it  
7 submits the plan to and receives approval from the  
8 partnership. Once the plan has been approved, the plan and the  
9 services provided under the plan shall be controlled by the  
10 coalition rather than by the state agencies or departments.  
11 The plan shall be reviewed and revised as necessary, but at  
12 least biennially.

13           6. The following statutes will not apply to local  
14 coalitions with approved plans: ss. 125.901(2)(a)3., 411.221,  
15 and 411.232. To facilitate innovative practices and to allow  
16 local establishment of school readiness programs, a school  
17 readiness coalition may apply to the Governor and Cabinet for  
18 a waiver of, and the Governor and Cabinet may waive, any of  
19 the provisions of ss. ~~230.23166~~, 411.223, ~~and~~ 411.232, and  
20 1003.54 if the waiver is necessary for implementation of the  
21 coalition's school readiness plan.

22           7. Two or more counties may join for the purpose of  
23 planning and implementing a school readiness program.

24           8. A coalition may, subject to approval of the  
25 partnership as part of the coalition's plan, receive  
26 subsidized child care funds for all children eligible for any  
27 federal subsidized child care program and be the provider of  
28 the program services.

29           9. Coalitions are authorized to enter into multiparty  
30 contracts with multicounty service providers in order to meet  
31 the needs of unique populations such as migrant workers.

1           (10) SCHOOL READINESS UNIFORM SCREENING.--The  
2 Department of Education shall implement a school readiness  
3 uniform screening, including a pilot program during the  
4 2001-2002 school year, to validate the system recommended by  
5 the Florida Partnership for School Readiness as part of a  
6 comprehensive evaluation design. Beginning with the 2002-2003  
7 school year, the department shall require that all school  
8 districts administer the school readiness uniform screening to  
9 each kindergarten student in the district school system upon  
10 the student's entry into kindergarten. Children who enter  
11 public school for the first time in first grade must undergo a  
12 uniform screening adopted for use in first grade. The  
13 department shall incorporate school readiness data into the  
14 K-20 data warehouse for longitudinal tracking. Notwithstanding  
15 s. 1002.22 ~~228.093~~, the department shall provide the  
16 partnership and the Agency for Workforce Innovation with  
17 complete and full access to kindergarten uniform screening  
18 data at the student, school, district, and state levels in a  
19 format that will enable the partnership and the agency to  
20 prepare reports needed by state policymakers and local school  
21 readiness coalitions to access progress toward school  
22 readiness goals and provide input for continuous improvement  
23 of local school readiness services and programs.

24           Section 999. Paragraph (f) of subsection (8) of  
25 section 411.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26           411.203 Continuum of comprehensive services.--The  
27 Department of Education and the Department of Health and  
28 Rehabilitative Services shall utilize the continuum of  
29 prevention and early assistance services for high-risk  
30 pregnant women and for high-risk and handicapped children and  
31 their families, as outlined in this section, as a basis for

1 the intraagency and interagency program coordination,  
 2 monitoring, and analysis required in this chapter. The  
 3 continuum shall be the guide for the comprehensive statewide  
 4 approach for services for high-risk pregnant women and for  
 5 high-risk and handicapped children and their families, and may  
 6 be expanded or reduced as necessary for the enhancement of  
 7 those services. Expansion or reduction of the continuum shall  
 8 be determined by intraagency or interagency findings and  
 9 agreement, whichever is applicable. Implementation of the  
 10 continuum shall be based upon applicable eligibility criteria,  
 11 availability of resources, and interagency prioritization when  
 12 programs impact both agencies, or upon single agency  
 13 prioritization when programs impact only one agency. The  
 14 continuum shall include, but not be limited to:

15 (8) SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS AND  
 16 PARENTS OF HIGH-RISK CHILDREN.--

17 (f) Parent support groups, such as the community  
 18 resource mother or father program as established in s. 402.45,  
 19 ~~the Florida First Start Program as established in s. 230.2303,~~  
 20 or parents as first teachers, to strengthen families and to  
 21 enable families of high-risk children to better meet their  
 22 needs.

23 Section 1000. Subsection (2) of section 411.223,  
 24 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25 411.223 Uniform standards.--

26 (2) Duplicative diagnostic and planning practices  
 27 shall be eliminated to the extent possible. Diagnostic and  
 28 other information necessary to provide quality services to  
 29 high-risk or handicapped children shall be shared among the  
 30 program offices of the Department of Children and Family  
 31 Services, pursuant to the provisions of s. 1002.22 ~~228.093~~.

1           Section 1001. Subsection (1) of section 414.1251,  
2 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:  
3           414.1251 Learnfare program.--  
4           (1) The department shall reduce the temporary cash  
5 assistance for a participant's eligible dependent child or for  
6 an eligible teenage participant who has not been exempted from  
7 education participation requirements, if the eligible  
8 dependent child or eligible teenage participant has been  
9 identified either as a habitual truant, pursuant to s.  
10 1003.01(8) ~~228.041(28)~~, or as a dropout, pursuant to s.  
11 1003.01(9) ~~228.041(29)~~. For a student who has been identified  
12 as a habitual truant, the temporary cash assistance must be  
13 reinstated after a subsequent grading period in which the  
14 child's attendance has substantially improved. For a student  
15 who has been identified as a dropout, the temporary cash  
16 assistance must be reinstated after the student enrolls in a  
17 public school, receives a high school diploma or its  
18 equivalency, enrolls in preparation for the General  
19 Educational Development Tests, or enrolls in other educational  
20 activities approved by the district school board. Good cause  
21 exemptions from the rule of unexcused absences include the  
22 following:  
23           (a) The student is expelled from school and  
24 alternative schooling is not available.  
25           (b) No licensed day care is available for a child of  
26 teen parents subject to Learnfare.  
27           (c) Prohibitive transportation problems exist (e.g.,  
28 to and from day care).  
29  
30 Within 10 days after sanction notification, the participant  
31 parent of a dependent child or the teenage participant may

1 file an internal fair hearings process review procedure  
2 appeal, and no sanction shall be imposed until the appeal is  
3 resolved.

4 Section 1002. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of  
5 section 440.16, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

6 440.16 Compensation for death.--

7 (1) If death results from the accident within 1 year  
8 thereafter or follows continuous disability and results from  
9 the accident within 5 years thereafter, the employer shall  
10 pay:

11 (c) To the surviving spouse, payment of postsecondary  
12 student fees for instruction at any area technical center  
13 established under s. 1001.44 ~~230.63~~ for up to 1,800 classroom  
14 hours or payment of student fees at any community college  
15 established under part III of chapter 1004 ~~240~~ for up to 80  
16 semester hours. The spouse of a deceased state employee shall  
17 be entitled to a full waiver of such fees as provided in ss.  
18 1009.22 ~~239.117~~ and 1009.23 ~~240.345~~ in lieu of the payment of  
19 such fees. The benefits provided for in this paragraph shall  
20 be in addition to other benefits provided for in this section  
21 and shall terminate 7 years after the death of the deceased  
22 employee, or when the total payment in eligible compensation  
23 under paragraph (b) has been received. To qualify for the  
24 educational benefit under this paragraph, the spouse shall be  
25 required to meet and maintain the regular admission  
26 requirements of, and be registered at, such area technical  
27 center or community college, and make satisfactory academic  
28 progress as defined by the educational institution in which  
29 the student is enrolled.

30

31

1           Section 1003. Paragraph (e) of subsection (6) and  
2 paragraph (e) of subsection (9) of section 445.004, Florida  
3 Statutes, are amended to read:

4           445.004 Workforce Florida, Inc.; creation; purpose;  
5 membership; duties and powers.--

6           (6) Workforce Florida, Inc., may take action that it  
7 deems necessary to achieve the purposes of this section,  
8 including, but not limited to:

9           (e) Providing policy direction for a system to project  
10 and evaluate labor market supply and demand using the results  
11 of the Workforce Estimating Conference created in s. 216.136  
12 and the career education performance standards identified  
13 under s. 1008.43 ~~239.233~~.

14           (9) Workforce Florida, Inc., in collaboration with the  
15 regional workforce boards and appropriate state agencies and  
16 local public and private service providers, and in  
17 consultation with the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
18 Government Accountability, shall establish uniform measures  
19 and standards to gauge the performance of the workforce  
20 development strategy. These measures and standards must be  
21 organized into three outcome tiers.

22           (e) Job placement must be reported pursuant to s.  
23 1008.39 ~~229.8075~~. Positive outcomes for providers of education  
24 and training must be consistent with ss. 1008.42 ~~239.233~~ and  
25 1008.43 ~~239.245~~.

26           Section 1004. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of  
27 section 445.0121, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

28           445.0121 Student eligibility requirements for initial  
29 awards.--

30           (1) To be eligible for an initial award for  
31 lower-division college credit courses that lead to a

1 baccalaureate degree, as defined in s. 445.0122(5), a student  
2 must:

3 (a)1. Have been a resident of this state for no less  
4 than 3 years for purposes other than to obtain an education;  
5 or

6 2. Have received a standard Florida high school  
7 diploma, as provided in s. 1003.43 ~~232.246~~, or its equivalent,  
8 as described in s. 229.814, unless:

9 a. The student is enrolled full-time in the  
10 early-admission program of an eligible postsecondary education  
11 institution or completes a home education program in  
12 accordance with s. 1002.41 ~~232.0201~~; or

13 b. The student earns a high school diploma from a  
14 non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who  
15 is on military or public service assignment outside this  
16 state.

17 Section 1005. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of  
18 section 445.024, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 445.024 Work requirements.--

20 (1) WORK ACTIVITIES.--The following activities may be  
21 used individually or in combination to satisfy the work  
22 requirements for a participant in the temporary cash  
23 assistance program:

24 (i) Education services related to employment for  
25 participants 19 years of age or younger.--Education services  
26 provided under this paragraph are designed to prepare a  
27 participant for employment in an occupation. The agency shall  
28 coordinate education services with the school-to-work  
29 activities provided under s. 1006.02 ~~229.595~~. Activities  
30 provided under this paragraph are restricted to participants  
31

1 19 years of age or younger who have not completed high school  
2 or obtained a high school equivalency diploma.

3 Section 1006. Subsection (2), paragraph (i) of  
4 subsection (3), paragraph (a) of subsection (4), subsection  
5 (10), and subsection (18) of section 447.203, Florida  
6 Statutes, are amended to read:

7 447.203 Definitions.--As used in this part:

8 (2) "Public employer" or "employer" means the state or  
9 any county, municipality, or special district or any  
10 subdivision or agency thereof which the commission determines  
11 has sufficient legal distinctiveness properly to carry out the  
12 functions of a public employer. With respect to all public  
13 employees determined by the commission as properly belonging  
14 to a statewide bargaining unit composed of State Career  
15 Service System employees or Selected Professional Service  
16 employees, the Governor shall be deemed to be the public  
17 employer; and the university board of trustees ~~Board of~~  
18 ~~Regents~~ shall be deemed to be the public employer with respect  
19 to all public employees of the respective state university  
20 ~~within the State University System as provided in s.~~  
21 ~~240.209(3)(f), except that such employees shall have the~~  
22 ~~right, in elections to be conducted at each university by the~~  
23 ~~commission pursuant to its rules, to elect not to participate~~  
24 ~~in collective bargaining. In the event that a majority of such~~  
25 ~~voting employees at any university elect not to participate in~~  
26 ~~collective bargaining, they shall be removed from the~~  
27 ~~applicable Board of Regents bargaining unit. If, thereafter,~~  
28 ~~by election conducted by the commission pursuant to its rules,~~  
29 ~~a majority of such voting employees elect to participate in~~  
30 ~~collective bargaining, they shall be included again in the~~  
31 ~~applicable Board of Regents bargaining unit for such purpose.~~

1 The board of trustees of a community college shall be deemed  
2 to be the public employer with respect to all employees of the  
3 community college. The district school board shall be deemed  
4 to be the public employer with respect to all employees of the  
5 school district. The Board of Trustees of the Florida School  
6 for the Deaf and the Blind shall be deemed to be the public  
7 employer with respect to the academic and academic  
8 administrative personnel of the Florida School for the Deaf  
9 and the Blind. The Governor shall be deemed to be the public  
10 employer with respect to all employees in the Correctional  
11 Education Program of the Department of Corrections established  
12 pursuant to s. 944.801.

13 (3) "Public employee" means any person employed by a  
14 public employer except:

15 (i) Those persons enrolled as ~~graduate students in the~~  
16 ~~State University System who are employed as graduate~~  
17 ~~assistants, graduate teaching assistants, graduate teaching~~  
18 ~~associates, graduate research assistants, or graduate research~~  
19 ~~associates and those persons enrolled as~~ undergraduate  
20 students in a state university ~~the State University System~~ who  
21 perform part-time work for the state university ~~State~~  
22 ~~University System~~.

23 (4) "Managerial employees" are those employees who:

24 (a) Perform jobs that are not of a routine, clerical,  
25 or ministerial nature and require the exercise of independent  
26 judgment in the performance of such jobs and to whom one or  
27 more of the following applies:

28 1. They formulate or assist in formulating policies  
29 which are applicable to bargaining unit employees.

30  
31

1           2. They may reasonably be required on behalf of the  
2 employer to assist in the preparation for the conduct of  
3 collective bargaining negotiations.

4           3. They have a role in the administration of  
5 agreements resulting from collective bargaining negotiations.

6           4. They have a significant role in personnel  
7 administration.

8           5. They have a significant role in employee relations.

9           6. They are included in the definition of  
10 administrative personnel contained in s. 1012.01(3)  
11 ~~228.041(10)~~.

12           7. They have a significant role in the preparation or  
13 administration of budgets for any public agency or institution  
14 or subdivision thereof.

15  
16 However, in determining whether an individual is a managerial  
17 employee pursuant to either paragraph (a) or paragraph (b),  
18 above, the commission may consider historic relationships of  
19 the employee to the public employer and to coemployees.

20           (10) "Legislative body" means the State Legislature,  
21 the board of county commissioners, the district school board,  
22 the governing body of a municipality, or the governing body of  
23 an instrumentality or unit of government having authority to  
24 appropriate funds and establish policy governing the terms and  
25 conditions of employment and which, as the case may be, is the  
26 appropriate legislative body for the bargaining unit. For  
27 purposes of s. 447.403, the state university board of trustees  
28 shall be deemed to be the legislative body with respect to all  
29 employees of the state university. For purposes of s. 447.403  
30 the board of trustees of a community college shall be deemed  
31

1 to be the legislative body with respect to all employees of  
2 the community college.

3 (18) "Student representative" means the representative  
4 selected by each community college or university student  
5 government association ~~and the council of student body~~  
6 ~~presidents~~. Each representative may be present at all  
7 negotiating sessions that ~~which~~ take place between the  
8 appropriate public employer and an exclusive bargaining agent.  
9 The said representative must ~~shall~~ be enrolled as a student  
10 with at least 8 credit hours in the respective community  
11 college or university ~~or in the State University System~~ during  
12 his or her term as student representative.

13 Section 1007. Subsection (5) of section 447.301,  
14 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15 447.301 Public employees' rights; organization and  
16 representation.--

17 (5) ~~In negotiations over the terms and conditions of~~  
18 ~~service and other matters affecting the working environment of~~  
19 ~~employees, or the learning environment of students, in~~  
20 ~~institutions of higher education, one student representative~~  
21 ~~selected by the council of student body presidents may, at his~~  
22 ~~or her discretion, be present at all negotiating sessions~~  
23 ~~which take place between the Board of Regents and the~~  
24 ~~bargaining agent for an employee bargaining unit. In the case~~  
25 ~~of community colleges~~ and universities, the student government  
26 association of each community college or university shall  
27 establish procedures for the selection of, and shall select, a  
28 student representative to be present, at his or her  
29 discretion, at negotiations between the bargaining agent of  
30 the employees and the board of trustees. Each student  
31 representative shall have access to all written draft

1 agreements and all other written documents pertaining to  
2 negotiations exchanged by the appropriate public employer and  
3 the bargaining agent, including a copy of any prepared written  
4 transcripts of any negotiating session. Each student  
5 representative shall have the right at reasonable times during  
6 the negotiating session to comment to the parties and to the  
7 public upon the impact of proposed agreements on the  
8 educational environment of students. Each student  
9 representative shall have the right to be accompanied by  
10 alternates or aides, not to exceed a combined total of two in  
11 number. Each student representative shall be obligated to  
12 participate in good faith during all negotiations and shall be  
13 subject to the rules and regulations of the Public Employees  
14 Relations Commission. The student representatives shall have  
15 neither voting nor veto power in any negotiation, action, or  
16 agreement. The state or any branch, agency, division, agent,  
17 or institution of the state, including community colleges and  
18 universities, may ~~shall~~ not expend any moneys from any source  
19 for the payment of reimbursement for travel expenses or per  
20 diem to aides, alternates, or student representatives  
21 participating in, observing, or contributing to any  
22 negotiating sessions between the bargaining parties; ~~however,~~  
23 ~~this limitation does not apply to the use of student activity~~  
24 ~~fees for the reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem to~~  
25 ~~the university student representative, aides, or alternates~~  
26 ~~participating in the aforementioned negotiations between the~~  
27 ~~Board of Regents and the bargaining agent for an employee~~  
28 ~~bargaining unit.~~

29 Section 1008. Subsection (4) of section 447.403,  
30 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31 447.403 Resolution of impasses.--

1           (4) If ~~In the event that either~~ the public employer or  
2 the employee organization does not accept, in whole or in  
3 part, the recommended decision of the special master:  
4           (a) The chief executive officer of the governmental  
5 entity involved shall, within 10 days after rejection of a  
6 recommendation of the special master, submit to the  
7 legislative body of the governmental entity involved a copy of  
8 the findings of fact and recommended decision of the special  
9 master, together with the chief executive officer's  
10 recommendations for settling the disputed impasse issues. The  
11 chief executive officer shall also transmit his or her  
12 recommendations to the employee organization. ~~If the dispute  
13 involves employees for whom the Board of Regents is the public  
14 employer, the Governor may also submit recommendations to the  
15 legislative body for settling~~ The disputed impasse issues;  
16           (b) The employee organization shall submit its  
17 recommendations for settling the disputed impasse issues to  
18 such legislative body and to the chief executive officer;  
19           (c) The legislative body or a duly authorized  
20 committee thereof shall forthwith conduct a public hearing at  
21 which the parties shall be required to explain their positions  
22 with respect to the rejected recommendations of the special  
23 master;  
24           (d) Thereafter, the legislative body shall take such  
25 action as it deems to be in the public interest, including the  
26 interest of the public employees involved, to resolve all  
27 disputed impasse issues; and  
28           (e) Following the resolution of the disputed impasse  
29 issues by the legislative body, the parties shall reduce to  
30 writing an agreement which includes those issues agreed to by  
31 the parties and those disputed impasse issues resolved by the

1 legislative body's action taken pursuant to paragraph (d). The  
2 agreement shall be signed by the chief executive officer and  
3 the bargaining agent and shall be submitted to the public  
4 employer and to the public employees who are members of the  
5 bargaining unit for ratification. If such agreement is not  
6 ratified by all parties, pursuant to the provisions of s.  
7 447.309, the legislative body's action taken pursuant to the  
8 provisions of paragraph (d) shall take effect as of the date  
9 of such legislative body's action for the remainder of the  
10 first fiscal year which was the subject of negotiations;  
11 however, the legislative body's action shall not take effect  
12 with respect to those disputed impasse issues which establish  
13 the language of contractual provisions which could have no  
14 effect in the absence of a ratified agreement, including, but  
15 not limited to, preambles, recognition clauses, and duration  
16 clauses.

17 Section 1009. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of  
18 section 450.081, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 450.081 Hours of work in certain occupations.--

20 (5) The provisions of subsections (1)-(4) shall not  
21 apply to:

22 (b) Minors who are within the compulsory school  
23 attendance age limit who hold a valid certificate of exemption  
24 issued by the school superintendent or his or her designee  
25 pursuant to the provisions of s. 1003.21(3) ~~232.06~~.

26 Section 1010. Subsection (2) of section 450.121,  
27 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

28 450.121 Enforcement of Child Labor Law.--

29 (2) It is the duty of the department and its agents  
30 and all sheriffs or other law enforcement officers of the  
31 state or of any municipality of the state to enforce the

1 provisions of this law, to make complaints against persons  
 2 violating its provisions, and to prosecute violations of the  
 3 same. The department and its agents have authority to enter  
 4 and inspect at any time any place or establishment covered by  
 5 this law and to have access to age certificates kept on file  
 6 by the employer and such other records as may aid in the  
 7 enforcement of this law. A designated school representative  
 8 acting in accordance with s. 1003.26 ~~232.17~~ shall report to  
 9 the department all violations of the Child Labor Law that may  
 10 come to his or her knowledge.

11 Section 1011. Subsection (4) of section 458.3145,  
 12 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13 458.3145 Medical faculty certificate.--

14 (4) In any year, the maximum number of extended  
 15 medical faculty certificateholders as provided in subsection  
 16 (2) may not exceed 15 persons at each institution named in  
 17 subparagraphs (1)(i)1.-4. and at the facility named in s.  
 18 1004.43 ~~240.512~~ and may not exceed 5 persons at the  
 19 institution named in subparagraph (1)(i)5.

20 Section 1012. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of  
 21 subsection (2) of section 458.324, Florida Statutes, are  
 22 amended to read:

23 458.324 Breast cancer; information on treatment  
 24 alternatives.--

25 (1) DEFINITION.--As used in this section, the term  
 26 "medically viable," as applied to treatment alternatives,  
 27 means modes of treatment generally considered by the medical  
 28 profession to be within the scope of current, acceptable  
 29 standards, including treatment alternatives described in the  
 30 written summary prepared by the Florida Cancer Control and  
 31

1 Research Advisory Council in accordance with s. 1004.435(4)(m)  
2 ~~240.5121(4)(m)~~.

3 (2) COMMUNICATION OF TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES.--Each  
4 physician treating a patient who is, or in the judgment of the  
5 physician is at high risk of being, diagnosed as having breast  
6 cancer shall inform such patient of the medically viable  
7 treatment alternatives available to such patient; shall  
8 describe such treatment alternatives; and shall explain the  
9 relative advantages, disadvantages, and risks associated with  
10 the treatment alternatives to the extent deemed necessary to  
11 allow the patient to make a prudent decision regarding such  
12 treatment options. In compliance with this subsection:

13 (a) The physician may, in his or her discretion:

14 1. Orally communicate such information directly to the  
15 patient or the patient's legal representative;

16 2. Provide the patient or the patient's legal  
17 representative with a copy of the written summary prepared in  
18 accordance with s. 1004.435(4)(m) ~~240.5121(4)(m)~~ and express a  
19 willingness to discuss the summary with the patient or the  
20 patient's legal representative; or

21 3. Both communicate such information directly and  
22 provide a copy of the written summary to the patient or the  
23 patient's legal representative for further consideration and  
24 possible later discussion.

25  
26 Nothing in this subsection shall reduce other provisions of  
27 law regarding informed consent.

28 Section 1013. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of  
29 subsection (2) of section 459.0125, Florida Statutes, are  
30 amended to read:

31

1           459.0125 Breast cancer; information on treatment  
2 alternatives.--

3           (1) DEFINITION.--As used in this section, the term  
4 "medically viable," as applied to treatment alternatives,  
5 means modes of treatment generally considered by the medical  
6 profession to be within the scope of current, acceptable  
7 standards, including treatment alternatives described in the  
8 written summary prepared by the Florida Cancer Control and  
9 Research Advisory Council in accordance with s. 1004.435(4)(m)  
10 ~~240.5121(4)(m)~~.

11           (2) COMMUNICATION OF TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES.--It is  
12 the obligation of every physician treating a patient who is,  
13 or in the judgment of the physician is at high risk of being,  
14 diagnosed as having breast cancer to inform such patient of  
15 the medically viable treatment alternatives available to such  
16 patient; to describe such treatment alternatives; and to  
17 explain the relative advantages, disadvantages, and risks  
18 associated with the treatment alternatives to the extent  
19 deemed necessary to allow the patient to make a prudent  
20 decision regarding such treatment options. In compliance with  
21 this subsection:

22           (a) The physician may, in her or his discretion:

23           1. Orally communicate such information directly to the  
24 patient or the patient's legal representative;

25           2. Provide the patient or the patient's legal  
26 representative with a copy of the written summary prepared in  
27 accordance with s. 1004.435(4)(m) ~~240.5121(4)(m)~~ and express  
28 her or his willingness to discuss the summary with the patient  
29 or the patient's legal representative; or

30           3. Both communicate such information directly and  
31 provide a copy of the written summary to the patient or the

1 patient's legal representative for further consideration and  
2 possible later discussion.

3

4 Nothing in this subsection shall reduce other provisions of  
5 law regarding informed consent.

6 Section 1014. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of  
7 section 468.1115, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8 468.1115 Exemptions.--

9 (2) The provisions of this part shall not apply to:

10 (c) Persons certified in the areas of speech-language  
11 impairment or hearing impairment in this state under chapter  
12 1012 ~~231~~ when engaging in the profession for which they are  
13 certified, or any person under the direct supervision of such  
14 a certified person, or of a licensee under this chapter, when  
15 the person under such supervision is performing hearing  
16 screenings in a school setting for prekindergarten through  
17 grade 12.

18 Section 1015. Section 468.607, Florida Statutes, is  
19 amended to read:

20 468.607 Certification of building code administration  
21 and inspection personnel.--The board shall issue a certificate  
22 to any individual whom the board determines to be qualified,  
23 within such class and level as provided in this part and with  
24 such limitations as the board may place upon it. No person  
25 may be employed by a state agency or local governmental  
26 authority to perform the duties of a building code  
27 administrator, plans examiner, or building code inspector  
28 after October 1, 1993, without possessing the proper valid  
29 certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of this  
30 part. Any person who acts as an inspector and plans examiner  
31 under s. 1013.37 ~~235-26~~ while conducting activities authorized

1 by certification under that section is certified to continue  
2 to conduct inspections for a local enforcement agency until  
3 the person's UBCI certification expires, after which time such  
4 person must possess the proper valid certificate issued in  
5 accordance with this part.

6 Section 1016. Subsection (3) of section 468.723,  
7 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8 468.723 Exemptions.--Nothing in this part shall be  
9 construed as preventing or restricting:

10 (3) A person employed as a teacher apprentice trainer  
11 I, a teacher apprentice trainer II, or a teacher athletic  
12 trainer under s. 1012.46 ~~232.435~~.

13 Section 1017. Section 471.0035, Florida Statutes, is  
14 amended to read:

15 471.0035 Instructors in postsecondary educational  
16 institutions; exemption from registration requirement.--For  
17 the sole purpose of teaching the principles and methods of  
18 engineering design, notwithstanding the provisions of s.  
19 471.005(7), a person employed by a public postsecondary  
20 educational institution, or by an independent postsecondary  
21 educational institution licensed or exempt from licensure  
22 pursuant to the provisions of chapter 1005 ~~246~~, is not  
23 required to register under the provisions of this chapter as a  
24 registered engineer.

25 Section 1018. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of  
26 section 476.114, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

27 476.114 Examination; prerequisites.--

28 (2) An applicant shall be eligible for licensure by  
29 examination to practice barbering if the applicant:

30 (c)1. Holds an active valid license to practice  
31 barbering in another state, has held the license for at least

1 1 year, and does not qualify for licensure by endorsement as  
2 provided for in s. 476.144(5); or

3 2. Has received a minimum of 1,200 hours of training  
4 as established by the board, which shall include, but shall  
5 not be limited to, the equivalent of completion of services  
6 directly related to the practice of barbering at one of the  
7 following:

8 a. A school of barbering licensed pursuant to chapter  
9 1005 ~~246~~;

10 b. A barbering program within the public school  
11 system; or

12 c. A government-operated barbering program in this  
13 state.

14  
15 The board shall establish by rule procedures whereby the  
16 school or program may certify that a person is qualified to  
17 take the required examination after the completion of a  
18 minimum of 1,000 actual school hours. If the person passes the  
19 examination, she or he shall have satisfied this requirement;  
20 but if the person fails the examination, she or he shall not  
21 be qualified to take the examination again until the  
22 completion of the full requirements provided by this section.

23 Section 1019. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of  
24 section 476.144, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25 476.144 Licensure.--

26 (6) A person may apply for a restricted license to  
27 practice barbering. The board shall adopt rules specifying  
28 procedures for an applicant to obtain a restricted license if  
29 the applicant:

30 (a)1. Has successfully completed a restricted barber  
31 course, as established by rule of the board, at a school of

1 barbering licensed pursuant to chapter 1005 246, a barbering  
 2 program within the public school system, or a  
 3 government-operated barbering program in this state; or

4       2.a. Holds or has within the previous 5 years held an  
 5 active valid license to practice barbering in another state or  
 6 country or has held a Florida barbering license which has been  
 7 declared null and void for failure to renew the license, and  
 8 the applicant fulfilled the requirements of s. 476.114(2)(c)2.  
 9 for initial licensure; and

10       b. Has not been disciplined relating to the practice  
 11 of barbering in the previous 5 years; and

12

13 The restricted license shall limit the licensee's practice to  
 14 those specific areas in which the applicant has demonstrated  
 15 competence pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

16       Section 1020. Section 476.178, Florida Statutes, is  
 17 amended to read:

18       476.178 Schools of barbering; licensure.--No private  
 19 school of barbering shall be permitted to operate without a  
 20 license issued by the Commission for Independent State Board  
 21 ~~of Nonpublic Career Education~~ pursuant to chapter 1005 246.  
 22 However, this section shall not be construed to prevent  
 23 certification by the Department of Education of barber  
 24 training programs within the public school system or to  
 25 prevent government operation of any other program of barbering  
 26 in this state.

27       Section 1021. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of  
 28 section 477.0132, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

29       477.0132 Hair braiding, hair wrapping, and body  
 30 wrapping registration.--

31       (1)

1 (d) Only the board may review, evaluate, and approve a  
2 course required of an applicant for registration under this  
3 subsection in the occupation or practice of hair braiding,  
4 hair wrapping, or body wrapping. A provider of such a course  
5 is not required to hold a license under chapter 1005 ~~246~~.

6 Section 1022. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of  
7 section 477.019, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8 477.019 Cosmetologists; qualifications; licensure;  
9 supervised practice; license renewal; endorsement; continuing  
10 education.--

11 (2) An applicant shall be eligible for licensure by  
12 examination to practice cosmetology if the applicant:

13 (c)1. Is authorized to practice cosmetology in another  
14 state or country, has been so authorized for at least 1 year,  
15 and does not qualify for licensure by endorsement as provided  
16 for in subsection (6); or

17 2. Has received a minimum of 1,200 hours of training  
18 as established by the board, which shall include, but shall  
19 not be limited to, the equivalent of completion of services  
20 directly related to the practice of cosmetology at one of the  
21 following:

22 a. A school of cosmetology licensed pursuant to  
23 chapter 1005 ~~246~~.

24 b. A cosmetology program within the public school  
25 system.

26 c. The Cosmetology Division of the Florida School for  
27 the Deaf and the Blind, provided the division meets the  
28 standards of this chapter.

29 d. A government-operated cosmetology program in this  
30 state.

31

1 The board shall establish by rule procedures whereby the  
2 school or program may certify that a person is qualified to  
3 take the required examination after the completion of a  
4 minimum of 1,000 actual school hours. If the person then  
5 passes the examination, he or she shall have satisfied this  
6 requirement; but if the person fails the examination, he or  
7 she shall not be qualified to take the examination again until  
8 the completion of the full requirements provided by this  
9 section.

10 Section 1023. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of  
11 section 477.0201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 477.0201 Specialty registration; qualifications;  
13 registration renewal; endorsement.--

14 (1) Any person is qualified for registration as a  
15 specialist in any one or more of the specialty practices  
16 within the practice of cosmetology under this chapter who:

17 (b) Has received a certificate of completion in a  
18 specialty pursuant to s. 477.013(6) from one of the following:

- 19 1. A school licensed pursuant to s. 477.023.
- 20 2. A school licensed pursuant to chapter 1005 ~~246~~ or  
21 the equivalent licensing authority of another state.
- 22 3. A specialty program within the public school  
23 system.
- 24 4. A specialty division within the Cosmetology  
25 Division of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind,  
26 provided the training programs comply with minimum curriculum  
27 requirements established by the board.

28 Section 1024. Section 477.023, Florida Statutes, is  
29 amended to read:

30 477.023 Schools of cosmetology; licensure.--No private  
31 school of cosmetology shall be permitted to operate without a

1 license issued by the Commission for Independent State Board  
2 ~~of Nonpublic Career~~ Education pursuant to chapter 1005 246.  
3 However, nothing herein shall be construed to prevent  
4 certification by the Department of Education of cosmetology  
5 training programs within the public school system or to  
6 prevent government operation of any other program of  
7 cosmetology in this state.

8 Section 1025. Subsection (9) of section 480.033,  
9 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

10 480.033 Definitions.--As used in this act:

11 (9) "Board-approved massage school" means a facility  
12 which meets minimum standards for training and curriculum as  
13 determined by rule of the board and which is licensed by the  
14 Department of Education pursuant to chapter 1005 246 or the  
15 equivalent licensing authority of another state or is within  
16 the public school system of this state.

17 Section 1026. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of  
18 section 481.229, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 481.229 Exceptions; exemptions from licensure.--

20 (1) No person shall be required to qualify as an  
21 architect in order to make plans and specifications for, or  
22 supervise the erection, enlargement, or alteration of:

23 (c) Any other type of building costing less than  
24 \$25,000, except a school, auditorium, or other building  
25 intended for public use, provided that the services of a  
26 registered architect shall not be required for minor school  
27 projects pursuant to s. 1013.45 235-211.

28 Section 1027. Section 488.01, Florida Statutes, is  
29 amended to read:

30 488.01 License to engage in business of operating a  
31 driver's school required.--The Department of Highway Safety

1 and Motor Vehicles shall oversee and license all commercial  
2 driver's schools except truck driving schools. All commercial  
3 truck driving schools shall be required to be licensed  
4 pursuant to chapter 1005 246, and additionally shall be  
5 subject to the provisions of ss. 488.04 and 488.05. No  
6 person, group, organization, institution, business entity, or  
7 corporate entity may engage in the business of operating a  
8 driver's school without first obtaining a license therefor  
9 from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
10 pursuant to this chapter or from the State Board of Nonpublic  
11 Career Education pursuant to chapter 1005 246.

12 Section 1028. Subsections (12) and (13) of section  
13 553.415, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

14 553.415 Factory-built school buildings.--

15 (12) Such identification label shall be permanently  
16 affixed by the manufacturer in the case of newly constructed  
17 factory-built school buildings, or by the department or its  
18 designee in the case of an existing factory-built building  
19 altered to comply with provisions of s. 1013.20 235-061.

20 (13) As of July 1, 2001, all newly constructed  
21 factory-built school buildings shall bear a label pursuant to  
22 subsection (12). As of July 1, 2002, existing factory-built  
23 school buildings and manufactured buildings used as classrooms  
24 and not bearing such label shall not be used as classrooms  
25 pursuant to s. 1013.20 235-061.

26 Section 1029. Subsection (5) of section 559.902,  
27 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

28 559.902 Scope and application.--This act shall apply  
29 to all motor vehicle repair shops in Florida, except:  
30  
31

1           (5) Those located in public schools as defined in s.  
2 1000.04 ~~228.041~~ or charter technical career centers as defined  
3 in s. 1002.34 ~~228.505~~.

4  
5 However, such person may voluntarily register under this act.

6           Section 1030. Section 589.09, Florida Statutes, is  
7 amended to read:

8           589.09 Use of lands acquired.--All lands acquired by  
9 the Division of Forestry on behalf of the state shall be in  
10 the custody of and subject to the jurisdiction, management,  
11 and control of the said division, and, for such purposes and  
12 the utilization and development of such land, the said  
13 division may use the proceeds of the sale of any products  
14 therefrom, the proceeds of the sale of any such lands, save  
15 the 25 percent of such proceeds which shall be paid into the  
16 State School Fund as required by s. 1010.71(1) ~~228.151~~, and  
17 such other funds as may be appropriated for use by the  
18 division, and in the opinion of such division, available for  
19 such uses and purposes.

20           Section 1031. Subsection (1) of section 627.733,  
21 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

22           627.733 Required security.--

23           (1) Every owner or registrant of a motor vehicle,  
24 other than a motor vehicle used as a taxicab, school bus as  
25 defined in s. 1006.25 ~~234.051~~, or limousine, required to be  
26 registered and licensed in this state shall maintain security  
27 as required by subsection (3) in effect continuously  
28 throughout the registration or licensing period.

29           Section 1032. Subsection (2) of section 627.742,  
30 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31

1           627.742 Nonpublic sector buses; additional liability  
2 insurance coverage.--

3           (2) School buses subject to the provisions of chapter  
4 1006 234 or s. 316.615 are exempt from the provisions of this  
5 section.

6           Section 1033. Subsection (5) of section 627.912,  
7 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8           627.912 Professional liability claims and actions;  
9 reports by insurers.--

10           (5) Any self-insurance program established under s.  
11 1004.24 240.213 shall report in duplicate to the Department of  
12 Insurance any claim or action for damages for personal  
13 injuries claimed to have been caused by error, omission, or  
14 negligence in the performance of professional services  
15 provided by the state university board of trustees ~~Board of~~  
16 ~~Regents~~ through an employee or agent of the state university  
17 board of trustees ~~Board of Regents~~, including practitioners of  
18 medicine licensed under chapter 458, practitioners of  
19 osteopathic medicine licensed under chapter 459, podiatric  
20 physicians licensed under chapter 461, and dentists licensed  
21 under chapter 466, or based on a claimed performance of  
22 professional services without consent if the claim resulted in  
23 a final judgment in any amount, or a settlement in any amount.  
24 The reports required by this subsection shall contain the  
25 information required by subsection (3) and the name, address,  
26 and specialty of the employee or agent of the state university  
27 board of trustees ~~Board of Regents~~ whose performance or  
28 professional services is alleged in the claim or action to  
29 have caused personal injury.

30           Section 1034. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of  
31 section 633.445, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1           633.445 State Fire Marshal Scholarship Grant

2 Program.--

3           (7) The criteria and procedures for establishing  
4 standards of eligibility shall be recommended by the council  
5 to the Department of Insurance. The council shall recommend  
6 to the Department of Insurance a rating system upon which to  
7 base the approval of scholarship grants. However, to be  
8 eligible to receive a scholarship pursuant to this section, an  
9 applicant must:

10           (b) Have graduated from high school, have earned an  
11 equivalency diploma issued by the Department of Education  
12 pursuant to s. 1003.435 ~~229.814~~, or have earned an equivalency  
13 diploma issued by the United States Armed Forces Institute;

14           Section 1035. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of  
15 section 633.50, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16           633.50 Division powers and duties; Florida State Fire  
17 College.--

18           (1) The Division of State Fire Marshal of the  
19 Department of Insurance, in performing its duties related to  
20 the Florida State Fire College, specified in ss.  
21 633.43-633.49, shall:

22           (e) Develop a staffing and funding formula for the  
23 Florida State Fire College. The formula shall include  
24 differential funding levels for various types of programs,  
25 shall be based on the number of full-time equivalent students  
26 and information obtained from scheduled attendance counts  
27 taken the first day of each program, and shall provide the  
28 basis for the legislative budget request. As used in this  
29 section, a full-time equivalent student is equal to a minimum  
30 of 900 hours in a technical certificate ~~vocational~~ program and  
31 400 hours in a degree-seeking program. The funding formula

1 shall be as prescribed pursuant to s. 1011.62 ~~236.081~~, shall  
 2 include procedures to document daily attendance, and shall  
 3 require that attendance records be retained for audit  
 4 purposes.

5 Section 1036. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of  
 6 section 732.402, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 732.402 Exempt property.--

8 (2) Exempt property shall consist of:

9 (c) Florida Prepaid College Program contracts  
 10 purchased ~~under s. 240.551~~ and Florida College Savings  
 11 agreements established under part IV of chapter 1009 ~~s.~~  
 12 ~~240.553~~.

13 Section 1037. Section 784.081, Florida Statutes, is  
 14 amended to read:

15 784.081 Assault or battery on specified officials or  
 16 employees; reclassification of offenses.--Whenever a person is  
 17 charged with committing an assault or aggravated assault or a  
 18 battery or aggravated battery upon any elected official or  
 19 employee of: a school district; a private school; the Florida  
 20 School for the Deaf and the Blind; a university developmental  
 21 research school; a state university or any other entity of the  
 22 state system of public education, as defined in s. 1000.04  
 23 ~~228.041~~; an employee or protective investigator of the  
 24 Department of Children and Family Services; or an employee of  
 25 a lead community-based provider and its direct service  
 26 contract providers, when the person committing the offense  
 27 knows or has reason to know the identity or position or  
 28 employment of the victim, the offense for which the person is  
 29 charged shall be reclassified as follows:

30 (1) In the case of aggravated battery, from a felony  
 31 of the second degree to a felony of the first degree.

1           (2) In the case of aggravated assault, from a felony  
2 of the third degree to a felony of the second degree.

3           (3) In the case of battery, from a misdemeanor of the  
4 first degree to a felony of the third degree.

5           (4) In the case of assault, from a misdemeanor of the  
6 second degree to a misdemeanor of the first degree.

7           Section 1038. Section 817.566, Florida Statutes, is  
8 amended to read:

9           817.566 Misrepresentation of association with, or  
10 academic standing at, postsecondary educational  
11 institution.--Any person who, with intent to defraud,  
12 misrepresents his or her association with, or academic  
13 standing or other progress at, any postsecondary educational  
14 institution by falsely making, altering, simulating, or  
15 forging a document, degree, certificate, diploma, award,  
16 record, letter, transcript, form, or other paper; or any  
17 person who causes or procures such a misrepresentation; or any  
18 person who utters and publishes or otherwise represents such a  
19 document, degree, certificate, diploma, award, record, letter,  
20 transcript, form, or other paper as true, knowing it to be  
21 false, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree,  
22 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

23 Individuals who present a religious academic degree from any  
24 college, university, seminary, or institution which is not  
25 licensed by the State Board of Independent Colleges and  
26 Universities or which is not exempt pursuant to the provisions  
27 of s. 246.085 shall disclose the religious nature of the  
28 degree upon presentation.

29           Section 1039. Subsection (1) of section 817.567,  
30 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31

1           817.567 Making false claims of academic degree or  
2 title.--

3           (1) No person in the state may claim, either orally or  
4 in writing, to possess an academic degree, as defined in s.  
5 1005.02 ~~246.021~~, or the title associated with said degree,  
6 unless the person has, in fact, been awarded said degree from  
7 an institution that is:

8           (a) Accredited by a regional or professional  
9 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department  
10 of Education or the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary  
11 Accreditation;

12           (b) Provided, operated, and supported by a state  
13 government or any of its political subdivisions or by the  
14 Federal Government;

15           (c) A school, institute, college, or university  
16 chartered outside the United States, the academic degree from  
17 which has been validated by an accrediting agency approved by  
18 the United States Department of Education as equivalent to the  
19 baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate degree conferred by a  
20 regionally accredited college or university in the United  
21 States;

22           (d) Licensed by the State Board of Independent  
23 Colleges and Universities pursuant to ss. 1005.01-1005.38  
24 ~~246.011-246.151~~ or exempt from licensure pursuant to s.  
25 246.085; or

26           (e) A religious seminary, institute, college, or  
27 university which offers only educational programs that prepare  
28 students for a religious vocation, career, occupation,  
29 profession, or lifework, and the nomenclature of whose  
30 certificates, diplomas, or degrees clearly identifies the  
31 religious character of the educational program.

1 Section 1040. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of  
2 section 877.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3 877.18 Identification card or document purporting to  
4 contain applicant's age or date of birth; penalties for  
5 failure to comply with requirements for sale or issuance.--

6 (1) It is unlawful for any person, except a  
7 governmental agency or instrumentality, to sell or issue, or  
8 to offer to sell or issue, in this state any identification  
9 card or document purporting to contain the age or date of  
10 birth of the person in whose name it was issued, unless:

11 (a) Prior to selling or issuing such card or document,  
12 the person has first obtained from the applicant and retains  
13 for a period of 3 years from the date of sale:

14 1. An authenticated or certified copy of proof of age  
15 as provided in s. 1003.21(4) ~~232.03~~; and

16 2. A notarized affidavit from the applicant attesting  
17 to the applicant's age and that the proof-of-age document  
18 required by subparagraph 1. is for such applicant.

19 Section 1041. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of  
20 section 921.187, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21 921.187 Disposition and sentencing; alternatives;  
22 restitution.--

23 (1) The alternatives provided in this section for the  
24 disposition of criminal cases shall be used in a manner that  
25 will best serve the needs of society, punish criminal  
26 offenders, and provide the opportunity for rehabilitation.

27 (a) If the offender does not receive a state prison  
28 sentence, the court may:

29 1. Impose a split sentence whereby the offender is to  
30 be placed on probation upon completion of any specified period  
31

1 of such sentence, which period may include a term of years or  
2 less.

3           2. Make any other disposition that is authorized by  
4 law.

5           3. Place the offender on probation with or without an  
6 adjudication of guilt pursuant to s. 948.01.

7           4. Impose a fine and probation pursuant to s. 948.011  
8 when the offense is punishable by both a fine and imprisonment  
9 and probation is authorized.

10           5. Place the offender into community control requiring  
11 intensive supervision and surveillance pursuant to chapter  
12 948.

13           6. Impose, as a condition of probation or community  
14 control, a period of treatment which shall be restricted to a  
15 county facility, a Department of Corrections probation and  
16 restitution center, a probation program drug punishment  
17 treatment community, or a community residential or  
18 nonresidential facility, excluding a community correctional  
19 center as defined in s. 944.026, which is owned and operated  
20 by any qualified public or private entity providing such  
21 services. Before admission to such a facility, the court shall  
22 obtain an individual assessment and recommendations on the  
23 appropriate treatment needs, which shall be considered by the  
24 court in ordering such placements. Placement in such a  
25 facility, except for a county residential probation facility,  
26 may not exceed 364 days. Placement in a county residential  
27 probation facility may not exceed 3 years. Early termination  
28 of placement may be recommended to the court, when  
29 appropriate, by the center supervisor, the supervising  
30 probation officer, or the probation program manager.

31

1           7. Sentence the offender pursuant to s. 922.051 to  
2 imprisonment in a county jail when a statute directs  
3 imprisonment in a state prison, if the offender's cumulative  
4 sentence, whether from the same circuit or from separate  
5 circuits, is not more than 364 days.

6           8. Sentence the offender who is to be punished by  
7 imprisonment in a county jail to a jail in another county if  
8 there is no jail within the county suitable for such prisoner  
9 pursuant to s. 950.01.

10           9. Require the offender to participate in a  
11 work-release or educational or technical ~~vocational~~ training  
12 program pursuant to s. 951.24 while serving a sentence in a  
13 county jail, if such a program is available.

14           10. Require the offender to perform a specified public  
15 service pursuant to s. 775.091.

16           11. Require the offender who violates chapter 893 or  
17 violates any law while under the influence of a controlled  
18 substance or alcohol to participate in a substance abuse  
19 program.

20           12.a. Require the offender who violates any criminal  
21 provision of chapter 893 to pay an additional assessment in an  
22 amount up to the amount of any fine imposed, pursuant to ss.  
23 938.21 and 938.23.

24           b. Require the offender who violates any provision of  
25 s. 893.13 to pay an additional assessment in an amount of  
26 \$100, pursuant to ss. 938.25 and 943.361.

27           13. Impose a split sentence whereby the offender is to  
28 be placed in a county jail or county work camp upon the  
29 completion of any specified term of community supervision.

30           14. Impose split probation whereby upon satisfactory  
31 completion of half the term of probation, the Department of

1 Corrections may place the offender on administrative probation  
 2 pursuant to s. 948.01 for the remainder of the term of  
 3 supervision.

4 15. Require residence in a state probation and  
 5 restitution center or private drug treatment program for  
 6 offenders on community control or offenders who have violated  
 7 conditions of probation.

8 16. Impose any other sanction which is provided within  
 9 the community and approved as an intermediate sanction by the  
 10 county public safety coordinating council as described in s.  
 11 951.26.

12 17. Impose, as a condition of community control,  
 13 probation, or probation following incarceration, a requirement  
 14 that an offender who has not obtained a high school diploma or  
 15 high school equivalency diploma or who lacks basic or  
 16 functional literacy skills, upon acceptance by an adult  
 17 education program, make a good faith effort toward completion  
 18 of such basic or functional literacy skills or high school  
 19 equivalency diploma, as defined in s. 1003.435 ~~229.814~~, in  
 20 accordance with the assessed adult general education needs of  
 21 the individual offender.

22 Section 1042. Subsection (15) of section 943.10,  
 23 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

24 943.10 Definitions; ss. 943.085-943.255.--The  
 25 following words and phrases as used in ss. 943.085-943.255 are  
 26 defined as follows:

27 (15) "Public criminal justice training school" means  
 28 ~~any school defined in s. 228.041, or~~ any academy operated by  
 29 an employing agency, that is certified by the commission to  
 30 conduct criminal justice training courses.  
 31

1 Section 1043. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of  
2 section 943.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3 943.22 Salary incentive program for full-time  
4 officers.--

5 (1) For the purpose of this section, the term:

6 (c) "Community college degree or equivalent" means  
7 graduation from an accredited community college or having been  
8 granted a degree pursuant to s. 1007.25(10) ~~240.239~~ or  
9 successful completion of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours  
10 and eligibility to receive an associate degree from an  
11 accredited college, university, or community college.

12 Section 1044. Paragraphs (b), (c), and (i) of  
13 subsection (3) of section 944.801, Florida Statutes, are  
14 amended to read:

15 944.801 Education for state prisoners.--

16 (3) The responsibilities of the Correctional Education  
17 Program shall be to:

18 (b) ~~In cooperation with the Department of Education,~~  
19 ~~pursuant to s. 229.565,~~ Monitor and assess all inmate  
20 education program services and report the results of such  
21 evaluation in the annual report of activities.

22 (c) ~~In cooperation with the Department of Education,~~  
23 ~~pursuant to s. 229.8075,~~ Develop complete and reliable  
24 statistics on the educational histories, the city/intracity  
25 area and school district where the inmate was domiciled prior  
26 to incarceration, the participation in state educational and  
27 training programs, and the occupations of inmates confined to  
28 state correctional facilities. The compiled statistics shall  
29 be summarized and analyzed in the annual report of  
30 correctional educational activities required by paragraph (f).  
31

1 (i) Ensure that every inmate who has 2 years or more  
2 remaining to serve on his or her sentence at the time that he  
3 or she is received at an institution and who lacks basic and  
4 functional literacy skills as defined in s. 1004.02 ~~239.105~~  
5 attends not fewer than 150 hours of sequential instruction in  
6 a correctional adult basic education program. The basic and  
7 functional literacy level of an inmate shall be determined by  
8 the average composite test score obtained on a test approved  
9 for this purpose by the State Board of Education.

10 1. Upon completion of the 150 hours of instruction,  
11 the inmate shall be retested and, if a composite test score of  
12 functional literacy is not attained, the department is  
13 authorized to require the inmate to remain in the  
14 instructional program.

15 2. Highest priority of inmate participation shall be  
16 focused on youthful offenders and those inmates nearing  
17 release from the correctional system.

18 3. An inmate shall be required to attend the 150 hours  
19 of adult basic education instruction unless such inmate:

20 a. Is serving a life sentence or is under sentence of  
21 death.

22 b. Is specifically exempted for security or health  
23 reasons.

24 c. Is housed at a community correctional center, road  
25 prison, work camp, or vocational center.

26 d. Attains a functional literacy level after  
27 attendance in fewer than 150 hours of adult basic education  
28 instruction.

29 e. Is unable to enter such instruction because of  
30 insufficient facilities, staff, or classroom capacity.

31

1           4. The Department of Corrections shall provide classes  
2 to accommodate those inmates assigned to correctional or  
3 public work programs after normal working hours. The  
4 department shall develop a plan to provide academic and  
5 vocational classes on a more frequent basis and at times that  
6 accommodate the increasing number of inmates with work  
7 assignments, to the extent that resources permit.

8           5. If an inmate attends and actively participates in  
9 the 150 hours of instruction, the Department of Corrections  
10 may grant a one-time award of up to 6 additional days of  
11 incentive gain-time, which must be credited and applied as  
12 provided by law. Active participation means, at a minimum,  
13 that the inmate is attentive, responsive, cooperative, and  
14 completes assigned work.

15           Section 1045. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (9)  
16 of section 948.03, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

17           948.03 Terms and conditions of probation or community  
18 control.--

19           (9)(a) As a condition of community control, probation,  
20 or probation following incarceration, require an offender who  
21 has not obtained a high school diploma or high school  
22 equivalency diploma or who lacks basic or functional literacy  
23 skills, upon acceptance by an adult education program, to make  
24 a good faith effort toward completion of such basic or  
25 functional literacy skills or high school equivalency diploma,  
26 as defined in s. 1003.435 ~~229.814~~, in accordance with the  
27 assessed adult general education needs of the individual  
28 offender. The court shall not revoke community control,  
29 probation, or probation following incarceration because of the  
30 offender's inability to achieve such skills or diploma but may  
31 revoke community control, probation, or probation following

1 incarceration if the offender fails to make a good faith  
2 effort to achieve such skills or diploma. The court may grant  
3 early termination of community control, probation, or  
4 probation following incarceration upon the offender's  
5 successful completion of the approved program. As used in  
6 this subsection, "good faith effort" means the offender is  
7 enrolled in a program of instruction and is attending and  
8 making satisfactory progress toward completion of the  
9 requirements.

10 (b) A juvenile on community control who is a public  
11 school student must attend a public adult education program or  
12 a dropout prevention program, pursuant to s. 1003.53 ~~230.2316~~,  
13 which includes a second chance school or an alternative to  
14 expulsion, if the school district where the juvenile is  
15 enrolled offers such programs, unless the principal of the  
16 school determines that special circumstances warrant  
17 continuation in the regular educational school program.

18 Section 1046. Paragraph (b) of subsection (9) and  
19 subsection (27) of section 984.03, Florida Statutes, are  
20 amended to read:

21 984.03 Definitions.--When used in this chapter, the  
22 term:

23 (9) "Child in need of services" means a child for whom  
24 there is no pending investigation into an allegation or  
25 suspicion of abuse, neglect, or abandonment; no pending  
26 referral alleging the child is delinquent; or no current  
27 supervision by the Department of Juvenile Justice or the  
28 Department of Children and Family Services for an adjudication  
29 of dependency or delinquency. The child must also, pursuant to  
30 this chapter, be found by the court:  
31

1 (b) To be habitually truant from school, while subject  
 2 to compulsory school attendance, despite reasonable efforts to  
 3 remedy the situation pursuant to ss. 1003.26 ~~232.17~~ and  
 4 1003.27 ~~232.19~~ and through voluntary participation by the  
 5 child's parents or legal custodians and by the child in family  
 6 mediation, services, and treatment offered by the Department  
 7 of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Children and Family  
 8 Services; or

9 (27) "Habitually truant" means that:

10 (a) The child has 15 unexcused absences within 90  
 11 calendar days with or without the knowledge or justifiable  
 12 consent of the child's parent or legal guardian, is subject to  
 13 compulsory school attendance under s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a)  
 14 ~~232.01~~, and is not exempt under s. 1003.21(3) ~~232.06~~, s.  
 15 1003.24 ~~232.09~~, or any other exemptions specified by law or  
 16 the rules of the State Board of Education.

17 (b) Activities to determine the cause, and to attempt  
 18 the remediation, of the child's truant behavior under ss.  
 19 1003.26 ~~232.17~~ and 1003.27(3) ~~232.19(3)~~, have been completed.

20  
 21 If a child who is subject to compulsory school attendance is  
 22 responsive to the interventions described in ss. 1003.26  
 23 ~~232.17~~ and 1003.27(3) ~~232.19(3)~~ and has completed the  
 24 necessary requirements to pass the current grade as indicated  
 25 in the district pupil progression plan, the child shall not be  
 26 determined to be habitually truant and shall be passed. If a  
 27 child within the compulsory school attendance age has 15  
 28 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days or fails to enroll  
 29 in school, the State Attorney may, or the appropriate  
 30 jurisdictional agency shall, file a child-in-need-of-services  
 31 petition if recommended by the case staffing committee, unless

1 it is determined that another alternative action is  
 2 preferable. The failure or refusal of the parent or legal  
 3 guardian or the child to participate, or make a good faith  
 4 effort to participate, in the activities prescribed to remedy  
 5 the truant behavior, or the failure or refusal of the child to  
 6 return to school after participation in activities required by  
 7 this subsection, or the failure of the child to stop the  
 8 truant behavior after the school administration and the  
 9 Department of Juvenile Justice have worked with the child as  
 10 described in ss. 1003.26 ~~232.17~~ and 1003.27(3) ~~232.19(3)~~ shall  
 11 be handled as prescribed in s. 1003.27 ~~232.19~~.

12 Section 1047. Section 984.05, Florida Statutes, is  
 13 amended to read:

14 984.05 Rules relating to habitual truants; adoption by  
 15 State Board ~~Department~~ of Education and Department of Juvenile  
 16 Justice.--The Department of Juvenile Justice and the State  
 17 Board ~~Department~~ of Education shall work together on the  
 18 development of, and shall adopt, rules as necessary for the  
 19 implementation of ss. ~~232.19~~, 984.03(27), ~~and~~ 985.03(25), and  
 20 1003.27.

21 Section 1048. Subsection (1) of section 984.151,  
 22 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

23 984.151 Truancy petition; prosecution; disposition.--

24 (1) If the school determines that a student subject to  
 25 compulsory school attendance has had at least five unexcused  
 26 absences, or absences for which the reasons are unknown,  
 27 within a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences, or absences  
 28 for which the reasons are unknown, within a 90-calendar-day  
 29 period pursuant to s. 1003.26(1)(b) ~~232.17(1)(b)~~, or has had  
 30 more than 15 unexcused absences in a 90-calendar-day period,  
 31 the superintendent of schools may file a truancy petition.

1           Section 1049. Subsection (3) of section 984.19,  
2 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3           984.19 Medical, psychiatric, and psychological  
4 examination and treatment of child; physical or mental  
5 examination of parent, guardian, or person requesting custody  
6 of child.--

7           (3) A judge may order that a child alleged to be or  
8 adjudicated a child in need of services be examined by a  
9 licensed health care professional. The judge may also order  
10 such child to be evaluated by a psychiatrist or a  
11 psychologist, by a district school board educational needs  
12 assessment team, or, if a developmental disability is  
13 suspected or alleged, by the developmental disability  
14 diagnostic and evaluation team of the Department of Children  
15 and Family Services. The judge may order a family assessment  
16 if that assessment was not completed at an earlier time. If  
17 it is necessary to place a child in a residential facility for  
18 such evaluation, then the criteria and procedure established  
19 in s. 394.463(2) or chapter 393 shall be used, whichever is  
20 applicable. The educational needs assessment provided by the  
21 district school board educational needs assessment team shall  
22 include, but not be limited to, reports of intelligence and  
23 achievement tests, screening for learning disabilities and  
24 other handicaps, and screening for the need for alternative  
25 education pursuant to s. 1003.53 ~~230-2316~~.

26           Section 1050. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) and  
27 subsection (25) of section 985.03, Florida Statutes, are  
28 amended to read:

29           985.03 Definitions.--When used in this chapter, the  
30 term:

31

1           (8) "Child in need of services" means a child for whom  
2 there is no pending investigation into an allegation or  
3 suspicion of abuse, neglect, or abandonment; no pending  
4 referral alleging the child is delinquent; or no current  
5 supervision by the Department of Juvenile Justice or the  
6 Department of Children and Family Services for an adjudication  
7 of dependency or delinquency. The child must also, pursuant to  
8 this chapter, be found by the court:

9           (b) To be habitually truant from school, while subject  
10 to compulsory school attendance, despite reasonable efforts to  
11 remedy the situation pursuant to ss. 1003.26 ~~232.17~~ and  
12 1003.27 ~~232.19~~ and through voluntary participation by the  
13 child's parents or legal custodians and by the child in family  
14 mediation, services, and treatment offered by the Department  
15 of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Children and Family  
16 Services; or

17           (25) "Habitually truant" means that:

18           (a) The child has 15 unexcused absences within 90  
19 calendar days with or without the knowledge or justifiable  
20 consent of the child's parent or legal guardian, is subject to  
21 compulsory school attendance under s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a)  
22 ~~232.01~~, and is not exempt under s. 1003.21(3) ~~232.06~~, s.  
23 1003.24 ~~232.09~~, or any other exemptions specified by law or  
24 the rules of the State Board of Education.

25           (b) Escalating activities to determine the cause, and  
26 to attempt the remediation, of the child's truant behavior  
27 under ss. 1003.26 ~~232.17~~ and 1003.27 ~~232.19~~ have been  
28 completed.

29  
30 If a child who is subject to compulsory school attendance is  
31 responsive to the interventions described in ss. 1003.26

1 ~~232.17~~ and 1003.27 ~~232.19~~ and has completed the necessary  
2 requirements to pass the current grade as indicated in the  
3 district pupil progression plan, the child shall not be  
4 determined to be habitually truant and shall be passed. If a  
5 child within the compulsory school attendance age has 15  
6 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days or fails to enroll  
7 in school, the state attorney may file a  
8 child-in-need-of-services petition. Prior to filing a  
9 petition, the child must be referred to the appropriate agency  
10 for evaluation. After consulting with the evaluating agency,  
11 the state attorney may elect to file a  
12 child-in-need-of-services petition.

13 (c) A school representative, designated according to  
14 school board policy, and a juvenile probation officer of the  
15 Department of Juvenile Justice have jointly investigated the  
16 truancy problem or, if that was not feasible, have performed  
17 separate investigations to identify conditions that could be  
18 contributing to the truant behavior; and if, after a joint  
19 staffing of the case to determine the necessity for services,  
20 such services were determined to be needed, the persons who  
21 performed the investigations met jointly with the family and  
22 child to discuss any referral to appropriate community  
23 agencies for economic services, family or individual  
24 counseling, or other services required to remedy the  
25 conditions that are contributing to the truant behavior.

26 (d) The failure or refusal of the parent or legal  
27 guardian or the child to participate, or make a good faith  
28 effort to participate, in the activities prescribed to remedy  
29 the truant behavior, or the failure or refusal of the child to  
30 return to school after participation in activities required by  
31 this subsection, or the failure of the child to stop the

1 truant behavior after the school administration and the  
 2 Department of Juvenile Justice have worked with the child as  
 3 described in s. 1003.27(3) ~~232.19(3)~~ shall be handled as  
 4 prescribed in s. 1003.27 ~~232.19~~.

5 Section 1051. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of  
 6 section 985.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 985.04 Oaths; records; confidential information.--

8 (7)

9 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) or any other  
 10 provision of this section, when a child of any age is formally  
 11 charged by a state attorney with a felony or a delinquent act  
 12 that would be a felony if committed by an adult, the state  
 13 attorney shall notify the superintendent of the child's school  
 14 that the child has been charged with such felony or delinquent  
 15 act. The information obtained by the superintendent of schools  
 16 pursuant to this section must be released within 48 hours  
 17 after receipt to appropriate school personnel, including the  
 18 principal of the school of the child. The principal must  
 19 immediately notify the child's immediate classroom teachers.  
 20 Upon notification, the principal is authorized to begin  
 21 disciplinary actions pursuant to s. 1006.09(1)-(4) ~~232.26~~.

22 Section 1052. Subsection (5) of section 985.316,  
 23 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

24 985.316 Conditional release.--

25 (5) Participation in the educational program by  
 26 students of compulsory school attendance age pursuant to s.  
 27 1003.21(1) and (2)(a) ~~232.01~~ is mandatory for juvenile justice  
 28 youth on conditional release or postcommitment probation  
 29 status. A student of noncompulsory school-attendance age who  
 30 has not received a high school diploma or its equivalent must  
 31 participate in the educational program. A youth who has

1 received a high school diploma or its equivalent and is not  
2 employed must participate in workforce development or other  
3 career ~~vocational~~ or technical education or attend a community  
4 college or a university while in the program, subject to  
5 available funding.

6 Section 1053. Subsection (3) of section 985.412,  
7 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8 985.412 Quality assurance and cost-effectiveness.--

9 (3) The department shall annually collect and report  
10 cost data for every program operated or contracted by the  
11 department. The cost data shall conform to a format approved  
12 by the department and the Legislature. Uniform cost data shall  
13 be reported and collected for state-operated and contracted  
14 programs so that comparisons can be made among programs. The  
15 department shall ensure that there is accurate cost accounting  
16 for state-operated services including market-equivalent rent  
17 and other shared cost. The cost of the educational program  
18 provided to a residential facility shall be reported and  
19 included in the cost of a program. The department shall submit  
20 an annual cost report to the President of the Senate, the  
21 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader  
22 of each house of the Legislature, the appropriate substantive  
23 and fiscal committees of each house of the Legislature, and  
24 the Governor, no later than December 1 of each year.  
25 Cost-benefit analysis for educational programs will be  
26 developed and implemented in collaboration with and in  
27 cooperation with the Department of Education, local providers,  
28 and local school districts. Cost data for the report shall  
29 include data collected by the Department of Education for the  
30 purposes of preparing the annual report required by s.  
31 1003.52(20) ~~230.23161(21)~~.

1           Section 1054. The purpose of the Legislature in  
2 revising this education code is to rearrange, renumber,  
3 reword, reorder, streamline, consolidate, and update the code  
4 consistent with current law and the new K-20 education  
5 governance structure. It is not the purpose of the Legislature  
6 in revising the education code to affect existing judicial or  
7 administrative law.

8           Section 1055. Effective upon this act becoming a law,  
9 the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the  
10 Commissioner of Education, may establish, abolish, or  
11 consolidate bureaus, sections, and subsections and may  
12 reallocate duties and functions within the Department of  
13 Education in order to promote effective and efficient  
14 operation of the department and to implement changes to the  
15 state system of education initiated by the adoption of the  
16 1998 amendment to Art. IX of the State Constitution as  
17 implemented by the Legislature in chapter 2001-170, Laws of  
18 Florida. Authorized positions and appropriations may be  
19 transferred from one budget entity to another as required to  
20 implement the reorganization. This section is repealed  
21 December 31, 2002.

22           Section 1056. Subsection (1) of section 187.201,  
23 Florida Statutes, is repealed.

24           Section 1057. Section 2 of chapter 2000-181, Laws of  
25 Florida, is repealed.

26           Section 1058. Part I of chapter 243 and chapters 228,  
27 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 239, 240, 241,  
28 242, 244, and 246, Florida Statutes (2001), are repealed,  
29 except that any exemption from public records or public  
30 meetings laws contained in such part or chapters that has been  
31 continued in effect by this act shall be considered to have

1 been transferred effective January 7, 2003, rather than  
2 repealed.

3       Section 1059. In editing the manuscript for the 2002  
4 Florida Statutes, the Division of Statutory Revision is  
5 directed to incorporate any amendments, by laws passed during  
6 the 2002 Regular Session of the Legislature or any 2002  
7 Special Sessions of the Legislature, to provisions repealed by  
8 this act into the parallel successor provisions created by  
9 this act. The division is further directed to transfer any  
10 provisions enacted within part I of chapter 243 or chapters  
11 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 239, 240,  
12 241, 242, 244, and 246, Florida Statutes, by 2002 legislation  
13 to parallel locations in accordance with this act.

14       Section 1060. (1) Chapters 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003,  
15 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, and  
16 1013, Florida Statutes, as created by this act, shall be  
17 reviewed by the Legislature in the 2003 Regular Session of the  
18 Legislature.

19       (2) This section is repealed July 1, 2003.

20       Section 1061. Each district school board shall develop  
21 a plan for a K-12 foreign language curriculum and must submit  
22 its plan to the Commissioner of Education by June 30, 2004.

23       Section 1062. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of  
24 section 110.1099, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25       110.1099 Education and training opportunities for  
26 state employees.--

27       (1)(a) Education and training are an integral  
28 component in improving the delivery of services to the public.  
29 Recognizing that the application of productivity-enhancing  
30 technology and practice demands continuous educational and  
31 training opportunities, a state employee may be authorized to

1 receive a voucher or grant, for matriculation fees, to attend  
2 work-related courses at public community colleges, public  
3 technical centers, or public universities. ~~Student credit~~  
4 ~~hours generated by state employee fee waivers shall be~~  
5 ~~fundable credit hours.~~ The department may implement the  
6 provisions of this section from funds appropriated to the  
7 department for this purpose. In the event insufficient funds  
8 are appropriated to the department, each state agency may  
9 supplement these funds to support the training and education  
10 needs of its employees from funds appropriated to the agency.

11 Section 1063. The Department of Education shall each  
12 year distribute for informational purposes to all district  
13 school board members, district school superintendents, school  
14 principals, and teachers the entire guidelines on "Religious  
15 Expression in Public Schools" published by the United States  
16 Department of Education, as updated from time to time.

17 Section 1064. If any provision of this act or its  
18 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
19 invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications  
20 of the act which can be given effect without the invalid  
21 provision or application, and to this end the provisions of  
22 this act are declared severable.

23 Section 1065. Except as otherwise provided herein,  
24 this act shall take effect January 7, 2003.

25  
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31