

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Representative Polo offered the following:

2  
3 **Amendment**

4 Remove lines 535-876 and insert:

5 3. Each school of hope shall have a student enrollment  
6 that at least 40 percent of which consists of students who  
7 reside within the Florida Opportunity Zone in which the school  
8 of hope is located or from the attendance zone of a persistently  
9 low-performing school serviced by the school of hope, or a  
10 combination thereof.

11 (4) ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS OF HOPE.—A hope operator  
12 seeking to open a school of hope must submit a notice of intent  
13 to the school district in which a persistently low-performing

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14 school has been identified by the State Board of Education  
15 pursuant to subsection (10) or in which a Florida Opportunity  
16 Zone is located.

17 (a) The notice of intent must include:

18 1. An academic focus and plan.

19 2. A financial plan.

20 3. Goals and objectives for increasing student achievement  
21 for the students from low-income families.

22 4. A completed or planned community outreach plan.

23 5. The organizational history of success in working with  
24 students with similar demographics.

25 6. The grade levels to be served and enrollment  
26 projections.

27 7. The proposed location or geographic area proposed for  
28 the school consistent with the requirements of sub-subparagraphs  
29 (1) (d) 1.a. and b and its proximity to the persistently low-  
30 performing school.

31 8. A staffing plan.

32 9. A recruitment plan for students who reside within the  
33 Florida Opportunity Zone in which the school of hope is located,  
34 if applicable, or within the attendance zone of the persistently  
35 low-performing schools serviced by the school of hope.

36 (b) Notwithstanding the requirements of s. 1002.33, a  
37 school district shall enter into a performance-based agreement  
38 with a hope operator to open schools to serve students from

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39 | persistently low-performing schools and students residing in a  
40 | Florida Opportunity Zone.

41 | (5) PERFORMANCE-BASED AGREEMENT.—The following shall  
42 | comprise the entirety of the performance-based agreement:

43 | (b) The location or geographic area proposed for the  
44 | school of hope and its proximity to the persistently low-  
45 | performing school, as applicable.

46 | (d) A plan of action and specific milestones for student  
47 | recruitment and the enrollment of students from persistently  
48 | low-performing schools and students residing in a Florida  
49 | Opportunity Zone, including enrollment preferences and  
50 | procedures for conducting transparent admissions lotteries that  
51 | are open to the public. Students from persistently low-  
52 | performing schools and students residing in a Florida  
53 | Opportunity Zone shall be exempt from any enrollment lottery to  
54 | the extent permitted by federal grant requirements.

55 | (h) A provision allowing the hope operator to open  
56 | additional schools to serve students enrolled in or zoned for a  
57 | persistently low-performing school and students residing in a  
58 | Florida Opportunity Zone if the hope operator maintains its  
59 | status under subsection (3).

60 | (10) SCHOOLS OF HOPE PROGRAM.—The Schools of Hope Program  
61 | is created within the Department of Education.

62 | (a) A school of hope is eligible to receive funds from the  
63 | Schools of Hope Program for the following expenditures:

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- 64           1. Preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized  
65 instructional support personnel, including costs associated  
66 with:
- 67           a. Providing professional development.
- 68           b. Hiring and compensating teachers, school leaders, and  
69 specialized instructional support personnel for services ~~beyond~~  
70 the school day and year until the school reaches full enrollment  
71 in accordance with the performance-based agreement pursuant to  
72 subsection (5).
- 73           2. Acquiring supplies, training, equipment, and  
74 educational materials, including developing and acquiring  
75 instructional materials.
- 76           3. Providing one-time startup costs associated with  
77 providing transportation to students to and from the charter  
78 school.
- 79           4. Carrying out community engagement activities, which may  
80 include paying the cost of student and staff recruitment.
- 81           5. Providing funds to cover the nonvoted ad valorem  
82 millage that would otherwise be required for schools and the  
83 required local effort funds calculated pursuant to s. 1011.62  
84 when the state board enters into an agreement with a hope  
85 operator pursuant to subsection (5).
- 86           6. Providing funds for the initial leasing costs of a  
87 school facility in the event the department determines that a

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88 suitable district-owned facility is unavailable or not leased in  
89 a timely manner pursuant to paragraph (7) (d).

90  
91 In the event a school of hope is dissolved or is otherwise  
92 terminated, all property, furnishings, and equipment purchased  
93 with public funds shall automatically revert to full ownership  
94 by the district school board, subject to complete satisfaction  
95 of any lawful liens or encumbrances. Any unencumbered public  
96 funds from the school of hope, district school board property  
97 and improvements, furnishings, and equipment purchased with  
98 public funds, or financial or other records pertaining to the  
99 school of hope, in the possession of any person, entity, or  
100 holding company, other than the charter school, shall be held in  
101 trust upon the district school board's request, until any appeal  
102 status is resolved.

103 ~~(b) A traditional public school that is required to submit~~  
104 ~~a plan for implementation pursuant to s. 1008.33(4) is eligible~~  
105 ~~to receive up to \$2,000 per full-time equivalent student from~~  
106 ~~the Schools of Hope Program based upon the strength of the~~  
107 ~~school's plan for implementation and its focus on evidence-based~~  
108 ~~interventions that lead to student success by providing wrap-~~  
109 ~~around services that leverage community assets, improve school~~  
110 ~~and community collaboration, and develop family and community~~  
111 ~~partnerships. Wrap-around services include, but are not limited~~  
112 ~~to, tutorial and after-school programs, student counseling,~~

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~~nutrition education, parental counseling, and adult education.  
Plans for implementation may also include models that develop a  
culture of attending college, high academic expectations,  
character development, dress codes, and an extended school day  
and school year. At a minimum, a plan for implementation must:~~

- ~~1. Establish wrap-around services that develop family and  
community partnerships.~~
- ~~2. Establish clearly defined and measurable high academic  
and character standards.~~
- ~~3. Increase parental involvement and engagement in the  
child's education.~~
- ~~4. Describe how the school district will identify,  
recruit, retain, and reward instructional personnel. The state  
board may waive the requirements of s. 1012.22(1)(c)5., and  
suspend the requirements of s. 1012.34, to facilitate  
implementation of the plan.~~
- ~~5. Identify a knowledge-rich curriculum that the school  
will use that focuses on developing a student's background  
knowledge.~~
- ~~6. Provide professional development that focuses on  
academic rigor, direct instruction, and creating high academic  
and character standards.~~

~~(c) The state board shall:~~

- ~~1. Provide awards for up to 25 schools and prioritize  
awards for plans submitted pursuant to paragraph (b) that are~~

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138 ~~based on whole school transformation and that are developed in~~  
139 ~~consultation with the school's principal.~~

140 ~~2. Annually report on the implementation of this~~  
141 ~~subsection in the report required by s. 1008.345(5), and provide~~  
142 ~~summarized academic performance reports of each traditional~~  
143 ~~public school receiving funds.~~

144 ~~(d)~~ Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351,  
145 funds allocated for the purpose of this subsection which are not  
146 disbursed by June 30 of the fiscal year in which the funds are  
147 allocated may be carried forward for up to 5 years after the  
148 effective date of the original appropriation.

149 (11) STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—  
150 Pursuant to Art. IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes  
151 the duty of the State Board of Education to supervise the public  
152 school system, the State Board of Education shall:

153 (b) Adopt a standard notice of intent and performance-  
154 based agreement that must be used by hope operators and district  
155 school boards to eliminate regulatory and bureaucratic barriers  
156 that delay access to high quality schools for students in  
157 persistently low-performing schools and students residing in  
158 Florida Opportunity Zones.

159 (d) Provide students in persistently low-performing  
160 schools and students residing in Florida Opportunity Zones with  
161 a public school that meets accountability standards. The State  
162 Board of Education may enter into a performance-based agreement

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163 with a hope operator when a school district has not improved the  
164 school after 3 years of the interventions and support provided  
165 under s. 1008.33 or has not complied with the requirements of  
166 subsection (4). Upon the State Board of Education entering into  
167 a performance-based agreement with a hope operator, the school  
168 district shall transfer to the school of hope the proportionate  
169 share of state funds allocated from the Florida Education  
170 Finance Program.

171 Section 6. Section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, is created  
172 to read:

173 1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

174 (1) PURPOSE.—The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program is  
175 established to provide children of families in this state which  
176 have limited financial resources with educational options to  
177 achieve success in their education.

178 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

179 (a) "Department" means the Department of Education.

180 (b) "Eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization"  
181 has the same meaning as provided in s. 1002.395(2)(f).

182 (c) "Eligible private school" has the same meaning as  
183 provided in s. 1002.395(2)(g).

184 (d) "Parent" means a resident of this state who is a  
185 parent, as defined in s. 1000.21.

186 (e) "Program" means the Family Empowerment Scholarship  
187 Program.

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188 (3) INITIAL SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—A student is eligible  
189 for a Family Empowerment Scholarship under this section if the  
190 student meets the following criteria:

191 (a)1. The student is on the direct certification list  
192 pursuant to s. 1002.395(2)(c) or the student's household income  
193 level does not exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty level;  
194 or

195 2. The student is currently placed, or during the previous  
196 state fiscal year was placed, in foster care or in out-of-home  
197 care as defined in s. 39.01.

198  
199 Priority shall be given to students whose household income  
200 levels do not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level or  
201 who are in foster care or out-of-home care. A student who  
202 initially receives a scholarship based on eligibility under  
203 subparagraph 2. remains eligible to participate until the  
204 student graduates from high school or attains the age of 21  
205 years, whichever occurs first, regardless of the student's  
206 household income level. A sibling of a student who is  
207 participating in the scholarship program under this subsection  
208 is eligible for a scholarship if the student resides in the same  
209 household as the sibling.

210 (b) The student is eligible to enroll in kindergarten or  
211 has spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida  
212 public school. For purposes of this paragraph, prior school year

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213 in attendance means that the student was enrolled and reported  
214 by a school district for funding during the preceding October  
215 and February Florida Education Finance Program surveys in  
216 kindergarten through grade 12, which includes time spent in a  
217 Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program if funded  
218 under the Florida Education Finance Program.

219

220 However, a dependent child of a member of the United States  
221 Armed Forces who transfers to a school in this state from out of  
222 state or from a foreign country due to a parent's permanent  
223 change of station orders or a foster child is exempt from the  
224 prior public school attendance requirement under this paragraph,  
225 but must meet the other eligibility requirements specified under  
226 this section to participate in the program.

227 (c) The parent has obtained acceptance for admission of  
228 the student to a private school that is eligible for the program  
229 under subsection (8) and the parent has requested a scholarship  
230 from the Department of Education at least 60 days before the  
231 date of the first scholarship payment. The request must be  
232 communicated directly to the department in a manner that creates  
233 a written or electronic record of the request and the date of  
234 receipt of the request. The department must notify the school  
235 district of the parent's intent upon receipt of the parent's  
236 request.

237 (4) TERM OF SCHOLARSHIP.—

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238 (a) For purposes of continuity of educational choice, a  
239 Family Empowerment Scholarship shall remain in force until the  
240 student returns to a public school, graduates from high school,  
241 or reaches the age of 21, whichever occurs first. A scholarship  
242 student who enrolls in a public school or public school program  
243 is considered to have returned to a public school for the  
244 purpose of determining the end of the scholarship's term.  
245 However, if a student enters a Department of Juvenile Justice  
246 detention center for a period of no more than 21 days, the  
247 student is not considered to have returned to a public school  
248 for that purpose.

249 (b) Upon reasonable notice to the department and the  
250 school district, the student's parent may remove the student  
251 from the private school and place the student in a public school  
252 in accordance with this section.

253 (c) Upon reasonable notice to the department, the  
254 student's parent may move the student from one participating  
255 private school to another participating private school.

256 (5) SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS.—A student is not eligible  
257 for a Family Empowerment Scholarship while he or she is:

258 (a) Enrolled in a public school, including, but not  
259 limited to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; the  
260 College-Preparatory Boarding Academy; a developmental research  
261 school authorized under s. 1002.32; or a charter school  
262 authorized under chapter 1002;

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263 (b) Enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of  
264 providing educational services to youth in a Department of  
265 Juvenile Justice commitment program;

266 (c) Receiving any other educational scholarship pursuant  
267 to this chapter;

268 (d) Participating in a home education program as defined  
269 in s. 1002.01(1);

270 (e) Participating in a private tutoring program pursuant  
271 to s. 1002.43; or

272 (f) Participating in a virtual school, correspondence  
273 school, or distance learning program that receives state funding  
274 pursuant to the student's participation.

275 (6) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS.-

276 (a) By July 15, 2019, and by April 1 of each year  
277 thereafter, a school district shall inform all households within  
278 the district receiving free or reduced-priced meals under the  
279 National School Lunch Act of their eligibility to apply to the  
280 department for a Family Empowerment Scholarship. The form of  
281 such notice shall be provided by the department, and the school  
282 district shall include the provided form in any normal  
283 correspondence with eligible households. Such notice is limited  
284 to once a year.

285 (b) The school district in which a participating student  
286 resides must notify the student and his or her parent about the  
287 locations and times to take all statewide assessments under s.

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288 1008.22 if the student chooses to participate in such  
289 assessments. Upon the request of the department, a school  
290 district shall coordinate with the department to provide to a  
291 participating private school the statewide assessments  
292 administered under s. 1008.22 and any related materials for  
293 administering the assessments. For a student who participates in  
294 the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program whose parent requests  
295 that the student take the statewide assessments under s.  
296 1008.22, the district in which the student attends a private  
297 school shall provide locations and times to take all statewide  
298 assessments. A school district is responsible for implementing  
299 test administrations at a participating private school,  
300 including the:

- 301 1. Provision of training for private school staff on test  
302 security and assessment administration procedures;
- 303 2. Distribution of testing materials to a private school;
- 304 3. Retrieval of testing materials from a private school;
- 305 4. Provision of the required format for a private school  
306 to submit information to the district for test administration  
307 and enrollment purposes; and
- 308 5. Provision of any required assistance, monitoring, or  
309 investigation at a private school.

310 (c) Each school district must publish information about  
311 the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program on the district's  
312 website homepage. At a minimum, the published information must

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313 include a website link to the Family Empowerment Scholarship  
314 Program published on the Department of Education website as well  
315 as a telephone number and e-mail that students and parents may  
316 use to contact relevant personnel in the school district to  
317 obtain information about the scholarship.

318 (7) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—The department  
319 shall:

320 (a) Publish and update, as necessary, information on the  
321 department website about the Family Empowerment Scholarship  
322 Program, including, but not limited to, student eligibility  
323 criteria, parental responsibilities, and relevant data.

324 (b) Cross-check the list of participating scholarship  
325 students with the public school enrollment lists before each  
326 scholarship payment to avoid duplication.

327 (8) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—To be  
328 eligible to participate in the Family Empowerment Scholarship  
329 Program, a private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and  
330 must:

331 (a) Comply with all requirements for private schools  
332 participating in state school choice scholarship programs  
333 pursuant to s. 1002.421.

334 (b) Provide to the department all documentation required  
335 for a student's participation, including the private school's  
336 and student's fee schedules, at least 30 days before any  
337 quarterly scholarship payment is made for the student pursuant

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338 to paragraph (11) (f). A student is not eligible to receive a  
339 quarterly scholarship payment if the private school fails to  
340 meet this deadline.

341 (c)1. Annually administer or make provision for students  
342 participating in the program in grades 3 through 10 to take one  
343 of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the  
344 department or to take the statewide assessments pursuant to s.  
345 1008.22. Students with disabilities for whom standardized  
346 testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement. A  
347 participating private school shall report a student's scores to  
348 his or her parent.

349 2. Administer the statewide assessments pursuant to s.  
350 1008.22 if the private school chooses to offer the statewide  
351 assessments. A participating private school may choose to offer  
352 and administer the statewide assessments to all students who  
353 attend the private school in grades 3 through 10 and must submit  
354 a request in writing to the department by March 1 of each year  
355 in order to administer the statewide assessments in the  
356 subsequent school year.

357 3. For private schools that have enrolled at least 30  
358 recipients of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program or the  
359 Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, employ not less than one  
360 academic support counselor whose employment responsibilities  
361 shall be to provide any and all needed academic and social  
362 support exclusively to such students.

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