



543250

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

.  
. .  
. .  
. .  
. .

House

---

The Committee on Education (Hutson) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Subsections (1), (5), and (6), paragraph (b) of  
subsection (8), and subsection (10) of section 218.39, Florida  
Statutes, are amended to read:

218.39 Annual financial audit reports.—

(1) If, by the first day in any fiscal year, a local  
governmental entity, district school board, charter school, hope  
operator, or charter technical career center has not been



543250

12 notified that a financial audit for that fiscal year will be  
13 performed by the Auditor General, each of the following entities  
14 shall have an annual financial audit of its accounts and records  
15 completed within 9 months after the end of its fiscal year by an  
16 independent certified public accountant retained by it and paid  
17 from its public funds:

18 (a) Each county.

19 (b) Any municipality with revenues or the total of  
20 expenditures and expenses in excess of \$250,000, as reported on  
21 the fund financial statements.

22 (c) Any special district with revenues or the total of  
23 expenditures and expenses in excess of \$100,000, as reported on  
24 the fund financial statements.

25 (d) Each district school board.

26 (e) Each charter school established under s. 1002.33.

27 (f) Each charter technical center established under s.  
28 1002.34.

29 (g) Each municipality with revenues or the total of  
30 expenditures and expenses between \$100,000 and \$250,000, as  
31 reported on the fund financial statements, which has not been  
32 subject to a financial audit pursuant to this subsection for the  
33 2 preceding fiscal years.

34 (h) Each special district with revenues or the total of  
35 expenditures and expenses between \$50,000 and \$100,000, as  
36 reported on the fund financial statement, which has not been  
37 subject to a financial audit pursuant to this subsection for the  
38 2 preceding fiscal years.

39 (i) Each hope operator operating at least one school of  
40 hope in this state.



543250

41           (5) At the conclusion of the audit, the auditor shall  
42 discuss with the chair of the governing body of the local  
43 governmental entity or the chair's designee, the elected  
44 official of each county agency or the elected official's  
45 designee, the chair of the district school board or the chair's  
46 designee, the chair of the board of the charter school or the  
47 chair's designee, the chair of the board of the hope operator or  
48 the chair's designee, or the chair of the board of the charter  
49 technical career center or the chair's designee, as appropriate,  
50 all of the auditor's comments that will be included in the audit  
51 report. If the officer is not available to discuss the auditor's  
52 comments, their discussion is presumed when the comments are  
53 delivered in writing to his or her office. The auditor shall  
54 notify each member of the governing body of a local governmental  
55 entity, district school board, charter school, hope operator, or  
56 charter technical career center for which:

57           (a) Deteriorating financial conditions exist that may cause  
58 a condition described in s. 218.503(1) to occur if actions are  
59 not taken to address such conditions.

60           (b) A fund balance deficit in total or a deficit for that  
61 portion of a fund balance not classified as restricted,  
62 committed, or nonspendable, or a total or unrestricted net  
63 assets deficit, as reported on the fund financial statements of  
64 entities required to report under governmental financial  
65 reporting standards or on the basic financial statements of  
66 entities required to report under not-for-profit financial  
67 reporting standards, for which sufficient resources of the local  
68 governmental entity, charter school, hope operator, charter  
69 technical career center, or district school board, as reported



543250

70 on the fund financial statements, are not available to cover the  
71 deficit. Resources available to cover reported deficits include  
72 fund balance or net assets that are not otherwise restricted by  
73 federal, state, or local laws, bond covenants, contractual  
74 agreements, or other legal constraints. Property, plant, and  
75 equipment, the disposal of which would impair the ability of a  
76 local governmental entity, charter school, hope operator,  
77 charter technical career center, or district school board to  
78 carry out its functions, are not considered resources available  
79 to cover reported deficits.

80 (6) The officer's written statement of explanation or  
81 rebuttal concerning the auditor's findings, including corrective  
82 action to be taken, must be filed with the governing body of the  
83 local governmental entity, district school board, charter  
84 school, hope operator, or charter technical career center within  
85 30 days after the delivery of the auditor's findings.

86 (8) The Auditor General shall notify the Legislative  
87 Auditing Committee of any audit report prepared pursuant to this  
88 section which indicates that an audited entity has failed to  
89 take full corrective action in response to a recommendation that  
90 was included in the two preceding financial audit reports.

91 (b) If the committee determines that the written statement  
92 is not sufficient, it may require the chair of the governing  
93 body of the local governmental entity or the chair's designee,  
94 the elected official of each county agency or the elected  
95 official's designee, the chair of the district school board or  
96 the chair's designee, the chair of the board of the charter  
97 school or the chair's designee, the chair of the hope operator  
98 or the chair's designee, or the chair of the board of the



543250

99 charter technical career center or the chair's designee, as  
100 appropriate, to appear before the committee.

101 (10) Each charter school, hope operator who operates a  
102 charter school, and charter technical career center must file a  
103 copy of its audit report with the sponsoring entity; the local  
104 district school board, if not the sponsoring entity; the Auditor  
105 General; and with the Department of Education.

106 Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2), subsection (5),  
107 paragraph (b) of subsection (6), paragraphs (a) and (d) of  
108 subsection (7), paragraphs (d) and (e) of subsection (8),  
109 paragraphs (g) and (n) of subsection (9), paragraph (e) of  
110 subsection (10), subsection (14), paragraph (c) of subsection  
111 (15), subsection (17), paragraph (e) of subsection (18),  
112 subsections (20) and (21), paragraph (a) of subsection (25), and  
113 subsection (28) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are  
114 amended to read:

115 1002.33 Charter schools.—

116 (2) GUIDING PRINCIPLES; PURPOSE.—

117 (c) Charter schools may fulfill the following purposes:

118 1. Create innovative measurement tools.

119 2. Provide rigorous competition within the public school  
120 system ~~district~~ to stimulate continual improvement in all public  
121 schools.

122 3. Expand the capacity of the public school system.

123 4. Mitigate the educational impact created by the  
124 development of new residential dwelling units.

125 5. Create new professional opportunities for teachers,  
126 including ownership of the learning program at the school site.

127 (5) SPONSOR; DUTIES.—



128           (a) *Sponsoring entities.*—  
129           1. A district school board may sponsor a charter school in  
130 the county over which the district school board has  
131 jurisdiction.  
132           2. A state university may grant a charter to a lab school  
133 created under s. 1002.32 and shall be considered to be the  
134 school's sponsor. Such school shall be considered a charter lab  
135 school.  
136           3. Because needs relating to educational capacity,  
137 workforce qualifications, and career education opportunities are  
138 constantly changing and extend beyond school district  
139 boundaries:  
140           a. A state university may, upon approval by the Department  
141 of Education, solicit applications and sponsor a charter school  
142 to meet regional education or workforce demands by serving  
143 students from multiple school districts.  
144           b. A Florida College System institution may, upon approval  
145 by the Department of Education, solicit applications and sponsor  
146 a charter school in any county within its service area to meet  
147 workforce demands and may offer postsecondary programs leading  
148 to industry certifications to eligible charter school students.  
149 A charter school established under subparagraph (b)4. may not be  
150 sponsored by a Florida College System institution until its  
151 existing charter with the school district expires as provided  
152 under subsection (7).  
153           c. Notwithstanding paragraph (6) (b), a state university or  
154 Florida College System institution may, at its discretion, deny  
155 an application for a charter school.  
156           (b) *Sponsor duties.*—



543250

157           1.a. The sponsor shall monitor and review the charter  
158 school in its progress toward the goals established in the  
159 charter.

160           b. The sponsor shall monitor the revenues and expenditures  
161 of the charter school and perform the duties provided in s.  
162 1002.345.

163           c. The sponsor may approve a charter for a charter school  
164 before the applicant has identified space, equipment, or  
165 personnel, if the applicant indicates approval is necessary for  
166 it to raise working funds.

167           d. The sponsor shall not apply its policies to a charter  
168 school unless mutually agreed to by both the sponsor and the  
169 charter school. If the sponsor subsequently amends any agreed-  
170 upon sponsor policy, the version of the policy in effect at the  
171 time of the execution of the charter, or any subsequent  
172 modification thereof, shall remain in effect and the sponsor may  
173 not hold the charter school responsible for any provision of a  
174 newly revised policy until the revised policy is mutually agreed  
175 upon.

176           e. The sponsor shall ensure that the charter is innovative  
177 and consistent with the state education goals established by s.  
178 1000.03(5).

179           f. The sponsor shall ensure that the charter school  
180 participates in the state's education accountability system. If  
181 a charter school falls short of performance measures included in  
182 the approved charter, the sponsor shall report such shortcomings  
183 to the Department of Education.

184           g. The sponsor shall not be liable for civil damages under  
185 state law for personal injury, property damage, or death



543250

186 resulting from an act or omission of an officer, employee,  
187 agent, or governing body of the charter school.

188 h. The sponsor shall not be liable for civil damages under  
189 state law for any employment actions taken by an officer,  
190 employee, agent, or governing body of the charter school.

191 i. The sponsor's duties to monitor the charter school shall  
192 not constitute the basis for a private cause of action.

193 j. The sponsor shall not impose additional reporting  
194 requirements on a charter school without providing reasonable  
195 and specific justification in writing to the charter school.

196 k. The sponsor shall submit an annual report to the  
197 Department of Education in a web-based format to be determined  
198 by the department.

199 (I) The report shall include the following information:

200 (A) ~~The number of draft applications received on or before~~  
201 ~~May 1 and each applicant's contact information.~~

202 ~~(B) The number of final applications received on or before~~  
203 ~~February August 1 and each applicant's contact information.~~

204 ~~(B)(C) The date each application was approved, denied, or~~  
205 ~~withdrawn.~~

206 ~~(C)(D) The date each final contract was executed.~~

207 (II) Annually, by November 1 ~~Beginning August 31, 2013, and~~  
208 ~~each year thereafter,~~ the sponsor shall submit to the department  
209 the information for the applications submitted the previous  
210 year.

211 (III) The department shall compile an annual report, by  
212 sponsor district, and post the report on its website by January  
213 15 ~~November 1~~ of each year.

214 2. Immunity for the sponsor of a charter school under





543250

215 subparagraph 1. applies only with respect to acts or omissions  
216 not under the sponsor's direct authority as described in this  
217 section.

218 3. This paragraph does not waive a sponsor's district  
219 ~~school board's~~ sovereign immunity.

220 4. A Florida College System institution may work with the  
221 school district or school districts in its designated service  
222 area to develop charter schools that offer secondary education.  
223 These charter schools must include an option for students to  
224 receive an associate degree upon high school graduation. If a  
225 Florida College System institution operates an approved teacher  
226 preparation program under s. 1004.04 or s. 1004.85, the  
227 institution may operate ~~no more than one~~ charter schools ~~school~~  
228 that serve ~~serves~~ students in kindergarten through grade 12 in  
229 any school district within the service area of the institution.  
230 ~~In kindergarten through grade 8, the charter school shall~~  
231 ~~implement innovative blended learning instructional models in~~  
232 ~~which, for a given course, a student learns in part through~~  
233 ~~online delivery of content and instruction with some element of~~  
234 ~~student control over time, place, path, or pace and in part at a~~  
235 ~~supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home. A student~~  
236 ~~in a blended learning course must be a full-time student of the~~  
237 ~~charter school and receive the online instruction in a classroom~~  
238 ~~setting at the charter school.~~ District school boards shall  
239 cooperate with and assist the Florida College System institution  
240 on the charter application. Florida College System institution  
241 applications for charter schools are not subject to the time  
242 deadlines outlined in subsection (6) and may be approved by the  
243 district school board at any time during the year. Florida



543250

244 College System institutions may not report FTE for any students  
245 participating under this subparagraph who receive FTE funding  
246 through the Florida Education Finance Program.

247 5. A school district may enter into nonexclusive interlocal  
248 agreements with federal and state agencies, counties,  
249 municipalities, and other governmental entities that operate  
250 within the geographical borders of the school district to act on  
251 behalf of such governmental entities in the inspection,  
252 issuance, and other necessary activities for all necessary  
253 permits, licenses, and other permissions that a charter school  
254 needs in order for development, construction, or operation. A  
255 charter school may use, but may not be required to use, a school  
256 district for these services. The interlocal agreement must  
257 include, but need not be limited to, the identification of fees  
258 that charter schools will be charged for such services. The fees  
259 must consist of the governmental entity's fees plus a fee for  
260 the school district to recover no more than actual costs for  
261 providing such services. These services and fees are not  
262 included within the services to be provided pursuant to  
263 subsection (20).

264 6. The board of trustees of a sponsoring state university  
265 or Florida College System institution under paragraph (a) is the  
266 local educational agency for all charter schools it sponsors for  
267 purposes of receiving federal funds and accepts full  
268 responsibility for all local educational agency requirements and  
269 the schools for which it will perform local educational agency  
270 responsibilities. A student enrolled in a charter school that is  
271 sponsored by a state university or Florida College System  
272 institution may not be included in the calculation of the school



543250

273 district's grade under s. 1008.34(5) for the school district in  
274 which he or she resides.

275 (c) Sponsor accountability.—

276 1. The department shall, in collaboration with charter  
277 school sponsors and charter school operators, develop a sponsor  
278 evaluation framework that must address, at a minimum:

279 a. The sponsor's strategic vision for charter school  
280 authorizing and the sponsor's progress toward that vision.

281 b. The alignment of the sponsor's policies and practices to  
282 best practices for charter school authorizing.

283 c. The academic and financial performance of all operating  
284 charter schools overseen by the sponsor.

285 d. The status of charter schools authorized by the sponsor,  
286 including approved, operating, and closed schools.

287 2. The department shall compile the results by sponsor and  
288 include the results in the report required under sub-sub-  
289 subparagraph (b)1.k.(III).

290 (6) APPLICATION PROCESS AND REVIEW.—Charter school  
291 applications are subject to the following requirements:

292 (b) A sponsor shall receive and review all applications for  
293 a charter school using the evaluation instrument developed by  
294 the Department of Education. ~~A sponsor shall receive and~~  
295 ~~consider charter school applications received on or before~~  
296 ~~August 1 of each calendar year for charter schools to be opened~~  
297 ~~at the beginning of the school district's next school year, or~~  
298 ~~to be opened at a time agreed to by the applicant and the~~  
299 ~~sponsor. A sponsor may not refuse to receive a charter school~~  
300 ~~application submitted before August 1 and may receive an~~  
301 ~~application submitted later than August 1 if it chooses.~~



543250

302 ~~Beginning in 2018 and thereafter,~~ A sponsor shall receive and  
303 consider charter school applications ~~received on or before~~  
304 ~~February 1 of each calendar year~~ for charter schools ~~to be~~  
305 ~~opened 18 months later at the beginning of the school district's~~  
306 ~~school year,~~ or to be opened at a time determined by the  
307 applicant. ~~A sponsor may not refuse to receive a charter school~~  
308 ~~application submitted before February 1 and may receive an~~  
309 ~~application submitted later than February 1 if it chooses.~~ A  
310 sponsor may not charge an applicant for a charter any fee for  
311 the processing or consideration of an application, and a sponsor  
312 may not base its consideration or approval of a final  
313 application upon the promise of future payment of any kind.  
314 Before approving or denying any application, the sponsor shall  
315 allow the applicant, upon receipt of written notification, at  
316 least 7 calendar days to make technical or nonsubstantive  
317 corrections and clarifications, including, but not limited to,  
318 corrections of grammatical, typographical, and like errors or  
319 missing signatures, if such errors are identified by the sponsor  
320 as cause to deny the final application.

321       1. In order to facilitate an accurate budget projection  
322 process, a sponsor shall be held harmless for FTE students who  
323 are not included in the FTE projection due to approval of  
324 charter school applications after the FTE projection deadline.  
325 In a further effort to facilitate an accurate budget projection,  
326 within 15 calendar days after receipt of a charter school  
327 application, a sponsor shall report to the Department of  
328 Education the name of the applicant entity, the proposed charter  
329 school location, and its projected FTE.

330       2. In order to ensure fiscal responsibility, an application



543250

331 for a charter school shall include a full accounting of expected  
332 assets, a projection of expected sources and amounts of income,  
333 including income derived from projected student enrollments and  
334 from community support, and an expense projection that includes  
335 full accounting of the costs of operation, including start-up  
336 costs.

337 3.a. A sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or deny an  
338 application no later than 90 calendar days after the application  
339 is received, unless the sponsor and the applicant mutually agree  
340 in writing to temporarily postpone the vote to a specific date,  
341 at which time the sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or  
342 deny the application. If the sponsor fails to act on the  
343 application, an applicant may appeal to the State Board of  
344 Education as provided in paragraph (c). If an application is  
345 denied, the sponsor shall, within 10 calendar days after such  
346 denial, articulate in writing the specific reasons, based upon  
347 good cause, supporting its denial of the application and shall  
348 provide the letter of denial and supporting documentation to the  
349 applicant and to the Department of Education.

350 b. An application submitted by a high-performing charter  
351 school identified pursuant to s. 1002.331 or a high-performing  
352 charter school system identified pursuant to s. 1002.332 may be  
353 denied by the sponsor only if the sponsor demonstrates by clear  
354 and convincing evidence that:

355 (I) The application of a high-performing charter school  
356 does not materially comply with the requirements in paragraph  
357 (a) or, for a high-performing charter school system, the  
358 application does not materially comply with s. 1002.332(2)(b);

359 (II) The charter school proposed in the application does



543250

360 not materially comply with the requirements in paragraphs  
361 (9) (a) - (f);

362 (III) The proposed charter school's educational program  
363 does not substantially replicate that of the applicant or one of  
364 the applicant's high-performing charter schools;

365 (IV) The applicant has made a material misrepresentation or  
366 false statement or concealed an essential or material fact  
367 during the application process; or

368 (V) The proposed charter school's educational program and  
369 financial management practices do not materially comply with the  
370 requirements of this section.

371  
372 Material noncompliance is a failure to follow requirements or a  
373 violation of prohibitions applicable to charter school  
374 applications, which failure is quantitatively or qualitatively  
375 significant either individually or when aggregated with other  
376 noncompliance. An applicant is considered to be replicating a  
377 high-performing charter school if the proposed school is  
378 substantially similar to at least one of the applicant's high-  
379 performing charter schools and the organization or individuals  
380 involved in the establishment and operation of the proposed  
381 school are significantly involved in the operation of replicated  
382 schools.

383 c. If the sponsor denies an application submitted by a  
384 high-performing charter school or a high-performing charter  
385 school system, the sponsor must, within 10 calendar days after  
386 such denial, state in writing the specific reasons, based upon  
387 the criteria in sub-subparagraph b., supporting its denial of  
388 the application and must provide the letter of denial and



543250

389 supporting documentation to the applicant and to the Department  
390 of Education. The applicant may appeal the sponsor's denial of  
391 the application in accordance with paragraph (c).

392 4. For budget projection purposes, the sponsor shall report  
393 to the Department of Education the approval or denial of an  
394 application within 10 calendar days after such approval or  
395 denial. In the event of approval, the report to the Department  
396 of Education shall include the final projected FTE for the  
397 approved charter school.

398 ~~5. Upon approval of an application, the initial startup~~  
399 ~~shall commence with the beginning of the public school calendar~~  
400 ~~for the district in which the charter is granted.~~ A charter  
401 school may defer the opening of the school's operations for up  
402 to 3 years to provide time for adequate facility planning. The  
403 charter school must provide written notice of such intent to the  
404 sponsor and the parents of enrolled students at least 30  
405 calendar days before the first day of school.

406 (7) CHARTER.—The terms and conditions for the operation of  
407 a charter school shall be set forth by the sponsor and the  
408 applicant in a written contractual agreement, called a charter.  
409 The sponsor and the governing board of the charter school shall  
410 use the standard charter contract pursuant to subsection (21),  
411 which shall incorporate the approved application and any addenda  
412 approved with the application. Any term or condition of a  
413 proposed charter contract that differs from the standard charter  
414 contract adopted by rule of the State Board of Education shall  
415 be presumed a limitation on charter school flexibility. The  
416 sponsor may not impose unreasonable rules or regulations that  
417 violate the intent of giving charter schools greater flexibility



543250

418 to meet educational goals. The charter shall be signed by the  
419 governing board of the charter school and the sponsor, following  
420 a public hearing to ensure community input.

421 (a) The charter shall address and criteria for approval of  
422 the charter shall be based on:

423 1. The school's mission, the students to be served, and the  
424 ages and grades to be included.

425 2. The focus of the curriculum, the instructional methods  
426 to be used, any distinctive instructional techniques to be  
427 employed, and identification and acquisition of appropriate  
428 technologies needed to improve educational and administrative  
429 performance which include a means for promoting safe, ethical,  
430 and appropriate uses of technology which comply with legal and  
431 professional standards.

432 a. The charter shall ensure that reading is a primary focus  
433 of the curriculum and that resources are provided to identify  
434 and provide specialized instruction for students who are reading  
435 below grade level. The curriculum and instructional strategies  
436 for reading must be consistent with the Next Generation Sunshine  
437 State Standards and grounded in scientifically based reading  
438 research.

439 b. In order to provide students with access to diverse  
440 instructional delivery models, to facilitate the integration of  
441 technology within traditional classroom instruction, and to  
442 provide students with the skills they need to compete in the  
443 21st century economy, the Legislature encourages instructional  
444 methods for blended learning courses consisting of both  
445 traditional classroom and online instructional techniques.  
446 Charter schools may implement blended learning courses which





543250

447 combine traditional classroom instruction and virtual  
448 instruction. Students in a blended learning course must be full-  
449 time students of the charter school pursuant to s.  
450 1011.61(1)(a)1. Instructional personnel certified pursuant to s.  
451 1012.55 who provide virtual instruction for blended learning  
452 courses may be employees of the charter school or may be under  
453 contract to provide instructional services to charter school  
454 students. At a minimum, such instructional personnel must hold  
455 an active state or school district adjunct certification under  
456 s. 1012.57 for the subject area of the blended learning course.  
457 The funding and performance accountability requirements for  
458 blended learning courses are the same as those for traditional  
459 courses.

460 3. The current incoming baseline standard of student  
461 academic achievement, the outcomes to be achieved, and the  
462 method of measurement that will be used. The criteria listed in  
463 this subparagraph shall include a detailed description of:

464 a. How the baseline student academic achievement levels and  
465 prior rates of academic progress will be established.

466 b. How these baseline rates will be compared to rates of  
467 academic progress achieved by these same students while  
468 attending the charter school.

469 c. To the extent possible, how these rates of progress will  
470 be evaluated and compared with rates of progress of other  
471 closely comparable student populations.

472  
473 A ~~The~~ district school board is required to provide academic  
474 student performance data to charter schools for each of their  
475 students coming from the district school system, as well as



476 rates of academic progress of comparable student populations in  
477 the district school system.

478 4. The methods used to identify the educational strengths  
479 and needs of students and how well educational goals and  
480 performance standards are met by students attending the charter  
481 school. The methods shall provide a means for the charter school  
482 to ensure accountability to its constituents by analyzing  
483 student performance data and by evaluating the effectiveness and  
484 efficiency of its major educational programs. Students in  
485 charter schools shall, at a minimum, participate in the  
486 statewide assessment program created under s. 1008.22.

487 5. In secondary charter schools, a method for determining  
488 that a student has satisfied the requirements for graduation in  
489 s. 1002.3105(5), s. 1003.4281, or s. 1003.4282.

490 6. A method for resolving conflicts between the governing  
491 board of the charter school and the sponsor.

492 7. The admissions procedures and dismissal procedures,  
493 including the school's code of student conduct. Admission or  
494 dismissal must not be based on a student's academic performance.

495 8. The ways by which the school will achieve a  
496 racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or  
497 within the racial/ethnic range of other nearby public schools ~~in~~  
498 ~~the same school district.~~

499 9. The financial and administrative management of the  
500 school, including a reasonable demonstration of the professional  
501 experience or competence of those individuals or organizations  
502 applying to operate the charter school or those hired or  
503 retained to perform such professional services and the  
504 description of clearly delineated responsibilities and the



543250

505 policies and practices needed to effectively manage the charter  
506 school. A description of internal audit procedures and  
507 establishment of controls to ensure that financial resources are  
508 properly managed must be included. Both public sector and  
509 private sector professional experience shall be equally valid in  
510 such a consideration.

511 10. The asset and liability projections required in the  
512 application which are incorporated into the charter and shall be  
513 compared with information provided in the annual report of the  
514 charter school.

515 11. A description of procedures that identify various risks  
516 and provide for a comprehensive approach to reduce the impact of  
517 losses; plans to ensure the safety and security of students and  
518 staff; plans to identify, minimize, and protect others from  
519 violent or disruptive student behavior; and the manner in which  
520 the school will be insured, including whether or not the school  
521 will be required to have liability insurance, and, if so, the  
522 terms and conditions thereof and the amounts of coverage.

523 12. The term of the charter which shall provide for  
524 cancellation of the charter if insufficient progress has been  
525 made in attaining the student achievement objectives of the  
526 charter and if it is not likely that such objectives can be  
527 achieved before expiration of the charter. The initial term of a  
528 charter shall be for 5 years, excluding 2 planning years. In  
529 order to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for  
530 charter school construction, charter schools that are operated  
531 by a municipality or other public entity as provided by law are  
532 eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the  
533 sponsor ~~district school board~~. A charter lab school is eligible



534 for a charter for a term of up to 15 years. In addition, to  
535 facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter  
536 school construction, charter schools that are operated by a  
537 private, not-for-profit, s. 501(c)(3) status corporation are  
538 eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the  
539 sponsor ~~district school board~~. Such long-term charters remain  
540 subject to annual review and may be terminated during the term  
541 of the charter, but only according to the provisions set forth  
542 in subsection (8).

543 13. The facilities to be used and their location. The  
544 sponsor may not require a charter school to have a certificate  
545 of occupancy or a temporary certificate of occupancy for such a  
546 facility earlier than 15 calendar days before the first day of  
547 school.

548 14. The qualifications to be required of the teachers and  
549 the potential strategies used to recruit, hire, train, and  
550 retain qualified staff to achieve best value.

551 15. The governance structure of the school, including the  
552 status of the charter school as a public or private employer as  
553 required in paragraph (12)(i).

554 16. A timetable for implementing the charter which  
555 addresses the implementation of each element thereof and the  
556 date by which the charter shall be awarded in order to meet this  
557 timetable.

558 17. In the case of an existing public school that is being  
559 converted to charter status, alternative arrangements for  
560 current students who choose not to attend the charter school and  
561 for current teachers who choose not to teach in the charter  
562 school after conversion in accordance with the existing



543250

563 collective bargaining agreement or district school board rule in  
564 the absence of a collective bargaining agreement. However,  
565 alternative arrangements shall not be required for current  
566 teachers who choose not to teach in a charter lab school, except  
567 as authorized by the employment policies of the state university  
568 which grants the charter to the lab school.

569 18. Full disclosure of the identity of all relatives  
570 employed by the charter school who are related to the charter  
571 school owner, president, chairperson of the governing board of  
572 directors, superintendent, governing board member, principal,  
573 assistant principal, or any other person employed by the charter  
574 school who has equivalent decisionmaking authority. For the  
575 purpose of this subparagraph, the term "relative" means father,  
576 mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first  
577 cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-  
578 law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law,  
579 stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother,  
580 stepsister, half brother, or half sister.

581 19. Implementation of the activities authorized under s.  
582 1002.331 by the charter school when it satisfies the eligibility  
583 requirements for a high-performing charter school. A high-  
584 performing charter school shall notify its sponsor in writing by  
585 March 1 if it intends to increase enrollment or expand grade  
586 levels the following school year. The written notice shall  
587 specify the amount of the enrollment increase and the grade  
588 levels that will be added, as applicable.

589 (d) A charter may be modified during its initial term or  
590 any renewal term upon the recommendation of the sponsor or the  
591 charter school's governing board and the approval of both



543250

592 parties to the agreement. Modification during any term may  
593 include, but is not limited to, consolidation of multiple  
594 charters into a single charter if the charters are operated  
595 under the same governing board, regardless of the renewal cycle.  
596 A charter school that is not subject to a school improvement  
597 plan and that closes as part of a consolidation shall be  
598 reported by the sponsor ~~school district~~ as a consolidation.

599 (8) CAUSES FOR NONRENEWAL OR TERMINATION OF CHARTER.—

600 (d) When a charter is not renewed or is terminated, the  
601 school shall be dissolved under the provisions of law under  
602 which the school was organized, and any unencumbered public  
603 funds, except for capital outlay funds and federal charter  
604 school program grant funds, from the charter school shall revert  
605 to the sponsor. Capital outlay funds provided pursuant to s.  
606 1013.62 and federal charter school program grant funds that are  
607 unencumbered shall revert to the department to be redistributed  
608 among eligible charter schools. In the event a charter school is  
609 dissolved or is otherwise terminated, all sponsor ~~district~~  
610 ~~school board~~ property and improvements, furnishings, and  
611 equipment purchased with public funds shall automatically revert  
612 to full ownership by the sponsor ~~district school board~~, subject  
613 to complete satisfaction of any lawful liens or encumbrances.  
614 Any unencumbered public funds from the charter school, ~~district~~  
615 ~~school board~~ property and improvements, furnishings, and  
616 equipment purchased with public funds, or financial or other  
617 records pertaining to the charter school, in the possession of  
618 any person, entity, or holding company, other than the charter  
619 school, shall be held in trust upon the sponsor's ~~district~~  
620 ~~school board's~~ request, until any appeal status is resolved.



543250

621 (e) If a charter is not renewed or is terminated, the  
622 charter school is responsible for all debts of the charter  
623 school. The sponsor ~~district~~ may not assume the debt from any  
624 contract made between the governing body of the school and a  
625 third party, except for a debt that is previously detailed and  
626 agreed upon in writing by both the sponsor ~~district~~ and the  
627 governing body of the school and that may not reasonably be  
628 assumed to have been satisfied by the sponsor ~~district~~.

629 (9) CHARTER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS.—

630 (g)1. In order to provide financial information that is  
631 comparable to that reported for other public schools, charter  
632 schools are to maintain all financial records that constitute  
633 their accounting system:

634 a. In accordance with the accounts and codes prescribed in  
635 the most recent issuance of the publication titled "Financial  
636 and Program Cost Accounting and Reporting for Florida Schools";  
637 or

638 b. At the discretion of the charter school's governing  
639 board, a charter school may elect to follow generally accepted  
640 accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, but must  
641 reformat this information for reporting according to this  
642 paragraph.

643 2. Charter schools shall provide annual financial report  
644 and program cost report information in the state-required  
645 formats for inclusion in sponsor ~~district~~ reporting in  
646 compliance with s. 1011.60(1). Charter schools that are operated  
647 by a municipality or are a component unit of a parent nonprofit  
648 organization may use the accounting system of the municipality  
649 or the parent but must reformat this information for reporting



543250

650 according to this paragraph.

651 3. A charter school shall, upon approval of the charter  
652 contract, provide the sponsor with a concise, uniform, monthly  
653 financial statement summary sheet that contains a balance sheet  
654 and a statement of revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund  
655 balance. The balance sheet and the statement of revenue,  
656 expenditures, and changes in fund balance shall be in the  
657 governmental funds format prescribed by the Governmental  
658 Accounting Standards Board. A high-performing charter school  
659 pursuant to s. 1002.331 may provide a quarterly financial  
660 statement in the same format and requirements as the uniform  
661 monthly financial statement summary sheet. The sponsor shall  
662 review each monthly or quarterly financial statement to identify  
663 the existence of any conditions identified in s. 1002.345(1)(a).

664 4. A charter school shall maintain and provide financial  
665 information as required in this paragraph. The financial  
666 statement required in subparagraph 3. must be in a form  
667 prescribed by the Department of Education.

668 (n)1. The director and a representative of the governing  
669 board of a charter school that has earned a grade of "D" or "F"  
670 pursuant to s. 1008.34 shall appear before the sponsor to  
671 present information concerning each contract component having  
672 noted deficiencies. The director and a representative of the  
673 governing board shall submit to the sponsor for approval a  
674 school improvement plan to raise student performance. Upon  
675 approval by the sponsor, the charter school shall begin  
676 implementation of the school improvement plan. The department  
677 shall offer technical assistance and training to the charter  
678 school and its governing board and establish guidelines for





543250

679 developing, submitting, and approving such plans.

680 2.a. If a charter school earns three consecutive grades  
681 below a "C," the charter school governing board shall choose one  
682 of the following corrective actions:

683 (I) Contract for educational services to be provided  
684 directly to students, instructional personnel, and school  
685 administrators, as prescribed in state board rule;

686 (II) Contract with an outside entity that has a  
687 demonstrated record of effectiveness to operate the school;

688 (III) Reorganize the school under a new director or  
689 principal who is authorized to hire new staff; or

690 (IV) Voluntarily close the charter school.

691 b. The charter school must implement the corrective action  
692 in the school year following receipt of a third consecutive  
693 grade below a "C."

694 c. The sponsor may annually waive a corrective action if it  
695 determines that the charter school is likely to improve a letter  
696 grade if additional time is provided to implement the  
697 intervention and support strategies prescribed by the school  
698 improvement plan. Notwithstanding this sub-subparagraph, a  
699 charter school that earns a second consecutive grade of "F" is  
700 subject to subparagraph 3.

701 d. A charter school is no longer required to implement a  
702 corrective action if it improves to a "C" or higher. However,  
703 the charter school must continue to implement strategies  
704 identified in the school improvement plan. The sponsor must  
705 annually review implementation of the school improvement plan to  
706 monitor the school's continued improvement pursuant to  
707 subparagraph 4.



543250

708 e. A charter school implementing a corrective action that  
709 does not improve to a "C" or higher after 2 full school years of  
710 implementing the corrective action must select a different  
711 corrective action. Implementation of the new corrective action  
712 must begin in the school year following the implementation  
713 period of the existing corrective action, unless the sponsor  
714 determines that the charter school is likely to improve to a "C"  
715 or higher if additional time is provided to implement the  
716 existing corrective action. Notwithstanding this sub-  
717 subparagraph, a charter school that earns a second consecutive  
718 grade of "F" while implementing a corrective action is subject  
719 to subparagraph 3.

720 3. A charter school's charter contract is automatically  
721 terminated if the school earns two consecutive grades of "F"  
722 after all school grade appeals are final unless:

723 a. The charter school is established to turn around the  
724 performance of a district public school pursuant to s.  
725 1008.33(4)(b)2. Such charter schools shall be governed by s.  
726 1008.33;

727 b. The charter school serves a student population the  
728 majority of which resides in a school zone served by a district  
729 public school subject to s. 1008.33(4) and the charter school  
730 earns at least a grade of "D" in its third year of operation.  
731 The exception provided under this sub-subparagraph does not  
732 apply to a charter school in its fourth year of operation and  
733 thereafter; or

734 c. The state board grants the charter school a waiver of  
735 termination. The charter school must request the waiver within  
736 15 days after the department's official release of school



543250

737 grades. The state board may waive termination if the charter  
738 school demonstrates that the Learning Gains of its students on  
739 statewide assessments are comparable to or better than the  
740 Learning Gains of similarly situated students enrolled in nearby  
741 ~~district~~ public schools. The waiver is valid for 1 year and may  
742 only be granted once. Charter schools that have been in  
743 operation for more than 5 years are not eligible for a waiver  
744 under this sub-subparagraph.

745  
746 The sponsor shall notify the charter school's governing board,  
747 the charter school principal, and the department in writing when  
748 a charter contract is terminated under this subparagraph. A  
749 charter terminated under this subparagraph must follow the  
750 procedures for dissolution and reversion of public funds  
751 pursuant to paragraphs (8) (d)-(f) and (9) (o).

752 4. The director and a representative of the governing board  
753 of a graded charter school that has implemented a school  
754 improvement plan under this paragraph shall appear before the  
755 sponsor at least once a year to present information regarding  
756 the progress of intervention and support strategies implemented  
757 by the school pursuant to the school improvement plan and  
758 corrective actions, if applicable. The sponsor shall communicate  
759 at the meeting, and in writing to the director, the services  
760 provided to the school to help the school address its  
761 deficiencies.

762 5. Notwithstanding any provision of this paragraph except  
763 sub-subparagraphs 3.a.-c., the sponsor may terminate the charter  
764 at any time pursuant to subsection (8).

765 (10) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.-



543250

- 766 (e) A charter school may limit the enrollment process only  
767 to target the following student populations:
- 768 1. Students within specific age groups or grade levels.
  - 769 2. Students considered at risk of dropping out of school or  
770 academic failure. Such students shall include exceptional  
771 education students.
  - 772 3. Students enrolling in a charter school-in-the-workplace  
773 or charter school-in-a-municipality established pursuant to  
774 subsection (15).
  - 775 4. Students residing within a reasonable distance of the  
776 charter school, as described in paragraph (20)(c). Such students  
777 shall be subject to a random lottery and to the racial/ethnic  
778 balance provisions described in subparagraph (7)(a)8. or any  
779 federal provisions that require a school to achieve a  
780 racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or  
781 within the racial/ethnic range of other nearby public schools ~~in~~  
782 ~~the same school district.~~
  - 783 5. Students who meet reasonable academic, artistic, or  
784 other eligibility standards established by the charter school  
785 and included in the charter school application and charter or,  
786 in the case of existing charter schools, standards that are  
787 consistent with the school's mission and purpose. Such standards  
788 shall be in accordance with current state law and practice in  
789 public schools and may not discriminate against otherwise  
790 qualified individuals.
  - 791 6. Students articulating from one charter school to another  
792 pursuant to an articulation agreement between the charter  
793 schools that has been approved by the sponsor.
  - 794 7. Students living in a development in which a developer,



543250

795 including any affiliated business entity or charitable  
796 foundation, contributes to the formation, acquisition,  
797 construction, or operation of one or more charter schools or  
798 charter ~~provides the school facilities facility~~ and related  
799 property in an amount equal to or having a total ~~an~~ appraised  
800 value of at least \$5 million to be used as ~~a~~ charter schools  
801 ~~school~~ to mitigate the educational impact created by the  
802 development of new residential dwelling units. Students living  
803 in the development are ~~shall be~~ entitled to ~~no more than~~ 50  
804 percent of the student stations in the charter schools ~~school~~.  
805 The students who are eligible for enrollment are subject to a  
806 random lottery, the racial/ethnic balance provisions, or any  
807 federal provisions, as described in subparagraph 4. The  
808 remainder of the student stations must ~~shall~~ be filled in  
809 accordance with subparagraph 4.

810 (14) CHARTER SCHOOL FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS; INDEMNIFICATION  
811 OF THE STATE AND SPONSOR SCHOOL ~~SCHOOL DISTRICT~~; CREDIT OR TAXING POWER  
812 NOT TO BE PLEDGED.—Any arrangement entered into to borrow or  
813 otherwise secure funds for a charter school authorized in this  
814 section from a source other than the state or a sponsor ~~school~~  
815 ~~district~~ shall indemnify the state and the sponsor ~~school~~  
816 ~~district~~ from any and all liability, including, but not limited  
817 to, financial responsibility for the payment of the principal or  
818 interest. Any loans, bonds, or other financial agreements are  
819 not obligations of the state or the sponsor ~~school district~~ but  
820 are obligations of the charter school authority and are payable  
821 solely from the sources of funds pledged by such agreement. The  
822 credit or taxing power of the state or the sponsor ~~school~~  
823 ~~district~~ shall not be pledged and no debts shall be payable out



543250

824 of any moneys except those of the legal entity in possession of  
825 a valid charter approved by a sponsor ~~district school board~~  
826 pursuant to this section.

827 (15) CHARTER SCHOOLS-IN-THE-WORKPLACE; CHARTER SCHOOLS-IN-  
828 A-MUNICIPALITY.—

829 (c) A charter school-in-a-municipality designation may be  
830 granted to a municipality that possesses a charter; enrolls  
831 students based upon a random lottery that involves all of the  
832 children of the residents of that municipality who are seeking  
833 enrollment, as provided for in subsection (10); and enrolls  
834 students according to the racial/ethnic balance provisions  
835 described in subparagraph (7) (a)8. When a municipality has  
836 submitted charter applications for the establishment of a  
837 charter school feeder pattern, consisting of elementary, middle,  
838 and senior high schools, and each individual charter application  
839 is approved by the sponsor ~~district school board~~, such schools  
840 shall then be designated as one charter school for all purposes  
841 listed pursuant to this section. Any portion of the land and  
842 facility used for a public charter school shall be exempt from  
843 ad valorem taxes, as provided for in s. 1013.54, for the  
844 duration of its use as a public school.

845 (17) FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a charter school,  
846 regardless of the sponsorship, shall be funded as if they are in  
847 a basic program or a special program, the same as students  
848 enrolled in other public schools in a ~~the~~ school district.  
849 Funding for a charter lab school shall be as provided in s.  
850 1002.32.

851 (a) Each charter school shall report its student enrollment  
852 to the sponsor as required in s. 1011.62, and in accordance with



543250

853 the definitions in s. 1011.61. The sponsor shall include each  
854 charter school's enrollment in the sponsor's ~~district's~~ report  
855 of student enrollment. All charter schools submitting student  
856 record information required by the Department of Education shall  
857 comply with the Department of Education's guidelines for  
858 electronic data formats for such data, and all sponsors  
859 ~~districts~~ shall accept electronic data that complies with the  
860 Department of Education's electronic format.

861 (b)1. The basis for the agreement for funding students  
862 enrolled in a charter school shall be the sum of the school  
863 district's operating funds from the Florida Education Finance  
864 Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations  
865 Act, including gross state and local funds, discretionary  
866 lottery funds, and funds from the school district's current  
867 operating discretionary millage levy; divided by total funded  
868 weighted full-time equivalent students in the school district;  
869 and multiplied by the weighted full-time equivalent students for  
870 the charter school. Charter schools whose students or programs  
871 meet the eligibility criteria in law are entitled to their  
872 proportionate share of categorical program funds included in the  
873 total funds available in the Florida Education Finance Program  
874 by the Legislature, including transportation, the research-based  
875 reading allocation, and the Florida digital classrooms  
876 allocation. Total funding for each charter school shall be  
877 recalculated during the year to reflect the revised calculations  
878 under the Florida Education Finance Program by the state and the  
879 actual weighted full-time equivalent students reported by the  
880 charter school during the full-time equivalent student survey  
881 periods designated by the Commissioner of Education. For charter



543250

882 schools operated by a not-for-profit or municipal entity, any  
883 unrestricted current and capital assets identified in the  
884 charter school's annual financial audit may be used for other  
885 charter schools operated by the not-for-profit or municipal  
886 entity within the school district. Unrestricted current assets  
887 shall be used in accordance with s. 1011.62, and any  
888 unrestricted capital assets shall be used in accordance with s.  
889 1013.62(2).

890 2.a. Students enrolled in a charter school sponsored by a  
891 state university or Florida College System institution pursuant  
892 to paragraph (5)(a) shall be funded as if they are in a basic  
893 program or a special program in the school district. The basis  
894 for funding these students is the sum of the total operating  
895 funds from the Florida Education Finance Program for the school  
896 district in which the school is located as provided in s.  
897 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act, including gross  
898 state and local funds, discretionary lottery funds, and funds  
899 from each school district's current operating discretionary  
900 millage levy, divided by total funded weighted full-time  
901 equivalent students in the district, and multiplied by the full-  
902 time equivalent membership of the charter school. The Department  
903 of Education shall develop a tool that each state university or  
904 Florida College System institution sponsoring a charter school  
905 shall use for purposes of calculating the funding amount for  
906 each eligible charter school student. The total amount obtained  
907 from the calculation must be appropriated from state funds in  
908 the General Appropriations Act to the charter school.

909 b. Capital outlay funding for a charter school sponsored by  
910 a state university or Florida College System institution





911 pursuant to paragraph (5) (a) is determined pursuant to s.  
912 1013.62 and the General Appropriations Act.

913 (c) Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 8061 s. 10306, all charter  
914 schools shall receive all federal funding for which the school  
915 is otherwise eligible, including Title I funding, not later than  
916 5 months after the charter school first opens and within 5  
917 months after any subsequent expansion of enrollment. Unless  
918 otherwise mutually agreed to by the charter school and its  
919 sponsor, and consistent with state and federal rules and  
920 regulations governing the use and disbursement of federal funds,  
921 the sponsor shall reimburse the charter school on a monthly  
922 basis for all invoices submitted by the charter school for  
923 federal funds available to the sponsor for the benefit of the  
924 charter school, the charter school's students, and the charter  
925 school's students as public school students in the school  
926 district. Such federal funds include, but are not limited to,  
927 Title I, Title II, and Individuals with Disabilities Education  
928 Act (IDEA) funds. To receive timely reimbursement for an  
929 invoice, the charter school must submit the invoice to the  
930 sponsor at least 30 days before the monthly date of  
931 reimbursement set by the sponsor. In order to be reimbursed, any  
932 expenditures made by the charter school must comply with all  
933 applicable state rules and federal regulations, including, but  
934 not limited to, the applicable federal Office of Management and  
935 Budget Circulars; the federal Education Department General  
936 Administrative Regulations; and program-specific statutes,  
937 rules, and regulations. Such funds may not be made available to  
938 the charter school until a plan is submitted to the sponsor for  
939 approval of the use of the funds in accordance with applicable



543250

940 federal requirements. The sponsor has 30 days to review and  
941 approve any plan submitted pursuant to this paragraph.

942 (d) Charter schools shall be included by the Department of  
943 Education and the district school board in requests for federal  
944 stimulus funds in the same manner as district school board-  
945 operated public schools, including Title I and IDEA funds and  
946 shall be entitled to receive such funds. Charter schools are  
947 eligible to participate in federal competitive grants that are  
948 available as part of the federal stimulus funds.

949 (e) Sponsors ~~District school boards~~ shall make timely and  
950 efficient payment and reimbursement to charter schools,  
951 including processing paperwork required to access special state  
952 and federal funding for which they may be eligible. Payments of  
953 funds under paragraph (b) shall be made monthly or twice a  
954 month, beginning with the start of the sponsor's ~~district school~~  
955 ~~board's~~ fiscal year. Each payment shall be one-twelfth, or one  
956 twenty-fourth, as applicable, of the total state and local funds  
957 described in paragraph (b) and adjusted as set forth therein.  
958 For the first 2 years of a charter school's operation, if a  
959 minimum of 75 percent of the projected enrollment is entered  
960 into the sponsor's student information system by the first day  
961 of the current month, the sponsor ~~district school board~~ shall  
962 distribute funds to the school for the months of July through  
963 October based on the projected full-time equivalent student  
964 membership of the charter school as submitted in the approved  
965 application. If less than 75 percent of the projected enrollment  
966 is entered into the sponsor's student information system by the  
967 first day of the current month, the sponsor shall base payments  
968 on the actual number of student enrollment entered into the



543250

969 sponsor's student information system. Thereafter, the results of  
970 full-time equivalent student membership surveys shall be used in  
971 adjusting the amount of funds distributed monthly to the charter  
972 school for the remainder of the fiscal year. The payments shall  
973 be issued no later than 10 working days after the sponsor  
974 ~~district school board~~ receives a distribution of state or  
975 federal funds or the date the payment is due pursuant to this  
976 subsection. If a warrant for payment is not issued within 10  
977 working days after receipt of funding by the sponsor ~~district~~  
978 ~~school board~~, the sponsor ~~school district~~ shall pay to the  
979 charter school, in addition to the amount of the scheduled  
980 disbursement, interest at a rate of 1 percent per month  
981 calculated on a daily basis on the unpaid balance from the  
982 expiration of the 10 working days until such time as the warrant  
983 is issued. The district school board may not delay payment to a  
984 charter school of any portion of the funds provided in paragraph  
985 (b) based on the timing of receipt of local funds by the  
986 district school board.

987 (f) Funding for a virtual charter school shall be as  
988 provided in s. 1002.45(7).

989 (g) To be eligible for public education capital outlay  
990 (PECO) funds, a charter school must be located in the State of  
991 Florida.

992 (h) A charter school that implements a schoolwide standard  
993 student attire policy pursuant to s. 1011.78 is eligible to  
994 receive incentive payments.

995 (18) FACILITIES.—

996 (e) If a district school board facility or property is  
997 available because it is surplus, marked for disposal, or



543250

998 otherwise unused, it shall be provided for a charter school's  
999 use on the same basis as it is made available to other public  
1000 schools in the district. A charter school receiving property  
1001 from the sponsor ~~school district~~ may not sell or dispose of such  
1002 property without written permission of the sponsor ~~school~~  
1003 ~~district~~. Similarly, for an existing public school converting to  
1004 charter status, no rental or leasing fee for the existing  
1005 facility or for the property normally inventoried to the  
1006 conversion school may be charged by the district school board to  
1007 the parents and teachers organizing the charter school. The  
1008 charter school shall agree to reasonable maintenance provisions  
1009 in order to maintain the facility in a manner similar to  
1010 district school board standards. The Public Education Capital  
1011 Outlay maintenance funds or any other maintenance funds  
1012 generated by the facility operated as a conversion school shall  
1013 remain with the conversion school.

1014 (20) SERVICES.—

1015 (a)1. A sponsor shall provide certain administrative and  
1016 educational services to charter schools. These services shall  
1017 include contract management services; full-time equivalent and  
1018 data reporting services; exceptional student education  
1019 administration services; services related to eligibility and  
1020 reporting duties required to ensure that school lunch services  
1021 under the National School Lunch Program, consistent with the  
1022 needs of the charter school, are provided by the sponsor ~~school~~  
1023 ~~district~~ at the request of the charter school, that any funds  
1024 due to the charter school under the National School Lunch  
1025 Program be paid to the charter school as soon as the charter  
1026 school begins serving food under the National School Lunch



543250

1027 Program, and that the charter school is paid at the same time  
1028 and in the same manner under the National School Lunch Program  
1029 as other public schools serviced by the sponsor or the school  
1030 district; test administration services, including payment of the  
1031 costs of state-required or district-required student  
1032 assessments; processing of teacher certificate data services;  
1033 and information services, including equal access to the  
1034 sponsor's student information systems that are used by public  
1035 schools in the district in which the charter school is located  
1036 or by schools in the sponsor's portfolio of charter schools if  
1037 the sponsor is not a school district. Student performance data  
1038 for each student in a charter school, including, but not limited  
1039 to, FCAT scores, standardized test scores, previous public  
1040 school student report cards, and student performance measures,  
1041 shall be provided by the sponsor to a charter school in the same  
1042 manner provided to other public schools in the district or by  
1043 schools in the sponsor's portfolio of charter schools if the  
1044 sponsor is not a school district.

1045 2. A sponsor may withhold an administrative fee for the  
1046 provision of such services which shall be a percentage of the  
1047 available funds defined in paragraph (17)(b) calculated based on  
1048 weighted full-time equivalent students. If the charter school  
1049 serves 75 percent or more exceptional education students as  
1050 defined in s. 1003.01(3), the percentage shall be calculated  
1051 based on unweighted full-time equivalent students. The  
1052 administrative fee shall be calculated as follows:

1053 a. Up to 5 percent for:

1054 (I) Enrollment of up to and including 250 students in a  
1055 charter school as defined in this section.



543250

1056 (II) Enrollment of up to and including 500 students within  
1057 a charter school system which meets all of the following:

1058 (A) Includes conversion charter schools and nonconversion  
1059 charter schools.

1060 (B) Has all of its schools located in the same county.

1061 (C) Has a total enrollment exceeding the total enrollment  
1062 of at least one school district in the state.

1063 (D) Has the same governing board for all of its schools.

1064 (E) Does not contract with a for-profit service provider  
1065 for management of school operations.

1066 (III) Enrollment of up to and including 250 students in a  
1067 virtual charter school.

1068 b. Up to 2 percent for enrollment of up to and including  
1069 250 students in a high-performing charter school as defined in  
1070 s. 1002.331.

1071 c. Up to 2 percent for enrollment of up to and including  
1072 250 students in an exceptional student education center that  
1073 meets the requirements of the rules adopted by the State Board  
1074 of Education pursuant to s. 1008.3415(3).

1075 3. A sponsor may not charge charter schools any additional  
1076 fees or surcharges for administrative and educational services  
1077 in addition to the maximum percentage of administrative fees  
1078 withheld pursuant to this paragraph.

1079 4. A sponsor shall provide to the department by September  
1080 15 of each year the total amount of funding withheld from  
1081 charter schools pursuant to this subsection for the prior fiscal  
1082 year. The department must include the information in the report  
1083 required under sub-sub-subparagraph (5)(b)1.k.(III).

1084 (b) If goods and services are made available to the charter



543250

1085 school through the contract with the sponsor ~~school district~~,  
1086 they shall be provided to the charter school at a rate no  
1087 greater than the sponsor's ~~district's~~ actual cost unless  
1088 mutually agreed upon by the charter school and the sponsor in a  
1089 contract negotiated separately from the charter. When mediation  
1090 has failed to resolve disputes over contracted services or  
1091 contractual matters not included in the charter, an appeal may  
1092 be made to an administrative law judge appointed by the Division  
1093 of Administrative Hearings. The administrative law judge has  
1094 final order authority to rule on the dispute. The administrative  
1095 law judge shall award the prevailing party reasonable attorney  
1096 fees and costs incurred during the mediation process,  
1097 administrative proceeding, and any appeals, to be paid by the  
1098 party whom the administrative law judge rules against. To  
1099 maximize the use of state funds, sponsors ~~school districts~~ shall  
1100 allow charter schools to participate in the sponsor's bulk  
1101 purchasing program if applicable.

1102 (c) Transportation of charter school students shall be  
1103 provided by the charter school consistent with the requirements  
1104 of subpart I.E. of chapter 1006 and s. 1012.45. The governing  
1105 body of the charter school may provide transportation through an  
1106 agreement or contract with the sponsor ~~district school board~~, a  
1107 private provider, or parents. The charter school and the sponsor  
1108 shall cooperate in making arrangements that ensure that  
1109 transportation is not a barrier to equal access for all students  
1110 residing within a reasonable distance of the charter school as  
1111 determined in its charter.

1112 (d) Each charter school shall annually complete and submit  
1113 a survey, provided in a format specified by the Department of



543250

1114 Education, to rate the timeliness and quality of services  
1115 provided by the sponsor ~~district~~ in accordance with this  
1116 section. The department shall compile the results, by sponsor  
1117 ~~district~~, and include the results in the report required under  
1118 sub-sub-subparagraph (5) (b)1.k.(III).

1119 (21) PUBLIC INFORMATION ON CHARTER SCHOOLS.—

1120 (a) The Department of Education shall provide information  
1121 to the public, directly and through sponsors, on how to form and  
1122 operate a charter school and how to enroll in a charter school  
1123 once it is created. This information shall include the standard  
1124 application form, standard charter contract, standard evaluation  
1125 instrument, and standard charter renewal contract, which shall  
1126 include the information specified in subsection (7) and shall be  
1127 developed by consulting and negotiating with both sponsors  
1128 ~~school districts~~ and charter schools before implementation. The  
1129 charter and charter renewal contracts shall be used by charter  
1130 school sponsors.

1131 (b)1. The Department of Education shall report to each  
1132 charter school receiving a school grade pursuant to s. 1008.34  
1133 or a school improvement rating pursuant to s. 1008.341 the  
1134 school's student assessment data.

1135 2. The charter school shall report the information in  
1136 subparagraph 1. to each parent of a student at the charter  
1137 school, the parent of a child on a waiting list for the charter  
1138 school, the sponsor ~~district in which the charter school is~~  
1139 ~~located~~, and the governing board of the charter school. This  
1140 paragraph does not abrogate the provisions of s. 1002.22,  
1141 relating to student records, or the requirements of 20 U.S.C. s.  
1142 1232g, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.





543250

1143 (25) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY STATUS FOR CERTAIN CHARTER  
1144 SCHOOL SYSTEMS.—

1145 (a) A charter school system's governing board shall be  
1146 designated a local educational agency for the purpose of  
1147 receiving federal funds, the same as though the charter school  
1148 system were a school district, if the governing board of the  
1149 charter school system has adopted and filed a resolution with  
1150 its sponsor ~~sponsoring district school board~~ and the Department  
1151 of Education in which the governing board of the charter school  
1152 system accepts the full responsibility for all local education  
1153 agency requirements and the charter school system meets all of  
1154 the following:

- 1155 1. Has all schools located in the same county;  
1156 2. Has a total enrollment exceeding the total enrollment of  
1157 at least one school district in the state; and  
1158 3. Has the same governing board.

1159  
1160 Such designation does not apply to other provisions unless  
1161 specifically provided in law.

1162 (28) RULEMAKING.—The Department of Education, after  
1163 consultation with sponsors ~~school districts~~ and charter school  
1164 directors, shall recommend that the State Board of Education  
1165 adopt rules to implement specific subsections of this section.  
1166 Such rules shall require minimum paperwork and shall not limit  
1167 charter school flexibility authorized by statute. The State  
1168 Board of Education shall adopt rules, pursuant to ss. 120.536(1)  
1169 and 120.54, to implement a standard charter application form,  
1170 standard application form for the replication of charter schools  
1171 in a high-performing charter school system, standard evaluation



543250

1172 instrument, and standard charter and charter renewal contracts  
1173 in accordance with this section.

1174 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
1175 1002.331, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1176 1002.331 High-performing charter schools.—

1177 (3)

1178 (b) A high-performing charter school may submit not  
1179 ~~establish more than two applications for a charter school~~  
1180 ~~schools~~ within the state under paragraph (a) to be opened at a  
1181 time determined by the high-performing charter school in any  
1182 year. A subsequent application to establish a charter school  
1183 under paragraph (a) may not be submitted unless each charter  
1184 school applicant commences operations or an application is  
1185 otherwise withdrawn established in this manner achieves high-  
1186 performing charter school status. However, a high-performing  
1187 charter school may establish more than one charter school within  
1188 the state under paragraph (a) in any year if it operates in the  
1189 area of a persistently low-performing school and serves students  
1190 from that school. This paragraph applies to any high-performing  
1191 charter school with an existing approved application.

1192 Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1), paragraphs (g)  
1193 and (h) of subsection (6), paragraph (d) of subsection (7), and  
1194 paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section 1002.333, Florida  
1195 Statutes, are amended to read:

1196 1002.333 Persistently low-performing schools.—

1197 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

1198 (c) "Persistently low-performing school" means a school  
1199 that has earned three grades lower than a "C," pursuant to s.  
1200 1008.34, in at least 3 of the previous 5 years that the school



543250

1201 received a grade and has not earned a grade of "B" or higher in  
1202 the most recent 2 school years, and a school that was closed  
1203 pursuant to s. 1008.33(4) within 2 years after the submission of  
1204 a notice of intent.

1205 (6) STATUTORY AUTHORITY.—

1206 (g) Each school of hope that has not been designated as a  
1207 local education agency shall report its students to the school  
1208 district as required in s. 1011.62, and in accordance with the  
1209 definitions in s. 1011.61. The school district shall include  
1210 each charter school's enrollment in the district's report of  
1211 student enrollment. A school of hope designated as a local  
1212 education agency may report its students to the department in  
1213 accordance with the definitions in s. 1011.61 pursuant to  
1214 procedures and timelines adopted by the department. All charter  
1215 schools submitting student record information required by the  
1216 department shall comply with the department's guidelines for  
1217 electronic data formats for such data, and all districts shall  
1218 accept electronic data that complies with the department's  
1219 electronic format.

1220 (h) A ~~school of hope~~ operator shall provide the school  
1221 district with a concise, uniform, quarterly financial statement  
1222 summary sheet that contains a balance sheet and a statement of  
1223 revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance. The balance  
1224 sheet and the statement of revenue, expenditures, and changes in  
1225 fund balance shall be in the governmental fund format prescribed  
1226 by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Additionally, a  
1227 ~~school of hope~~ operator shall comply with the annual audit  
1228 requirement ~~for charter schools~~ in s. 218.39.

1229 (7) FACILITIES.—



543250

1230 (d) No later than January ~~October~~ 1, the department ~~each~~  
1231 ~~school district~~ shall annually provide to school districts ~~the~~  
1232 ~~Department of Education~~ a list of all underused, vacant, or  
1233 surplus facilities owned or operated by the school district as  
1234 reported in the Florida Inventory of School Houses. A school  
1235 district may provide evidence to the department that the list  
1236 contains errors or omissions within 30 days after receipt of the  
1237 list. By each April 1, the department shall update and publish a  
1238 final list of all underused, vacant, or surplus facilities owned  
1239 or operated by each school district, based upon updated  
1240 information provided by each school district. A hope operator  
1241 establishing a school of hope may use an educational facility  
1242 identified in this paragraph at no cost or at a mutually  
1243 agreeable cost not to exceed \$600 per student. A hope operator  
1244 using a facility pursuant to this paragraph may not sell or  
1245 dispose of such facility without the written permission of the  
1246 school district. For purposes of this paragraph, the term  
1247 "underused, vacant, or surplus facility" means an entire  
1248 facility or portion thereof which is not fully used or is used  
1249 irregularly or intermittently by the school district for  
1250 instructional or program use.

1251 (10) SCHOOLS OF HOPE PROGRAM.—The Schools of Hope Program  
1252 is created within the Department of Education.

1253 (b) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351,  
1254 funds allocated for the purpose of this subsection which are not  
1255 disbursed by June 30 of the fiscal year in which the funds are  
1256 allocated may be carried forward for up to 7 ~~5~~ years after the  
1257 effective date of the original appropriation.

1258 Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section



543250

1259 1003.493, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1260 1003.493 Career and professional academies and career-  
1261 themed courses.—

1262 (1) (a) A “career and professional academy” is a research-  
1263 based program that integrates a rigorous academic curriculum  
1264 with an industry-specific curriculum aligned directly to  
1265 priority workforce needs established by the local workforce  
1266 development board or the Department of Economic Opportunity.  
1267 Career and professional academies shall be offered by public  
1268 schools and school districts. Career and professional academies  
1269 may be offered by charter schools. The Florida Virtual School is  
1270 encouraged to develop and offer rigorous career and professional  
1271 courses as appropriate. Students completing career and  
1272 professional academy programs must receive a standard high  
1273 school diploma, the highest available industry certification,  
1274 and opportunities to earn postsecondary credit if the academy  
1275 partners with a postsecondary institution approved to operate in  
1276 the state.

1277 Section 6. Present subsection (3) of section 1008.3415,  
1278 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (4), and a new  
1279 subsection (3) is added to that section, to read:

1280 1008.3415 School grade or school improvement rating for  
1281 exceptional student education centers.—

1282 (3) The Commissioner of Education, upon request by a  
1283 charter school that is an exceptional student education center  
1284 and that has received two consecutive ratings of “maintaining”  
1285 or higher pursuant to s. 1008.341(2), shall provide a letter to  
1286 the charter school and to the charter school’s sponsor stating  
1287 that the charter school may replicate its educational program in



543250

1288 the same manner as a high-performing charter school under s.  
1289 1002.331(3).

1290 Section 7. Subsection (2) of section 1012.32, Florida  
1291 Statutes, is amended to read:

1292 1012.32 Qualifications of personnel.—

1293 (2) (a) Instructional and noninstructional personnel who are  
1294 hired or contracted to fill positions that require direct  
1295 contact with students in any district school system or  
1296 university lab school must, upon employment or engagement to  
1297 provide services, undergo background screening as required under  
1298 s. 1012.465 or s. 1012.56, whichever is applicable.

1299 (b) 1. Instructional and noninstructional personnel who are  
1300 hired or contracted to fill positions in a ~~any~~ charter school  
1301 other than a school of hope as defined in s. 1002.333(1)(d)1.,  
1302 and members of the governing board of ~~such any~~ charter school,  
1303 in compliance with s. 1002.33(12)(g), ~~must,~~ upon employment,  
1304 engagement of services, or appointment, shall undergo background  
1305 screening as required under s. 1012.465 or s. 1012.56, whichever  
1306 is applicable, by filing with the district school board for the  
1307 school district in which the charter school is located a  
1308 complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized law  
1309 enforcement agency or an employee of the school or school  
1310 district who is trained to take fingerprints.

1311 2. Instructional and noninstructional personnel who are  
1312 hired or contracted to fill positions in a school of hope as  
1313 defined in s. 1002.333(1)(d)1., and members of the governing  
1314 board of such school of hope, shall file with the school of hope  
1315 a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized law  
1316 enforcement agency, by an employee of the school of hope or



543250

1317 school district who is trained to take fingerprints, or by any  
1318 other entity recognized by the Department of Law Enforcement to  
1319 take fingerprints.

1320 (c) Instructional and noninstructional personnel who are  
1321 hired or contracted to fill positions that require direct  
1322 contact with students in an alternative school that operates  
1323 under contract with a district school system must, upon  
1324 employment or engagement to provide services, undergo background  
1325 screening as required under s. 1012.465 or s. 1012.56, whichever  
1326 is applicable, by filing with the district school board for the  
1327 school district to which the alternative school is under  
1328 contract a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized  
1329 law enforcement agency or an employee of the school or school  
1330 district who is trained to take fingerprints.

1331 (d) Student teachers and persons participating in a field  
1332 experience pursuant to s. 1004.04(5) or s. 1004.85 in any  
1333 district school system, lab school, or charter school must, upon  
1334 engagement to provide services, undergo background screening as  
1335 required under s. 1012.56.

1336  
1337 Required fingerprints must ~~shall~~ be submitted to the Department  
1338 of Law Enforcement for statewide criminal and juvenile records  
1339 checks and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for federal  
1340 criminal records checks. A person subject to this subsection who  
1341 is found ineligible for employment under s. 1012.315, or  
1342 otherwise found through background screening to have been  
1343 convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude as defined by  
1344 rule of the State Board of Education, shall not be employed,  
1345 engaged to provide services, or serve in any position that



543250

1346 requires direct contact with students. Probationary persons  
1347 subject to this subsection terminated because of their criminal  
1348 record have the right to appeal such decisions. The cost of the  
1349 background screening may be borne by the district school board,  
1350 the charter school, the employee, the contractor, or a person  
1351 subject to this subsection. A district school board shall  
1352 reimburse a charter school the cost of background screening if  
1353 it does not notify the charter school of the eligibility of a  
1354 governing board member or instructional or noninstructional  
1355 personnel within the earlier of 14 days after receipt of the  
1356 background screening results from the Florida Department of Law  
1357 Enforcement or 30 days of submission of fingerprints by the  
1358 governing board member or instructional or noninstructional  
1359 personnel.

1360 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
1361 1013.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1362 1013.62 Charter schools capital outlay funding.-

1363 (1) For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, charter school capital  
1364 outlay funding shall consist of state funds appropriated in the  
1365 2020-2021 General Appropriations Act. Beginning in fiscal year  
1366 2021-2022, charter school capital outlay funding shall consist  
1367 of state funds when such funds are appropriated in the General  
1368 Appropriations Act and revenue resulting from the discretionary  
1369 millage authorized in s. 1011.71(2) if the amount of state funds  
1370 appropriated for charter school capital outlay in any fiscal  
1371 year is less than the average charter school capital outlay  
1372 funds per unweighted full-time equivalent student for the 2018-  
1373 2019 fiscal year, multiplied by the estimated number of charter  
1374 school students for the applicable fiscal year, and adjusted by





543250

1375 changes in the Consumer Price Index issued by the United States  
1376 Department of Labor from the previous fiscal year. Nothing in  
1377 this subsection prohibits a school district from distributing to  
1378 charter schools funds resulting from the discretionary millage  
1379 authorized in s. 1011.71(2).

1380 (a) To be eligible to receive capital outlay funds, a  
1381 charter school must:

1382 1.a. Have been in operation for 2 or more years;

1383 b. Be governed by a governing board established in the  
1384 state for 2 or more years which operates both charter schools  
1385 and conversion charter schools within the state;

1386 c. Be an expanded feeder chain of a charter school within  
1387 the same school district that is currently receiving charter  
1388 school capital outlay funds;

1389 d. Have been accredited by a regional accrediting  
1390 association as defined by State Board of Education rule; ~~or~~

1391 e. Serve students in facilities that are provided by a  
1392 business partner for a charter school-in-the-workplace pursuant  
1393 to s. 1002.33(15) (b); or

1394 f. Be operated by a hope operator pursuant to s. 1002.333.

1395 2. Have an annual audit that does not reveal any of the  
1396 financial emergency conditions provided in s. 218.503(1) for the  
1397 most recent fiscal year for which such audit results are  
1398 available.

1399 3. Have satisfactory student achievement based on state  
1400 accountability standards applicable to the charter school.

1401 4. Have received final approval from its sponsor pursuant  
1402 to s. 1002.33 for operation during that fiscal year.

1403 5. Serve students in facilities that are not provided by



1404 the charter school's sponsor.

1405 Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

1406

1407 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

1408 And the title is amended as follows:

1409 Delete everything before the enacting clause

1410 and insert:

1411 A bill to be entitled

1412 An act relating to charter schools; amending s.

1413 218.39, F.S.; providing that a hope operator that has

1414 not been notified that a financial audit for a fiscal

1415 year will be performed by the Auditor General must

1416 retain an independent certified public accountant to

1417 complete, within 9 months after the end of its fiscal

1418 year, an annual financial audit of its accounts, which

1419 must be paid from its public funds; requiring an

1420 auditor to discuss comments that will be included in

1421 the audit report with the hope operator's board chair

1422 or the chair's designee; requiring the auditor to

1423 notify each hope operator board member of specified

1424 information; requiring hope operators to file an

1425 officer's written statement of explanation or rebuttal

1426 concerning an auditor's findings within a certain

1427 timeframe; authorizing the Legislative Auditing

1428 Committee to require the chair of the hope operator or

1429 the chair's designee to appear before the committee if

1430 it is determined that the written statement is

1431 insufficient; requiring each hope operator to file a

1432 copy of its audit report with specified entities;



1433 amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; authorizing state  
1434 universities and Florida College System institutions  
1435 to solicit applications and sponsor charter schools  
1436 under certain circumstances; prohibiting certain  
1437 charter schools from being sponsored by a Florida  
1438 College System institution until such charter school's  
1439 existing charter expires; authorizing a state  
1440 university or Florida College System institution to,  
1441 at its discretion, deny an application for a charter  
1442 school; revising the contents of an annual report that  
1443 charter school sponsors must provide to the Department  
1444 of Education; revising the date by which the  
1445 department must post a specified annual report;  
1446 revising provisions relating to Florida College System  
1447 institutions that are operating charter schools;  
1448 requiring the board of trustees of a state university  
1449 or Florida College System institution that is  
1450 sponsoring a charter school to serve as the local  
1451 educational agency for such school; prohibiting  
1452 certain charter school students from being included in  
1453 specified school district grade calculations;  
1454 requiring the department to develop a sponsor  
1455 evaluation framework; providing requirements for the  
1456 framework; requiring the department to compile  
1457 results in a specified manner; deleting obsolete  
1458 language; revising requirements for the charter school  
1459 application process; revising the student populations  
1460 for which a charter school is authorized to limit the  
1461 enrollment process; providing a calculation for the



1462 operational funding for a charter school sponsored by  
1463 a state university or Florida College System  
1464 institution; requiring the department to develop a  
1465 tool for state universities and Florida College System  
1466 institutions for specified purposes relating to  
1467 certain funding calculations; providing that such  
1468 funding must be appropriated to the charter school;  
1469 providing for capital outlay funding for such schools;  
1470 authorizing a sponsor to withhold an administrative  
1471 fee for the provision of certain services to an  
1472 exceptional student education center that meets  
1473 specified requirements; conforming provisions to  
1474 changes made by the act; amending s. 1002.331, F.S.;  
1475 revising provisions relating to the opening of  
1476 additional high-performing charter schools; amending  
1477 s. 1002.333, F.S.; revising the definition of the term  
1478 "persistently low-performing school"; authorizing,  
1479 instead of requiring, a school of hope designated as a  
1480 local education agency to report students in  
1481 accordance with procedures and timelines adopted by  
1482 the Department of Education; requiring hope operators,  
1483 rather than schools of hope, to provide school  
1484 districts with quarterly financial statement summary  
1485 sheets; revising the manner in which underused,  
1486 vacant, or surplus facilities owned or operated by  
1487 school districts are identified; increasing the number  
1488 of years for which certain funds may be carried  
1489 forward; amending s. 1003.493, F.S.; authorizing a  
1490 charter school to offer a career and professional



543250

1491 academy; amending s. 1008.3415, F.S.; requiring the  
1492 Commissioner of Education, upon request by a charter  
1493 school that meets specified criteria, to provide a  
1494 letter to the charter school and the charter school's  
1495 sponsor authorizing the charter school to replicate  
1496 the charter school's education program; amending s.  
1497 1012.32, F.S.; providing an alternate screening method  
1498 for specified persons employed by certain schools of  
1499 hope or serving on certain school of hope governing  
1500 boards; amending s. 1013.62, F.S.; expanding  
1501 eligibility to receive capital outlay funds to schools  
1502 of hope operated by a hope operator; providing an  
1503 effective date.