${\bf By}$ Senator Harrell

	25-00607-21 2021580
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to dyslexia; creating s. 1001.2151,
3	F.S.; providing legislative intent; requiring public
4	schools to screen all students in kindergarten through
5	grade 3 for dyslexia within a certain timeframe;
6	requiring public school students with a substantial
7	deficiency in reading to be placed in an intensive
8	remedial intervention program; requiring parental
9	notification of dyslexia diagnoses and biweekly
10	progress reports; providing for subsequent diagnostic
11	assessment; requiring that intensive remedial
12	intervention meet certain requirements; requiring
13	remedial intervention to continue until the student
14	can perform at a certain level; requiring public
15	schools to have at least one person on staff with
16	specified certification in reading instruction for
17	students with dyslexia; requiring the State Board of
18	Education to adopt rules; amending s. 1003.01, F.S.;
19	defining the terms "disability," "dyscalculia,"
20	"dysgraphia," and "dyslexia"; making technical
21	changes; establishing the Dyslexia Task Force within
22	the Department of Education; specifying the purpose
23	and duties of the task force; requiring the task force
24	members to be appointed by the Commissioner of
25	Education; requiring the task force to consist of nine
26	members having certain backgrounds; requiring the task
27	force to hold its first meeting within a certain
28	timeframe; providing that task force members serve
29	without compensation, but may receive reimbursement

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30	for certain expenses; providing a directive to the
31	Division of Law Revision; amending s. 1003.26, F.S.;
32	removing a requirement for district school
33	superintendents to refer parents to a home education
34	review committee; removing a penalty for parents
35	failing to provide a portfolio to such committee;
36	amending ss. 11.45, 39.0016, 414.1251, 1002.01,
37	1002.20, 1002.3105, 1002.33, 1002.385, 1002.42,
38	1002.43, 1003.03, 1003.21, 1003.4282, 1003.52,
39	1003.575, 1006.07, 1008.24, and 1012.2315, F.S.;
40	conforming cross-references; providing an effective
41	date.
42	
43	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
44	
45	Section 1. Section 1001.2151, Florida Statutes, is created
46	to read:
47	1001.2151 LITERACY-BASED PROMOTIONIt is the intent of the
48	Legislature to ensure that each student's progression in
49	kindergarten through grade 3 is determined in part upon the
50	student's proficiency in reading. Local school board policies
51	shall facilitate this proficiency, and each student and the
52	student's parent or legal guardian shall be informed of the
53	student's academic progress.
54	(1) Within the first 30 days of the school year, each
55	public school shall screen each student in kindergarten through
56	grade 3 for dyslexia using a dyslexia diagnostic assessment
57	screener.
58	(2) Each public school student in kindergarten through
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59	grade 3 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading at any
60	time, as demonstrated through his or her performance on a
61	dyslexia diagnostic assessment screener approved and developed
62	by the State Board of Education, must be placed in an intensive
63	remedial intervention program.
64	(3) The parent of any student in kindergarten through grade
65	3 who exhibits dyslexia shall be immediately notified by the
66	student's school of the student's deficiency pursuant to s.
67	1008.25(5) and the parent shall be provided a progress report
68	issued at 2-week intervals while the student continues to
69	exhibit dyslexia. The parent shall also be notified in writing
70	by the school of the process to request a special education
71	evaluation.
72	(4) The dyslexia diagnostic assessment screener may be
73	repeated at midyear and at the end of the school year to
74	determine student progression in reading. If it is determined
75	that the student continues to exhibit a reading deficiency, he
76	or she must be provided with continued intensive remedial
77	intervention by the school district until the deficiency is
78	remedied. Every public school must provide intensive
79	interventions for every student in kindergarten through grade 3
80	identified with a deficiency in reading or with dyslexia to
81	ameliorate the student's specific deficiency.
82	(5) The intensive remedial intervention program must
83	include evidence-based interventions specifically designed for
84	dyslexia utilizing a structured literacy, speech to print, or
85	structured word inquiry approach to assist the student in
86	becoming a successful reader able to read at or above grade
87	level and ready for promotion to the next grade. The intensive

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88	remedial intervention program must be continued until the
89	student can maintain grade level performance in decoding,
90	encoding, reading fluency, and reading comprehension without
91	continued supportive intervention and services.
92	(6) Every public school must employ one or more full-time
93	personnel certified through a nationally recognized organization
94	specializing in reading instruction for students with dyslexia
95	to provide structured literacy, speech to print, or structured
96	word inquiry intervention.
97	(7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that
98	require students to be evaluated for phonological awareness to
99	determine whether a student has a specific learning disability.
100	Section 2. Section 1003.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to
101	read:
102	1003.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:
103	(7) (1) "District school board" means the members who are
104	elected by the voters of a school district created and existing
105	pursuant to s. 4, Art. IX of the State Constitution to operate
106	and control public K-12 education within the school district.
107	(19) (2) "School" means an organization of students for
108	instructional purposes on an elementary, middle or junior high
109	school, secondary or high school, or other public school level
110	authorized under rules of the State Board of Education.
111	(6) "Disability" means an intellectual disability; autism
112	spectrum disorder; a speech impairment; a language impairment;
113	an orthopedic impairment; any other health impairment; traumatic
114	brain injury; a visual impairment; an emotional or behavioral
115	disability; or a specific learning disability, including, but
116	not limited to, dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, or

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117	developmental aphasia; students who are deaf or hard of hearing
118	or dual sensory impaired; students who are hospitalized or
119	homebound; children with developmental delays ages birth through
120	5 years, or children, ages birth through 2 years, with
121	established conditions that are identified in State Board of
122	Education rules pursuant to s. 1003.21(1)(e).
123	(9) "Dyscalculia" means a specific learning disability that
124	<u>is:</u>
125	(a) Neurological in origin;
126	(b) Characterized by difficulties with learning and
127	comprehending arithmetic, understanding numbers, performing
128	mathematical calculations, and learning mathematics; and
129	(c) Often unexpected in relation to other cognitive
130	abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction.
131	(10) "Dysgraphia" means a specific learning disability that
132	<u>is:</u>
133	(a) Neurological in origin;
134	(b) Characterized by difficulties with accurate writing
135	abilities, spelling, handwriting, and putting thoughts on paper;
136	and
137	(c) Often unexpected in relation to other cognitive
138	abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction.
139	(11) "Dyslexia" means a specific learning disability that
140	<u>is:</u>
141	(a) Neurological in origin;
142	(b) Characterized by difficulties with accurate and fluent
143	word recognition, spelling, and decoding which typically result
144	from a deficit in the phonological component of language; and
145	(c) Often unexpected in relation to other cognitive

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25-00607-21 2021580 146 abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. 147 Secondary consequences may include problems in reading 148 comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede 149 growth of vocabulary and background knowledge. 150 (12) (3) (a) "Exceptional student" means any student who has 151 been determined eligible for a special program in accordance 152 with rules of the State Board of Education. The term includes students who are gifted and students with disabilities who have 153 154 an intellectual disability; autism spectrum disorder; a speech 155 impairment; a language impairment; an orthopedic impairment; an 156 other health impairment; traumatic brain injury; a visual 157 impairment; an emotional or behavioral disability; or a specific learning disability, including, but not limited to, dyslexia, 158 dyscalculia, or developmental aphasia; students who are deaf or 159 160 hard of hearing or dual sensory impaired; students who are 161 hospitalized or homebound; children with developmental delays 162 ages birth through 5 years, or children, ages birth through 2 years, with established conditions that are identified in State 163 164 Board of Education rules pursuant to s. 1003.21(1)(e). (b) "Special education services" means specially designed 165 166 instruction and such related services as are necessary for an 167 exceptional student to benefit from education. Such services may 168 include: transportation; diagnostic and evaluation services; 169 social services; physical and occupational therapy; speech and 170 language pathology services; job placement; orientation and 171 mobility training; braillists, typists, and readers for the 172 blind; interpreters and auditory amplification; services 173 provided by a certified listening and spoken language

specialist; rehabilitation counseling; transition services;

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     mental health services; guidance and career counseling;
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     specified materials, assistive technology devices, and other
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     specialized equipment; and other such services as approved by
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     rules of the state board.
          (2) (4) "Career education" means education that provides
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     instruction for the following purposes:
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           (a) At the elementary, middle, and high school levels,
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     exploratory courses designed to give students initial exposure
     to a broad range of occupations to assist them in preparing
183
184
     their academic and occupational plans, and practical arts
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     courses that provide generic skills that may apply to many
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     occupations but are not designed to prepare students for entry
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     into a specific occupation. Career education provided before
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     high school completion must be designed to strengthen both
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     occupational awareness and academic skills integrated throughout
190
     all academic instruction.
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           (b) At the secondary school level, job-preparatory
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     instruction in the competencies that prepare students for
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     effective entry into an occupation, including diversified
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     cooperative education, work experience, and job-entry programs
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     that coordinate directed study and on-the-job training.
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(c) At the postsecondary education level, courses of study
that provide competencies needed for entry into specific
occupations or for advancement within an occupation.

199 <u>(20) (5) (a)</u> "Suspension," also referred to as out-of-school 200 suspension, means the temporary removal of a student from all 201 classes of instruction on public school grounds and all other 202 school-sponsored activities, except as authorized by the 203 principal or the principal's designee, for a period not to

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25-00607-21 2021580 204 exceed 10 school days and remanding of the student to the 205 custody of the student's parent with specific homework 206 assignments for the student to complete. 207 (b) "In-school suspension" means the temporary removal of a 208 student from the student's regular school program and placement 209 in an alternative program, such as that provided in s. 1003.53, 210 under the supervision of district school board personnel, for a 211 period not to exceed 10 school days. (13) (6) "Expulsion" means the removal of the right and 212 213 obligation of a student to attend a public school under 214 conditions set by the district school board, and for a period of 215 time not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year and 216 1 additional year of attendance. Expulsions may be imposed with 217 or without continuing educational services and shall be reported 218 accordingly. 219 (5) (7) "Corporal punishment" means the moderate use of 220 physical force or physical contact by a teacher or principal as 221 may be necessary to maintain discipline or to enforce school 222 rule. However, the term "corporal punishment" does not include 223 the use of such reasonable force by a teacher or principal as 224 may be necessary for self-protection or to protect other 225 students from disruptive students. 226 (15) (8) "Habitual truant" means a student who has 15 227 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days with or without the knowledge or consent of the student's parent, is subject to 228

229 compulsory school attendance under s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a), and 230 is not exempt under s. 1003.21(3) or s. 1003.24, or by meeting 231 the criteria for any other exemption specified by law or rules 232 of the State Board of Education. Such a student must have been

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233	the subject of the activities specified in ss. 1003.26 and
234	1003.27(3), without resultant successful remediation of the
235	truancy problem before being dealt with as a child in need of
236	services according to the provisions of chapter 984.
237	<u>(8)</u> "Dropout" means a student who meets any one or more
238	of the following criteria:
239	(a) The student has voluntarily removed himself or herself
240	from the school system before graduation for reasons that
241	include, but are not limited to, marriage, or the student has
242	withdrawn from school because he or she has failed the statewide
243	student assessment test and thereby does not receive any of the
244	certificates of completion;
245	(b) The student has not met the relevant attendance
246	requirements of the school district pursuant to State Board of
247	Education rules, or the student was expected to attend a school
248	but did not enter as expected for unknown reasons, or the
249	student's whereabouts are unknown;
250	(c) The student has withdrawn from school, but has not
251	transferred to another public or private school or enrolled in
252	any career, adult, home education, or alternative educational
253	program;
254	(d) The student has withdrawn from school due to hardship,
255	unless such withdrawal has been granted under the provisions of
256	s. 322.091, court action, expulsion, medical reasons, or
257	pregnancy; or
258	(e) The student is not eligible to attend school because of
259	reaching the maximum age for an exceptional student program in
260	accordance with the district's policy.
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25-00607-21 2021580 262 The State Board of Education may adopt rules to implement the 263 provisions of this subsection. 264 (1) (1) (10) "Alternative measures for students with special 265 needs" or "special programs" means measures designed to meet the 266 special needs of a student that cannot be met by regular school 267 curricula. 268 (16) (11) (a) "Juvenile justice education programs or 269 schools" means programs or schools operating for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in Department of 270 271 Juvenile Justice programs, for a school year comprised of 250 272 days of instruction distributed over 12 months. At the request 273 of the provider, a district school board may decrease the 274 minimum number of days of instruction by up to 10 days for 275 teacher planning for residential programs and up to 20 days for 276 teacher planning for nonresidential programs, subject to the 277 approval of the Department of Juvenile Justice and the 278 Department of Education. 279 (b) "Juvenile justice provider" means the Department of

Juvenile Justice, the sheriff, or a private, public, or other governmental organization under contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice or the sheriff that provides treatment, care and custody, or educational programs for youth in juvenile justice intervention, detention, or commitment programs.

(3) (12) "Children and youths who are experiencing homelessness," for programs authorized under subtitle B, Education for Homeless Children and Youths, of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. ss. 11431 et seq., means children and youths who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes:

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291	(a) Children and youths who are sharing the housing of
292	other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a
293	similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, travel trailer
294	parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative
295	adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional
296	shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster
297	care placement.
298	(b) Children and youths who have a primary nighttime
299	residence that is a public or private place not designed for or
300	ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human
301	beings.
302	(c) Children and youths who are living in cars, parks,
303	public spaces, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or
304	similar settings.
305	(d) Migratory children who are living in circumstances
306	described in paragraphs (a)-(c).
307	(18) (13) "Regular school attendance" means the actual
308	attendance of a student during the school day as defined by law
309	and rules of the State Board of Education. Regular attendance
310	within the intent of s. 1003.21 may be achieved by attendance
311	in:
312	(a) A public school supported by public funds;
313	(b) A parochial, religious, or denominational school;
314	(c) A private school supported in whole or in part by
315	tuition charges or by endowments or gifts;
316	(d) A home education program that meets the requirements of
317	chapter 1002; or
318	(e) A private tutoring program that meets the requirements
319	of chapter 1002.
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320	<u>(4)</u> "Core-curricula courses" means:
321	(a) Courses in language arts/reading, mathematics, social
322	studies, and science in prekindergarten through grade 3,
323	excluding extracurricular courses pursuant to subsection (14)
324	subsection (15);
325	(b) Courses in grades 4 through 8 in subjects that are
326	measured by state assessment at any grade level and courses
327	required for middle school promotion, excluding extracurricular
328	courses pursuant to subsection (14) subsection (15);
329	(c) Courses in grades 9 through 12 in subjects that are
330	measured by state assessment at any grade level and courses that
331	are specifically identified by name in statute as required for
332	high school graduation and that are not measured by state
333	assessment, excluding extracurricular courses pursuant to
334	subsection (14) subsection (15);
335	(d) Exceptional student education courses; and
336	(e) English for Speakers of Other Languages courses.
337	
338	The term is limited in meaning and used for the sole purpose of
339	designating classes that are subject to the maximum class size
340	requirements established in s. 1, Art. IX of the State
341	Constitution. This term does not include courses offered under
342	ss. 1002.321(4)(e), 1002.33(7)(a)2.b., 1002.37, 1002.45, and
343	1003.499.
344	(14) (15) "Extracurricular courses" means all courses that
345	are not defined as "core-curricula courses," which may include,
346	but are not limited to, physical education, fine arts,
347	performing fine arts, career education, and courses that may
348	result in college credit. The term is limited in meaning and
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349	used for the sole purpose of designating classes that are not
350	subject to the maximum class size requirements established in s.
351	1, Art. IX of the State Constitution.
352	(17) (16) "Physical education" means the development or
353	maintenance of skills related to strength, agility, flexibility,
354	movement, and stamina, including dance; the development of
355	knowledge and skills regarding teamwork and fair play; the
356	development of knowledge and skills regarding nutrition and
357	physical fitness as part of a healthy lifestyle; and the
358	development of positive attitudes regarding sound nutrition and
359	physical activity as a component of personal well-being.
360	Section 3. The Dyslexia Task Force, a task force as defined
361	in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes, is established within the
362	Department of Education.
363	(1) The task force shall develop a dyslexia handbook that
364	must include, but is not limited to, the following:
365	(a) Recommendations on how to identify dyslexia,
366	dysgraphia, and dyscalculia;
367	(b) Recommendations for appropriate goal writing for
368	individual education plans (IEPs) for students with dyslexia,
369	dysgraphia, or dyscalculia;
370	(c) Recommendations for interventions for dyslexia,
371	dysgraphia, and dyscalculia;
372	(d) Recommendations for provision of assistive technology
373	guidelines; and
374	(e) Recommendations for the creation of a parent handbook
375	regarding dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia.
376	(2) The task force shall recommend amendments to uniform
377	digital IEP documents to require a drop-down menu under specific

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378	learning disabilities which allows child study teams to check
379	all learning disabilities that are exhibited by the student,
380	including dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia.
381	(3) The task force shall consist of the following nine
382	members appointed by the Commissioner of Education:
383	(a) Three members of organizations or nonprofits focused on
384	dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities.
385	(b) A faculty member or researcher from a university with a
386	program or department devoted to dyslexia and reading disorders.
387	(c) A neuropsychologist or clinical psychologist who
388	specializes in dyslexia evaluation and identification.
389	(d) A speech language pathologist with expertise in
390	dyslexia, phonological deficits, and language disorders.
391	(e) A parent of a child with dyslexia.
392	(f) A public school teacher.
393	(g) A public school principal.
394	(4) Within 90 days after the effective date of this act, a
395	majority of the members of the task force must be appointed and
396	the task force shall hold its first meeting. The task force
397	shall elect one of its members to serve as chair. Members of the
398	task force shall serve for the duration of the existence of the
399	task force. Any vacancy that occurs shall be filled in the same
400	manner as the original appointment. Task force members shall
401	serve without compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement
402	for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061,
403	Florida Statutes.
404	Section 4. The Division of Law Revision is directed to
405	replace the phrase "the effective date of this act" wherever it
406	occurs in this act with the date the act becomes a law.

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25-00607-21 2021580 407 Section 5. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section 408 1003.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 409 1003.26 Enforcement of school attendance.-The Legislature 410 finds that poor academic performance is associated with 411 nonattendance and that school districts must take an active role 412 in promoting and enforcing attendance as a means of improving 413 student performance. It is the policy of the state that each 414 district school superintendent be responsible for enforcing 415 school attendance of all students subject to the compulsory school age in the school district and supporting enforcement of 416 417 school attendance by local law enforcement agencies. The 418 responsibility includes recommending policies and procedures to 419 the district school board that require public schools to respond 420 in a timely manner to every unexcused absence, and every absence for which the reason is unknown, of students enrolled in the 421 422 schools. District school board policies shall require the parent 423 of a student to justify each absence of the student, and that 424 justification will be evaluated based on adopted district school 425 board policies that define excused and unexcused absences. The 426 policies must provide that public schools track excused and 427 unexcused absences and contact the home in the case of an 428 unexcused absence from school, or an absence from school for 429 which the reason is unknown, to prevent the development of patterns of nonattendance. The Legislature finds that early 430 431 intervention in school attendance is the most effective way of 432 producing good attendance habits that will lead to improved 433 student learning and achievement. Each public school shall 434 implement the following steps to promote and enforce regular 435 school attendance:

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25-00607-21 2021580 436 (1) CONTACT, REFER, AND ENFORCE.-437 (f) 1. If the parent of a child who has been identified as 438 exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance enrolls the child in a 439 home education program pursuant to chapter 1002, the district school superintendent shall provide the parent a copy of s. 440 441 1002.41 and the accountability requirements of this paragraph. 442 The district school superintendent shall also refer the parent 443 to a home education review committee composed of the district 444 contact for home education programs and at least two home 445 educators selected by the parent from a district list of all 446 home educators who have conducted a home education program for 447 at least 3 years and who have indicated a willingness to serve 448 on the committee. The home education review committee shall 449 review the portfolio of the student, as defined by s. 1002.41, 450 every 30 days during the district's regular school terms until 451 the committee is satisfied that the home education program is in 452 compliance with s. 1002.41(1)(d). The first portfolio review 453 must occur within the first 30 calendar days of the 454 establishment of the program. The provisions of subparagraph 2. 455 do not apply once the committee determines the home education 456 program is in compliance with s. 1002.41(1)(d). 457 2. If the parent fails to provide a portfolio to the 458 committee, the committee shall notify the district school 459 superintendent. The district school superintendent shall then 460 terminate the home education program and require the parent to 461 enroll the child in an attendance option that meets the 462 definition of "regular school attendance" under s. 1003.01(13)(a), (b), (c), or (e), within 3 days. Upon 463 termination of a home education program pursuant to this 464

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466	child in a home education program for 180 calendar days. Failure
467	of a parent to enroll the child in an attendance option as
468	required by this subparagraph after termination of the home
469	education program pursuant to this subparagraph shall constitute
470	noncompliance with the compulsory attendance requirements of s.
471	1003.21 and may result in criminal prosecution under s.
472	1003.27(2). Nothing contained herein shall restrict the ability
473	of the district school superintendent, or the ability of his or
474	her designee, to review the portfolio pursuant to s.
475	1002.41(1)(e) .
476	Section 6. Paragraph (k) of subsection (2) of section
477	11.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
478	11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules
479	(2) DUTIESThe Auditor General shall:
480	(k) Contact each district school board, as defined in <u>s.</u>
481	1003.01 s. 1003.01(1), with the findings and recommendations
482	contained within the Auditor General's previous operational
483	audit report. The district school board shall provide the
484	Auditor General with evidence of the initiation of corrective
485	action within 45 days after the date it is requested by the
486	Auditor General and evidence of completion of corrective action
487	within 180 days after the date it is requested by the Auditor
488	General. If the district school board fails to comply with the
489	Auditor General's request or is unable to take corrective action
490	within the required timeframe, the Auditor General shall notify
491	the Legislative Auditing Committee.
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493	The Auditor General shall perform his or her duties
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494	independently but under the general policies established by the
495	Legislative Auditing Committee. This subsection does not limit
496	the Auditor General's discretionary authority to conduct other
497	audits or engagements of governmental entities as authorized in
498	subsection (3).
499	Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
500	39.0016, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
501	39.0016 Education of abused, neglected, and abandoned
502	children; agency agreements; children having or suspected of
503	having a disability
504	(3) CHILDREN HAVING OR SUSPECTED OF HAVING A DISABILITY
505	(b)1. Each district school superintendent or dependency
506	court must appoint a surrogate parent for a child known to the
507	department who has or is suspected of having a disability, as
508	defined in <u>s. 1003.01</u> s. 1003.01(3) , when:
509	a. After reasonable efforts, no parent can be located; or
510	b. A court of competent jurisdiction over a child under
511	this chapter has determined that no person has the authority
512	under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, including
513	the parent or parents subject to the dependency action, or that
514	no person has the authority, willingness, or ability to serve as
515	the educational decisionmaker for the child without judicial
516	action.
517	2. A surrogate parent appointed by the district school
518	superintendent or the court must be at least 18 years old and
519	have no personal or professional interest that conflicts with
520	the interests of the student to be represented. Neither the
521	district school superintendent nor the court may appoint an
522	employee of the Department of Education, the local school

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25-00607-21 2021580 523 district, a community-based care provider, the Department of 524 Children and Families, or any other public or private agency 525 involved in the education or care of the child as appointment of 526 those persons is prohibited by federal law. This prohibition 527 includes group home staff and therapeutic foster parents. 528 However, a person who acts in a parental role to a child, such 529 as a foster parent or relative caregiver, is not prohibited from 530 serving as a surrogate parent if he or she is employed by such 531 agency, willing to serve, and knowledgeable about the child and 532 the exceptional student education process. The surrogate parent 533 may be a court-appointed guardian ad litem or a relative or 534 nonrelative adult who is involved in the child's life regardless 535 of whether that person has physical custody of the child. Each 536 person appointed as a surrogate parent must have the knowledge 537 and skills acquired by successfully completing training using 538 materials developed and approved by the Department of Education 539 to ensure adequate representation of the child.

3. If a guardian ad litem has been appointed for a child, the district school superintendent must first consider the child's guardian ad litem when appointing a surrogate parent. The district school superintendent must accept the appointment of the court if he or she has not previously appointed a surrogate parent. Similarly, the court must accept a surrogate parent duly appointed by a district school superintendent.

547 4. A surrogate parent appointed by the district school 548 superintendent or the court must be accepted by any subsequent 549 school or school district without regard to where the child is 550 receiving residential care so that a single surrogate parent can 551 follow the education of the child during his or her entire time

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552	in state custody. Nothing in this paragraph or in rule shall
553	limit or prohibit the continuance of a surrogate parent
554	appointment when the responsibility for the student's
555	educational placement moves among and between public and private
556	agencies.
557	5. For a child known to the department, the responsibility
558	to appoint a surrogate parent resides with both the district
559	school superintendent and the court with jurisdiction over the
560	child. If the court elects to appoint a surrogate parent, notice
561	shall be provided as soon as practicable to the child's school.
562	At any time the court determines that it is in the best
563	interests of a child to remove a surrogate parent, the court may
564	appoint a new surrogate parent for educational decisionmaking
565	purposes for that child.
566	6. The surrogate parent shall continue in the appointed
567	role until one of the following occurs:
568	a. The child is determined to no longer be eligible or in
569	need of special programs, except when termination of special
570	programs is being contested.
571	b. The child achieves permanency through adoption or legal
572	guardianship and is no longer in the custody of the department.
573	c. The parent who was previously unknown becomes known,
574	whose whereabouts were unknown is located, or who was
575	unavailable is determined by the court to be available.
576	d. The appointed surrogate no longer wishes to represent
577	the child or is unable to represent the child.
578	e. The superintendent of the school district in which the
579	child is attending school, the Department of Education contract
580	designee, or the court that appointed the surrogate determines

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25-00607-21 2021580 581 that the appointed surrogate parent no longer adequately 582 represents the child. 583 f. The child moves to a geographic location that is not 584 reasonably accessible to the appointed surrogate. 585 7. The appointment and termination of appointment of a 586 surrogate under this paragraph shall be entered as an order of 587 the court with a copy of the order provided to the child's 588 school as soon as practicable. 589 8. The person appointed as a surrogate parent under this 590 paragraph must: 591 a. Be acquainted with the child and become knowledgeable 592 about his or her disability and educational needs. 593 b. Represent the child in all matters relating to 594 identification, evaluation, and educational placement and the 595 provision of a free and appropriate education to the child. 596 c. Represent the interests and safeguard the rights of the 597 child in educational decisions that affect the child. 598 9. The responsibilities of the person appointed as a 599 surrogate parent shall not extend to the care, maintenance, 600 custody, residential placement, or any other area not 601 specifically related to the education of the child, unless the 602 same person is appointed by the court for such other purposes. 603 10. A person appointed as a surrogate parent shall enjoy 604 all of the procedural safeguards afforded a parent with respect 605 to the identification, evaluation, and educational placement of 606 a student with a disability or a student who is suspected of 607 having a disability. 608 11. A person appointed as a surrogate parent shall not be held liable for actions taken in good faith on behalf of the 609

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25-00607-21 2021580 610 student in protecting the special education rights of the child. 611 Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 414.1251, Florida 612 Statutes, is amended to read: 613 414.1251 Learnfare program.-614 (1) The department shall reduce the temporary cash 615 assistance for a participant's eligible dependent child or for 616 an eligible teenage participant who has not been exempted from 617 education participation requirements, if the eligible dependent child or eligible teenage participant has been identified either 618 as a habitual truant, pursuant to s. 1003.01 s. 1003.01(8), or 619 620 as a dropout, pursuant to s. 1003.01 s. 1003.01(9). For a 621 student who has been identified as a habitual truant, the 622 temporary cash assistance must be reinstated after a subsequent 623 grading period in which the child's attendance has substantially 624 improved. For a student who has been identified as a dropout, 625 the temporary cash assistance must be reinstated after the 626 student enrolls in a public school, receives a high school 627 diploma or its equivalency, enrolls in preparation for the high 628 school equivalency examination, or enrolls in other educational 629 activities approved by the district school board. Good cause 630 exemptions from the rule of unexcused absences include the 631 following: 632 (a) The student is expelled from school and alternative 633 schooling is not available. 634 (b) No licensed day care is available for a child of teen 635 parents subject to Learnfare. 636 (c) Prohibitive transportation problems exist (e.g., to and 637 from day care). 638

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639
     Within 10 days after sanction notification, the participant
640
     parent of a dependent child or the teenage participant may file
641
     an internal fair hearings process review procedure appeal, and
642
     no sanction shall be imposed until the appeal is resolved.
643
          Section 9. Section 1002.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to
644
     read:
645
          1002.01 Definitions.-
646
           (1) A "home education program" means the sequentially
     progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her
647
648
     parent in order to satisfy the attendance requirements of ss.
649
     1002.41_{-} \frac{1003.01(13)}{-} and 1003.21(1).
650
           (2) A "private school" is a nonpublic school defined as an
651
     individual, association, copartnership, or corporation, or
652
     department, division, or section of such organizations, that
653
     designates itself as an educational center that includes
654
     kindergarten or a higher grade or as an elementary, secondary,
655
     business, technical, or trade school below college level or any
656
     organization that provides instructional services that meet the
657
     intent of s. 1003.01(18) s. 1003.01(13) or that gives
658
     preemployment or supplementary training in technology or in
659
     fields of trade or industry or that offers academic, literary,
660
     or career training below college level, or any combination of
661
     the above, including an institution that performs the functions
662
     of the above schools through correspondence or extension, except
663
     those licensed under the provisions of chapter 1005. A private
664
     school may be a parochial, religious, denominational, for-
665
     profit, or nonprofit school. This definition does not include
666
     home education programs conducted in accordance with s. 1002.41.
667
          Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
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668	1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
669	1002.20 K-12 student and parent rightsParents of public
670	school students must receive accurate and timely information
671	regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed
672	of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12
673	students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
674	rights including, but not limited to, the following:
675	(2) ATTENDANCE
676	(b) Regular school attendanceParents of students who have
677	attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any school year but
678	who have not attained the age of 16 years must comply with the
679	compulsory school attendance laws. Parents have the option to
680	comply with the school attendance laws by attendance of the
681	student in a public school; a parochial, religious, or
682	denominational school; a private school; a home education
683	program; or a private tutoring program, in accordance with the
684	provisions of <u>s. 1003.01(18)</u> s. 1003.01(13) .
685	Section 11. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
686	1002.3105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
687	1002.3105 Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance
688	Learning (ACCEL) options
689	(3) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CONSIDERATIONSWhen establishing
690	student eligibility requirements, principals and school
691	districts must consider, at a minimum:
692	(d) Recommendations from one or more of the student's
693	teachers in core-curricula courses as defined in <u>s. 1003.01</u> s.
694	1003.01(14)(a) (e) .
695	Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (20) of section
696	1002.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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697
          1002.33 Charter schools.-
698
          (20) SERVICES.-
699
           (a)1. A sponsor shall provide certain administrative and
700
     educational services to charter schools. These services shall
701
     include contract management services; full-time equivalent and
702
     data reporting services; exceptional student education
703
     administration services; services related to eligibility and
704
     reporting duties required to ensure that school lunch services
705
     under the National School Lunch Program, consistent with the
     needs of the charter school, are provided by the school district
706
     at the request of the charter school, that any funds due to the
707
708
     charter school under the National School Lunch Program be paid
709
     to the charter school as soon as the charter school begins
710
     serving food under the National School Lunch Program, and that
711
     the charter school is paid at the same time and in the same
712
     manner under the National School Lunch Program as other public
713
     schools serviced by the sponsor or the school district; test
     administration services, including payment of the costs of
714
715
     state-required or district-required student assessments;
716
     processing of teacher certificate data services; and information
717
     services, including equal access to student information systems
718
     that are used by public schools in the district in which the
719
     charter school is located. Student performance data for each
720
     student in a charter school, including, but not limited to, FCAT
721
     scores, standardized test scores, previous public school student
722
     report cards, and student performance measures, shall be
723
     provided by the sponsor to a charter school in the same manner
724
     provided to other public schools in the district.
725
          2. A sponsor may withhold an administrative fee for the
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726	provision of such services which shall be a percentage of the
727	available funds defined in paragraph (17)(b) calculated based on
728	weighted full-time equivalent students. If the charter school
729	serves 75 percent or more exceptional education students as
730	defined in <u>s. 1003.01</u> s. 1003.01(3) , the percentage shall be
731	calculated based on unweighted full-time equivalent students.
732	The administrative fee shall be calculated as follows:
733	a. Up to 5 percent for:
734	(I) Enrollment of up to and including 250 students in a
735	charter school as defined in this section.
736	(II) Enrollment of up to and including 500 students within
737	a charter school system which meets all of the following:
738	(A) Includes conversion charter schools and nonconversion
739	charter schools.
740	(B) Has all of its schools located in the same county.
741	(C) Has a total enrollment exceeding the total enrollment
742	of at least one school district in the state.
743	(D) Has the same governing board for all of its schools.
744	(E) Does not contract with a for-profit service provider
745	for management of school operations.
746	(III) Enrollment of up to and including 250 students in a
747	virtual charter school.
748	b. Up to 2 percent for enrollment of up to and including
749	250 students in a high-performing charter school as defined in
750	s. 1002.331.
751	3. A sponsor may not charge charter schools any additional
752	fees or surcharges for administrative and educational services
753	in addition to the maximum percentage of administrative fees
754	withheld pursuant to this paragraph.

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755	4. A sponsor shall provide to the department by September
756	15 of each year the total amount of funding withheld from
757	charter schools pursuant to this subsection for the prior fiscal
758	year. The department must include the information in the report
759	required under sub-subparagraph (5)(b)1.k.(III).
760	Section 13. Paragraph (h) of subsection (5) and paragraph
761	(a) of subsection (11) of section 1002.385, Florida Statutes,
762	are amended to read:
763	1002.385 The Gardiner Scholarship
764	(5) AUTHORIZED USES OF PROGRAM FUNDSProgram funds must be
765	used to meet the individual educational needs of an eligible
766	student and may be spent for the following purposes:
767	(h) Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services
768	provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's
769	certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56; a person who holds an
770	adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57; a person
771	who has a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in the subject
772	area in which instruction is given; or a person who has
773	demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s.
774	1012.56(5). As used in this paragraph, the term "part-time
775	tutoring services" does not qualify as regular school attendance
776	as defined in <u>s. 1003.01</u> s. 1003.01(13)(e) .
777	
778	A provider of any services receiving payments pursuant to this
779	subsection may not share, refund, or rebate any moneys from the
780	Gardiner Scholarship with the parent or participating student in
781	any manner. A parent, student, or provider of any services may
782	not bill an insurance company, Medicaid, or any other agency for
783	the same services that are paid for using Gardiner Scholarship

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786 PARTICIPATION.-A parent who applies for program participation 787 under this section is exercising his or her parental option to 788 determine the appropriate placement or the services that best 789 meet the needs of his or her child. The scholarship award for a 790 student is based on a matrix that assigns the student to support 791 Level III services. If a parent receives an IEP and a matrix of 792 services from the school district pursuant to subsection (7), 793 the amount of the payment shall be adjusted as needed, when the 794 school district completes the matrix. 795 (a) To satisfy or maintain program eligibility, including 796 eligibility to receive and spend program payments, the parent 797 must sign an agreement with the organization and annually submit 798 a notarized, sworn compliance statement to the organization to: 799 1. Affirm that the student is enrolled in a program that 800 meets regular school attendance requirements as provided in s. 801 1003.01(18)(b)-(d) s. 1003.01(13)(b)-(d). 802 2. Affirm that the program funds are used only for 803 authorized purposes serving the student's educational needs, as 804 described in subsection (5). 805 3. Affirm that the parent is responsible for the education 806 of his or her student by, as applicable: 807 a. Requiring the student to take an assessment in 808 accordance with paragraph (8) (b); 809 b. Providing an annual evaluation in accordance with s. 810 1002.41(1)(f); or 811 c. Requiring the child to take any preassessments and postassessments selected by the provider if the child is 4 years 812

(11) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM

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funds.

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813	of age and is enrolled in a program provided by an eligible
814	Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider. A student
815	with disabilities for whom a preassessment and postassessment is
816	not appropriate is exempt from this requirement. A participating
817	provider shall report a student's scores to the parent.
818	4. Affirm that the student remains in good standing with
819	the provider or school if those options are selected by the
820	parent.
821	
822	A parent who fails to comply with this subsection forfeits the
823	Gardiner Scholarship.
824	Section 14. Subsection (7) of section 1002.42, Florida
825	Statutes, is amended to read:
826	1002.42 Private schools
827	(7) ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTSAttendance of a student at a
828	private, parochial, religious, or denominational school
829	satisfies the attendance requirements of <u>ss. 1003.01(18)</u> ss.
830	1003.01(13) and 1003.21(1).
831	Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 1002.43, Florida
832	Statutes, is amended to read:
833	1002.43 Private tutoring programs
834	(1) Regular school attendance as defined in <u>s. 1003.01</u> s.
835	1003.01(13) may be achieved by attendance in a private tutoring
836	program if the person tutoring the student meets the following
837	requirements:
838	(a) Holds a valid Florida certificate to teach the subjects
839	or grades in which instruction is given.
840	(b) Keeps all records and makes all reports required by the
841	state and district school board and makes regular reports on the

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25-00607-21 2021580 842 attendance of students in accordance with the provisions of s. 843 1003.23(2). 844 (c) Requires students to be in actual attendance for the 845 minimum length of time prescribed by s. 1011.60(2). 846 Section 16. Subsection (6) of section 1003.03, Florida 847 Statutes, is amended to read: 848 1003.03 Maximum class size.-849 (6) COURSES FOR COMPLIANCE.-Consistent with s. 1003.01(4) 850 s. 1003.01(14), the Department of Education shall identify from 851 the Course Code Directory the core-curricula courses for the purpose of satisfying the maximum class size requirement in this 852 853 section. The department may adopt rules to implement this subsection, if necessary. 854 855 Section 17. Subsection (4) of section 1003.21, Florida 856 Statutes, is amended to read: 857 1003.21 School attendance.-858 (4) Before admitting a child to kindergarten, the principal 859 shall require evidence that the child has attained the age at 860 which he or she should be admitted in accordance with the 861 provisions of subparagraph (1) (a)2. The district school 862 superintendent may require evidence of the age of any child who 863 is being enrolled in public school and who the district school 864 superintendent believes to be within the limits of compulsory 865 attendance as provided for by law; however, the district school 866 superintendent may not require evidence from any child who meets 867 regular attendance requirements by attending a school or program 868 listed in s. 1003.01(18)(b)-(e) s. 1003.01(13)(b)-(e). If the 869 first prescribed evidence is not available, the next evidence obtainable in the order set forth below shall be accepted: 870

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25-00607-21 2021580 871 (a) A duly attested transcript of the child's birth record 872 filed according to law with a public officer charged with the 873 duty of recording births; 874 (b) A duly attested transcript of a certificate of baptism 875 showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the child, 876 accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent; 877 (c) An insurance policy on the child's life that has been 878 in force for at least 2 years; 879 (d) A bona fide contemporary religious record of the 880 child's birth accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the 881 parent; 882 (e) A passport or certificate of arrival in the United 883 States showing the age of the child; 884 (f) A transcript of record of age shown in the child's 885 school record of at least 4 years prior to application, stating 886 date of birth; or 887 (g) If none of these evidences can be produced, an 888 affidavit of age sworn to by the parent, accompanied by a 889 certificate of age signed by a public health officer or by a 890 public school physician, or, if these are not available in the 891 county, by a licensed practicing physician designated by the 892 district school board, which states that the health officer or physician has examined the child and believes that the age as 893 894 stated in the affidavit is substantially correct. Children and 895 youths who are experiencing homelessness and children who are 896 known to the department, as defined in s. 39.0016, shall be 897 given temporary exemption from this section for 30 school days. 898 Section 18. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 899 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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25-00607-21 2021580 900 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.-901 (1) TWENTY-FOUR CREDITS REQUIRED.-902 (b) The required credits may be earned through equivalent, 903 applied, or integrated courses or career education courses as 904 defined in s. 1003.01 s. 1003.01(4), including work-related 905 internships approved by the State Board of Education and 906 identified in the course code directory. However, any must-pass 907 assessment requirements must be met. An equivalent course is one 908 or more courses identified by content-area experts as being a 909 match to the core curricular content of another course, based 910 upon review of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for 911 that subject. An applied course aligns with Next Generation 912 Sunshine State Standards and includes real-world applications of

913 a career and technical education standard used in business or 914 industry. An integrated course includes content from several 915 courses within a content area or across content areas.

916 Section 19. Subsection (4) of section 1003.52, Florida 917 Statutes, is amended to read:

918 1003.52 Educational services in Department of Juvenile 919 Justice programs.-

920 (4) Educational services shall be provided at times of the 921 day most appropriate for the juvenile justice program. School 922 programming in juvenile justice detention, prevention, day 923 treatment, and residential programs shall be made available by 924 the local school district during the juvenile justice school 925 year, as provided in s. 1003.01(16) s. 1003.01(11). In addition, 926 students in juvenile justice education programs shall have 927 access to courses offered pursuant to ss. 1002.37, 1002.45, and 1003.498. The Department of Education and the school districts 928

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929
     shall adopt policies necessary to provide such access.
930
          Section 20. Section 1003.575, Florida Statutes, is amended
931
     to read:
932
          1003.575 Assistive technology devices; findings;
933
     interagency agreements.-Accessibility, utilization, and
934
     coordination of appropriate assistive technology devices and
935
     services are essential as a young person with disabilities moves
936
     from early intervention to preschool, from preschool to school,
937
     from one school to another, from school to employment or
     independent living, and from school to home and community. If an
938
939
     individual education plan team makes a recommendation in
940
     accordance with State Board of Education rule for a student with
     a disability, as defined in s. 1003.01 s. 1003.01(3), to receive
941
942
     an assistive technology assessment, that assessment must be
943
     completed within 60 school days after the team's recommendation.
944
     To ensure that an assistive technology device issued to a young
945
     person as part of his or her individualized family support plan,
946
     individual support plan, individualized plan for employment, or
947
     individual education plan remains with the individual through
948
     such transitions, the following agencies shall enter into
949
     interagency agreements, as appropriate, to ensure the
950
     transaction of assistive technology devices:
951
           (1) The Early Steps Program in the Division of Children's
952
     Medical Services of the Department of Health.
953
           (2) The Division of Blind Services, the Bureau of
954
     Exceptional Education and Student Services, the Office of
955
     Independent Education and Parental Choice, and the Division of
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Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of Education.

957 (

956

(3) The Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

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958	administered by the Department of Education and the Office of
959	Early Learning.
960	
961	Interagency agreements entered into pursuant to this section
962	shall provide a framework for ensuring that young persons with
963	disabilities and their families, educators, and employers are
964	informed about the utilization and coordination of assistive
965	technology devices and services that may assist in meeting
966	transition needs, and shall establish a mechanism by which a
967	young person or his or her parent may request that an assistive
968	technology device remain with the young person as he or she
969	moves through the continuum from home to school to postschool.
970	Section 21. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section
971	1006.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
972	1006.07 District school board duties relating to student
973	discipline and school safetyThe district school board shall
974	provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the
975	attendance and control of students at school, and for proper
976	attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the
977	welfare of students, including:
978	(2) CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCTAdopt a code of student
979	conduct for elementary schools and a code of student conduct for
980	middle and high schools and distribute the appropriate code to
981	all teachers, school personnel, students, and parents, at the
982	beginning of every school year. Each code shall be organized and
983	written in language that is understandable to students and
984	parents and shall be discussed at the beginning of every school
985	year in student classes, school advisory council meetings, and
986	parent and teacher association or organization meetings. Each
I	

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25-00607-21 2021580 987 code shall be based on the rules governing student conduct and 988 discipline adopted by the district school board and shall be 989 made available in the student handbook or similar publication. 990 Each code shall include, but is not limited to: 991 (d)1. An explanation of the responsibilities of each 992 student with regard to appropriate dress, respect for self and 993 others, and the role that appropriate dress and respect for self 994 and others has on an orderly learning environment. Each district 995 school board shall adopt a dress code policy that prohibits a 996 student, while on the grounds of a public school during the 997 regular school day, from wearing clothing that exposes underwear 998 or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner or that disrupts 999 the orderly learning environment. 2. Any student who violates the dress policy described in 1000 1001 subparagraph 1. is subject to the following disciplinary 1002 actions: 1003 a. For a first offense, a student shall be given a verbal 1004 warning and the school principal shall call the student's parent 1005 or quardian. 1006 b. For a second offense, the student is ineligible to 1007 participate in any extracurricular activity for a period of time 1008 not to exceed 5 days and the school principal shall meet with 1009 the student's parent or quardian. 1010 c. For a third or subsequent offense, a student shall 1011 receive an in-school suspension pursuant to s. 1003.01 s. 1012 1003.01(5) for a period not to exceed 3 days, the student is 1013 ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a

1014 period not to exceed 30 days, and the school principal shall 1015 call the student's parent or guardian and send the parent or

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1	25-00607-21 2021580
1016	guardian a written letter regarding the student's in-school
1017	suspension and ineligibility to participate in extracurricular
1018	activities.
1019	Section 22. Subsection (5) of section 1008.24, Florida
1020	Statutes, is amended to read:
1021	1008.24 Test administration and security; public records
1022	exemption
1023	(5) Exceptional students with disabilities, as defined in
1024	<u>s. 1003.01</u> s. 1003.01(3) , shall have access to testing sites.
1025	The Department of Education and each school district shall adopt
1026	policies that are necessary to ensure such access.
1027	Section 23. Paragraph (c) of subsection (6) of section
1028	1012.2315, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
1029	1012.2315 Assignment of teachers
1030	(6) ASSIGNMENT OF TEACHERS BASED UPON PERFORMANCE
1031	EVALUATIONS
1032	(c) For a student enrolling in an extracurricular course as
1033	defined in <u>s. 1003.01</u> s. 1003.01(15) , a parent may choose to
1034	have the student taught by a teacher who received a performance
1035	evaluation of "needs improvement" or "unsatisfactory" in the
1036	preceding school year if the student and the student's parent
1037	receive an explanation of the impact of teacher effectiveness on
1038	student learning and the principal receives written consent from
1039	the parent.
1040	Section 24. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

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