

By Senator Diaz

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to anti-bullying and anti-harassment  
3       in schools; amending s. 1002.421, F.S.; expanding the  
4       information that private schools participating in an  
5       educational scholarship program are required to  
6       publish and provide to parents; requiring such private  
7       schools to adopt bullying and harassment policies;  
8       requiring such schools to report bullying and  
9       harassment incidents to the Department of Education;  
10      requiring the department to include reported incidents  
11      in annual accountability reports; requiring private  
12      school principals or their designees to meet and share  
13      specified information with students and parents prior  
14      to student enrollment in the school; providing an  
15      effective date.

16  
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19       Section 1. Paragraph (j) of subsection (1) of section  
20      1002.421, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraphs (r) and  
21      (s) are added to that subsection, to read:

22       1002.421 State school choice scholarship program  
23      accountability and oversight.—

24       (1) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—A private  
25      school participating in an educational scholarship program  
26      established pursuant to this chapter must be a private school as  
27      defined in s. 1002.01(2) in this state, be registered, and be in  
28      compliance with all requirements of this section in addition to  
29      private school requirements outlined in s. 1002.42, specific

36-00873-20

20201218\_\_

30 requirements identified within respective scholarship program  
31 laws, and other provisions of Florida law that apply to private  
32 schools, and must:

33 (j) Publish on the school's website and, ~~or~~ provide in a  
34 written format, information for parents regarding the school,  
35 including, but not limited to, programs, services, ~~and~~ the  
36 qualifications of classroom teachers, the code of student  
37 conduct, the ethical conduct policies required by paragraph (n),  
38 and the bullying and harassment policies required by paragraph  
39 (r).

40 (r) Notwithstanding the school's status as a private  
41 school, adopt policies that comply with the bullying and  
42 harassment definitions, responsibilities, and protections  
43 required pursuant to s. 1006.147. The school shall comply with  
44 the incident reporting requirements of s. 1006.147(4) (k)  
45 according to procedures specified by the department. Such  
46 reporting must be made annually by the department in both the  
47 report required pursuant to s. 1006.147(8) and the annual  
48 private school accountability report required under subsection  
49 (2).

50 (s) Require the school principal or the principal's  
51 designee to meet with any student and his or her parent or  
52 guardian before the student's enrollment to review information  
53 about the school, including, but not limited to, the school's  
54 academic programs and services, customized educational programs,  
55 code of student conduct, attendance policies, bullying and  
56 harassment policies, and ethical conduct policies.

57  
58 The department shall suspend the payment of funds to a private

36-00873-20

20201218\_\_

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

67 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.