An act relating to moments of silence in public schools; amending s. 1003.45, F.S.; providing legislative findings; requiring that public school principals require certain teachers to set aside time for a moment of silence at the beginning of each school day; specifying the duration of the required moment of silence; prohibiting teachers from making suggestions as to the nature of any reflection that a student may engage in during the moment of silence; deleting a provision authorizing district school boards to provide a brief period of silent prayer or meditation; requiring certain teachers to encourage parents or guardians to discuss the moment of silence with their children and to make suggestions as to the best use of this time; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1003.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.45 Permitting study of the Bible and religion; requiring a moment of silence permitting brief meditation period.—

(1) The district school board may install in the public
schools in the district a secular program of education  
including, but not limited to, an objective study of the Bible  
and of religion.  

(2) The Legislature finds that in today’s hectic society  
too few persons are able to experience even a moment of quiet  
reflection before plunging headlong into the activities of daily  
life. Young persons are particularly affected by the absence of  
an opportunity for a moment of quiet reflection. The Legislature  
finds that our youth, and society as a whole, would be well  
served if students in the public schools were afforded a moment  
of silence at the beginning of each school day.  

(3) The principal of each public school shall require  
teachers in first-period classrooms in all grades to set aside  
at least 1 minute, but district school board may provide that a  
brief period, not more than to exceed 2 minutes, daily, for a  
moment the purpose of silence, during which students may not  
interfere with other students’ participation. A teacher may not  
make suggestions as to the nature of any reflection that a  
student may engage in during the moment of silence silent prayer  
or meditation be set aside at the start of each school day or  
each school week in the public schools in the district.  

(4) Each first-period classroom teacher shall encourage  
parents or guardians to discuss the moment of silence with their  
children and to make suggestions as to the best use of this  
time.
Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.