Representative Polo offered the following:

**Amendment**

Remove lines 535-876 and insert:

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

(4) ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS OF HOPE.—A hope operator seeking to open a school of hope must submit a notice of intent to the school district in which a persistently low-performing
school has been identified by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (10) or in which a Florida Opportunity Zone is located.

(a) The notice of intent must include:

1. An academic focus and plan.
2. A financial plan.
3. Goals and objectives for increasing student achievement for the students from low-income families.
4. A completed or planned community outreach plan.
5. The organizational history of success in working with students with similar demographics.
6. The grade levels to be served and enrollment projections.
7. The proposed location or geographic area proposed for the school consistent with the requirements of subparagraphs (1)(d)1.a. and b and its proximity to the persistently low-performing school.
8. A staffing plan.
9. A recruitment plan for students who reside within the Florida Opportunity Zone in which the school of hope is located, if applicable, or within the attendance zone of the persistently low-performing schools serviced by the school of hope.

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of s. 1002.33, a school district shall enter into a performance-based agreement with a hope operator to open schools to serve students from
permanently low-performing schools and students residing in a Florida Opportunity Zone.

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

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

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

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

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

(a) A school of hope is eligible to receive funds from the Schools of Hope Program for the following expenditures:
1. Preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel, including costs associated with:
   a. Providing professional development.
   b. Hiring and compensating teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel for services beyond the school day and year until the school reaches full enrollment in accordance with the performance-based agreement pursuant to subsection (5).

2. Acquiring supplies, training, equipment, and educational materials, including developing and acquiring instructional materials.

3. Providing one-time startup costs associated with providing transportation to students to and from the charter school.

4. Carrying out community engagement activities, which may include paying the cost of student and staff recruitment.

5. Providing funds to cover the nonvoted ad valorem millage that would otherwise be required for schools and the required local effort funds calculated pursuant to s. 1011.62 when the state board enters into an agreement with a hope operator pursuant to subsection (5).

6. Providing funds for the initial leasing costs of a school facility in the event the department determines that a
suitable district-owned facility is unavailable or not leased in a timely manner pursuant to paragraph (7)(d).

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

(b) A traditional public school that is required to submit a plan for implementation pursuant to s. 1009.33(4) is eligible to receive up to $2,000 per full-time equivalent student from the Schools of Hope Program based upon the strength of the school's plan for implementation and its focus on evidence-based interventions that lead to student success by providing wrap-around services that leverage community assets, improve school and community collaboration, and develop family and community partnerships. Wrap-around services include, but are not limited to, tutorial and after-school programs, student counseling,
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)(e)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
based on whole school transformation and that are developed in consultation with the school's principal.

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

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

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

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

(d) Provide students in persistently low-performing schools and students residing in Florida Opportunity Zones with a public school that meets accountability standards. The State Board of Education may enter into a performance-based agreement
with a hope operator when a school district has not improved the
school after 3 years of the interventions and support provided
under s. 1008.33 or has not complied with the requirements of
subsection (4). Upon the State Board of Education entering into
a performance-based agreement with a hope operator, the school
district shall transfer to the school of hope the proportionate
share of state funds allocated from the Florida Education
Finance Program.

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

1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—
(1) PURPOSE.—The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program is
established to provide children of families in this state which
have limited financial resources with educational options to
achieve success in their education.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
(a) "Department" means the Department of Education.
(b) "Eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization"
has the same meaning as provided in s. 1002.395(2)(f).
(c) "Eligible private school" has the same meaning as
provided in s. 1002.395(2)(g).
(d) "Parent" means a resident of this state who is a
parent, as defined in s. 1000.21.
(e) "Program" means the Family Empowerment Scholarship
Program.
(3) INITIAL SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—A student is eligible for a Family Empowerment Scholarship under this section if the student meets the following criteria:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) Enrolled in a public school, including, but not limited to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; the College-Preparatory Boarding Academy; a developmental research school authorized under s. 1002.32; or a charter school authorized under chapter 1002;
(b) Enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program;

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

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

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

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

(6) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS.—

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

(b) The school district in which a participating student resides must notify the student and his or her parent about the locations and times to take all statewide assessments under s.
1008.22 if the student chooses to participate in such assessments. Upon the request of the department, a school district shall coordinate with the department to provide to a participating private school the statewide assessments administered under s. 1008.22 and any related materials for administering the assessments. For a student who participates in the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program whose parent requests that the student take the statewide assessments under s. 1008.22, the district in which the student attends a private school shall provide locations and times to take all statewide assessments. A school district is responsible for implementing test administrations at a participating private school, including the:

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

(c) Each school district must publish information about the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program on the district's website homepage. At a minimum, the published information must
include a website link to the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program published on the Department of Education website as well as a telephone number and e-mail that students and parents may use to contact relevant personnel in the school district to obtain information about the scholarship.

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Provide to the department all documentation required for a student's participation, including the private school's and student's fee schedules, at least 30 days before any quarterly scholarship payment is made for the student pursuant
to paragraph (11)(f). A student is not eligible to receive a quarterly scholarship payment if the private school fails to meet this deadline.

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

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

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