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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Conference Committee on SB 2524 recommended the following:

1           **Senate Conference Committee Amendment (with title**  
2 **amendment)**

3  
4           Delete everything after the enacting clause  
5 and insert:

6           Section 1. Effective January 1, 2023, subsection (5) of  
7 section 435.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8           435.02 Definitions.—For the purposes of this chapter, the  
9 term:

10           (5) "Specified agency" means the Department of Health, the  
11 Department of Children and Families, ~~the Division of Vocational~~



420138

12 ~~Rehabilitation within the Department of Education,~~ the Agency  
13 for Health Care Administration, the Department of Elderly  
14 Affairs, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Agency for  
15 Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Education, each  
16 district unit under s. 1001.30, special district units under s.  
17 1011.24, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind under s.  
18 1002.36, the Florida Virtual School under s. 1002.37, virtual  
19 instruction programs under s. 1002.45, charter schools under s.  
20 1002.33, hope operators under s. 1002.333, private schools  
21 participating in an educational scholarship program established  
22 pursuant to chapter 1002, alternative schools under s. 1008.341,  
23 regional workforce boards providing services as defined in s.  
24 445.002(3), and local licensing agencies approved pursuant to s.  
25 402.307, when these agencies are conducting state and national  
26 criminal history background screening on persons who work with  
27 children or persons who are elderly or disabled.

28 Section 2. Effective January 1, 2023, subsection (3) of  
29 section 435.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

30 435.12 Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse.—

31 (3) (a) Employees of each district unit under s. 1001.30,  
32 special district units under s. 1011.24, the Florida School for  
33 the Deaf and the Blind under s. 1002.36, the Florida Virtual  
34 School under s. 1002.37, virtual instruction programs under s.  
35 1002.45, charter schools under s. 1002.33, hope operators under  
36 s. 1002.333, private schools participating in an educational  
37 scholarship program established pursuant to chapter 1002, and  
38 alternative schools under s. 1008.341 must be rescreened in  
39 compliance with the following schedule:

40 1. Employees for whom the last screening was conducted on



420138

41 or before June 30, 2019, must be rescreened by June 30, 2024.

42 2. Employees for whom the last screening was conducted  
43 between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2021, must be rescreened by  
44 June 30, 2025.

45 3. Employees for whom the last screening was conducted  
46 between July 1, 2021, and December 31, 2022, must be rescreened  
47 by June 30, 2026.

48 (b) A person is not required to be rescreened before  
49 January 1, 2023, solely for the purpose of retention under this  
50 section if the person was screened before participation by the  
51 specified agencies named in paragraph (a) in the clearinghouse.

52 ~~An employee who has undergone a fingerprint-based criminal~~  
53 ~~history check by a specified agency before the clearinghouse is~~  
54 ~~operational is not required to be checked again solely for the~~  
55 ~~purpose of entry in the clearinghouse. Every employee who is or~~  
56 ~~will become subject to fingerprint-based criminal history checks~~  
57 ~~to be eligible to be licensed, have their license renewed, or~~  
58 ~~meet screening or rescreening requirements by a specified agency~~  
59 ~~once the specified agency participates in the clearinghouse~~  
60 ~~shall be subject to the requirements of this section with~~  
61 ~~respect to entry of records in the clearinghouse and retention~~  
62 ~~of fingerprints for reporting the results of searching against~~  
63 ~~state incoming arrest fingerprint submissions.~~

64 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 464.0195, Florida  
65 Statutes, is amended to read:

66 464.0195 Florida Center for Nursing; goals.—

67 (2) The primary goals for the center shall be to:

68 (a) Develop a strategic statewide plan for nursing manpower  
69 in this state by:



420138

- 70           1. Conducting a statistically valid biennial data-driven  
71 gap analysis of the supply and demand of the health care  
72 workforce. Demand must align with the Labor Market Estimating  
73 Conference created in s. 216.136. The center shall:  
74           a. Establish ~~Establishing~~ and maintain ~~maintaining~~ a  
75 database on nursing supply and demand in the state, to include  
76 current supply and demand. ~~†~~  
77           b. ~~2.~~ Analyze ~~Analyzing~~ the current and future supply and  
78 demand in the state and ~~making future projections of such,~~  
79 ~~including assessing~~ the impact of this state's participation in  
80 the Nurse Licensure Compact under s. 464.0095. ~~†~~ and  
81           2.3. Developing recommendations to increase nurse faculty  
82 and clinical preceptors, support nurse faculty development, and  
83 promote advanced nurse education.  
84           3. Developing best practices in the academic preparation  
85 and continuing education needs of qualified nurse educators,  
86 nurse faculty, and clinical preceptors ~~Selecting from the plan~~  
87 ~~priorities to be addressed.~~  
88           4. Collecting data on nurse faculty, employment,  
89 distribution, and retention.  
90           5. Piloting innovative projects to support the recruitment,  
91 development, and retention of qualified nurse faculty and  
92 clinical preceptors.  
93           6. Encouraging and coordinating the development of  
94 academic-practice partnerships to support nurse faculty  
95 employment and advancement.  
96           7. Developing distance learning infrastructure for nursing  
97 education and advancing faculty competencies in the pedagogy of  
98 teaching and the evidence-based use of technology, simulation,



420138

99 and distance learning techniques.

100 ~~(b) Convene various groups representative of nurses, other~~  
101 ~~health care providers, business and industry, consumers,~~  
102 ~~legislators, and educators to:~~

103 ~~1. Review and comment on data analysis prepared for the~~  
104 ~~center;~~

105 ~~2. Recommend systemic changes, including strategies for~~  
106 ~~implementation of recommended changes; and~~

107 ~~3. Evaluate and report the results of these efforts to the~~  
108 ~~Legislature and others.~~

109 (b)(c) Enhance and promote recognition, reward, and renewal  
110 activities for nurses in the state by:

111 1. Promoting nursing excellence programs such as magnet  
112 recognition by the American Nurses Credentialing Center;

113 2. Proposing and creating additional reward, recognition,  
114 and renewal activities for nurses; and

115 3. Promoting media and positive image-building efforts for  
116 nursing.

117 Section 4. Effective October 1, 2022, subsections (3) and  
118 (4) of section 800.101, Florida Statutes, are amended, and  
119 subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

120 800.101 Offenses against students by authority figures.—

121 (3) A person who violates subsection (2) ~~this section~~  
122 commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in  
123 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

124 (4) Subsection (2) ~~This section~~ does not apply to conduct  
125 constituting an offense that is subject to reclassification  
126 under s. 775.0862.

127 (5) (a) A person who is required to report a violation of



128 subsection (2) and who knowingly or willfully fails to do so, or  
129 who knowingly or willfully prevents another person from doing  
130 so, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as  
131 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

132 (b) A person who knowingly or willfully submits false,  
133 inaccurate, or incomplete information while reporting a  
134 violation of subsection (2) commits a misdemeanor of the first  
135 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

136 (c) A person who knowingly or willfully coerces or  
137 threatens another person with the intent to alter his or her  
138 testimony or written report regarding a violation of subsection  
139 (2) commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as  
140 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

141 Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section  
142 943.0585, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

143 943.0585 Court-ordered expunction of criminal history  
144 records.-

145 (6) EFFECT OF EXPUNCTION ORDER.-

146 (b) The person who is the subject of a criminal history  
147 record that is expunged under this section or under other  
148 provisions of law, including former ss. 893.14, 901.33, and  
149 943.058, may lawfully deny or fail to acknowledge the arrests  
150 covered by the expunged record, except when the subject of the  
151 record:

- 152 1. Is a candidate for employment with a criminal justice  
153 agency;
- 154 2. Is a defendant in a criminal prosecution;
- 155 3. Concurrently or subsequently petitions for relief under  
156 this section, s. 943.0583, or s. 943.059;



420138

- 157           4. Is a candidate for admission to The Florida Bar;
- 158           5. Is seeking to be employed or licensed by or to contract  
159 with the Department of Children and Families, the Division of  
160 Vocational Rehabilitation within the Department of Education,  
161 the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Agency for  
162 Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Health, the  
163 Department of Elderly Affairs, or the Department of Juvenile  
164 Justice or to be employed or used by such contractor or licensee  
165 in a sensitive position having direct contact with children, the  
166 disabled, or the elderly;
- 167           6.a. Is seeking to be employed or licensed by, or contract  
168 with, the Department of Education, any district unit under s.  
169 1001.30, any special district unit under s. 1011.24, the Florida  
170 School for the Deaf and the Blind under s. 1002.36, the Florida  
171 Virtual School under s. 1002.37, any virtual instruction program  
172 under s. 1002.45 school board, any university laboratory school,  
173 any charter school under s. 1002.33, any hope operator under s.  
174 1002.333, any alternative school under s. 1008.341 school, any  
175 private or parochial school, or any local governmental entity  
176 that licenses child care facilities;
- 177           b. Is seeking to be employed or used by a contractor or  
178 licensee under sub-subparagraph a.; or
- 179           c. Is a person screened under s. 1012.467;
- 180           7. Is seeking to be licensed by the Division of Insurance  
181 Agent and Agency Services within the Department of Financial  
182 Services; or
- 183           8. Is seeking to be appointed as a guardian pursuant to s.  
184 744.3125.
- 185           Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section



420138

186 943.059, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:  
187 943.059 Court-ordered sealing of criminal history records.—  
188 (6) EFFECT OF ORDER.—  
189 (b) The subject of the criminal history record sealed under  
190 this section or under other provisions of law, including former  
191 ss. 893.14, 901.33, and 943.058, may lawfully deny or fail to  
192 acknowledge the arrests covered by the sealed record, except  
193 when the subject of the record:  
194 1. Is a candidate for employment with a criminal justice  
195 agency;  
196 2. Is a defendant in a criminal prosecution;  
197 3. Concurrently or subsequently petitions for relief under  
198 this section, s. 943.0583, or s. 943.0585;  
199 4. Is a candidate for admission to The Florida Bar;  
200 5. Is seeking to be employed or licensed by or to contract  
201 with the Department of Children and Families, the Division of  
202 Vocational Rehabilitation within the Department of Education,  
203 the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Agency for  
204 Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Health, the  
205 Department of Elderly Affairs, or the Department of Juvenile  
206 Justice or to be employed or used by such contractor or licensee  
207 in a sensitive position having direct contact with children, the  
208 disabled, or the elderly;  
209 6.a. Is seeking to be employed or licensed by, or contract  
210 with, the Department of Education, a district unit under s.  
211 1001.30, a special district unit under s. 1011.24, the Florida  
212 School for the Deaf and the Blind under s. 1002.36, the Florida  
213 Virtual School under s. 1002.37, a virtual instruction program  
214 under s. 1002.45 school board, a university laboratory school, a





215 charter school under s. 1002.33, a hope operator under s.  
216 1002.333, an alternative school under s. 1008.341, a private or  
217 parochial school, or a local governmental entity that licenses  
218 child care facilities;

219 b. Is seeking to be employed or used by a contractor or  
220 licensee under sub-subparagraph a.; or

221 c. Is a person screened under s. 1012.467;

222 7. Is attempting to purchase a firearm from a licensed  
223 importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer and is  
224 subject to a criminal history check under state or federal law;

225 8. Is seeking to be licensed by the Division of Insurance  
226 Agent and Agency Services within the Department of Financial  
227 Services;

228 9. Is seeking to be appointed as a guardian pursuant to s.  
229 744.3125; or

230 10. Is seeking to be licensed by the Bureau of License  
231 Issuance of the Division of Licensing within the Department of  
232 Agriculture and Consumer Services to carry a concealed weapon or  
233 concealed firearm. This subparagraph applies only in the  
234 determination of an applicant's eligibility under s. 790.06.

235 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (12) of section  
236 1001.51, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

237 1001.51 Duties and responsibilities of district school  
238 superintendent.—The district school superintendent shall  
239 exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below and  
240 elsewhere in the law, provided that, in so doing, he or she  
241 shall advise and counsel with the district school board. The  
242 district school superintendent shall perform all tasks necessary  
243 to make sound recommendations, nominations, proposals, and



244 reports required by law to be acted upon by the district school  
245 board. All such recommendations, nominations, proposals, and  
246 reports by the district school superintendent shall be either  
247 recorded in the minutes or shall be made in writing, noted in  
248 the minutes, and filed in the public records of the district  
249 school board. It shall be presumed that, in the absence of the  
250 record required in this section, the recommendations,  
251 nominations, and proposals required of the district school  
252 superintendent were not contrary to the action taken by the  
253 district school board in such matters.

254 (12) RECORDS AND REPORTS.—Recommend such records as should  
255 be kept in addition to those prescribed by rules of the State  
256 Board of Education; prepare forms for keeping such records as  
257 are approved by the district school board; ensure that such  
258 records are properly kept; and make all reports that are needed  
259 or required, as follows:

260 (a) *Forms, blanks, and reports.*—Require that all employees  
261 accurately keep all records and promptly make in proper form all  
262 reports required by the education code or by rules of the State  
263 Board of Education; recommend the keeping of such additional  
264 records and the making of such additional reports as may be  
265 deemed necessary to provide data essential for the operation of  
266 the school system; and prepare such forms and blanks as may be  
267 required and ensure that these records and reports are properly  
268 prepared. Such records and reports shall include any  
269 determination to withhold from a parent information regarding  
270 the provision of any services to support the mental, physical,  
271 or emotional well-being of the parent's minor child. Any such  
272 determination must be based solely on child-specific information



273 personally known to the school personnel and documented and  
274 approved by the school principal or his or her designee. Such  
275 determination must be annually reviewed and redetermined.

276  
277 Any district school superintendent who knowingly signs and  
278 transmits to any state official a report that the superintendent  
279 knows to be false or incorrect; who knowingly fails to complete  
280 the investigation of any allegation of misconduct that affects  
281 the health, safety, or welfare of a student, that would be a  
282 violation of s. 800.101, or that would be a disqualifying  
283 offense under s. 1012.315, or any allegation of sexual  
284 misconduct with a student; who knowingly fails to report the  
285 alleged misconduct to the department as required in s. 1012.796;  
286 or who knowingly fails to report misconduct to the law  
287 enforcement agencies with jurisdiction over the conduct pursuant  
288 to district school board policy under s. 1001.42(6), forfeits  
289 his or her salary for 1 year following the date of such act or  
290 failure to act.

291 Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 1001.92, Florida  
292 Statutes, is amended to read:

293 1001.92 State University System Performance-Based  
294 Incentive.—

295 (1) A State University System Performance-Based Incentive  
296 shall be awarded to state universities using performance-based  
297 metrics adopted by the Board of Governors of the State  
298 University System. Beginning with the Board of Governors'  
299 determination of each university's performance improvement and  
300 achievement ratings, and the related distribution of annual  
301 fiscal year appropriation, the performance-based metrics must



420138

302 include:

303 (a) The 4-year graduation rate for first-time-in-college  
304 students;

305 (b) Beginning in fiscal year 2022-2023 ~~2021-2022~~, the 3-  
306 year ~~2-year~~ graduation rate for associate in arts transfer  
307 students;

308 (c) Retention rates;

309 (d) Postgraduation education rates;

310 (e) Degree production;

311 (f) Affordability;

312 (g) Postgraduation employment and salaries, including wage  
313 thresholds that reflect the added value of a baccalaureate  
314 degree;

315 (h) Access rate, based on the percentage of undergraduate  
316 students enrolled during the fall term who received a Pell Grant  
317 during the fall term; and

318 (i) Beginning in fiscal year 2021-2022, the 6-year  
319 graduation rate for students who are awarded a Pell Grant in  
320 their first year.

321  
322 The Board of Governors may approve other metrics in a publicly  
323 noticed meeting. The board shall adopt benchmarks to evaluate  
324 each state university's performance on the metrics to measure  
325 the state university's achievement of institutional excellence  
326 or need for improvement and minimum requirements for eligibility  
327 to receive performance funding. Benchmarks and metrics may not  
328 be adjusted after university performance data has been received  
329 by the Board of Governors.

330 Section 9. Contingent upon HB 7 or similar legislation in



331 the 2022 Regular Session or an extension thereof becoming a law,  
332 subsections (5) and (6) of section 1001.92, Florida Statutes,  
333 are redesignated as subsections (6) and (7), respectively, and a  
334 new subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

335       1001.92 State University System Performance-Based  
336 Incentive.—

337       (5) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if  
338 any institution is found to have a substantiated violation of s.  
339 1000.05(4)(a), the institution shall be ineligible to receive  
340 performance funding during the next fiscal year following the  
341 year in which the violation is substantiated. Substantiated  
342 findings are those as determined by a court of law, a standing  
343 committee of the Legislature, or the Board of Governors.

344       Section 10. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2) and  
345 paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section 1002.31, Florida  
346 Statutes, are amended, and paragraphs (j) and (k) are added to  
347 subsection (3) of that section, to read:

348       1002.31 Controlled open enrollment; Public school parental  
349 choice.—

350       (2) (a) ~~Beginning by the 2017-2018 school year,~~ As part of a  
351 school district's or charter school's controlled open enrollment  
352 process, and in addition to the existing public school choice  
353 programs provided in s. 1002.20(6)(a), each district school  
354 board or charter school shall allow a parent from any school  
355 district in the state whose child is not subject to a current  
356 expulsion or suspension to enroll his or her child in and  
357 transport his or her child to any public school, including  
358 charter schools, that has not reached capacity in the district,  
359 subject to the maximum class size pursuant to s. 1003.03 and s.



360 1, Art. IX of the State Constitution. The school district or  
361 charter school shall accept the student, pursuant to that school  
362 district's or charter school's controlled open enrollment  
363 process, and report the student for purposes of the school  
364 district's or charter school's funding pursuant to the Florida  
365 Education Finance Program. A school district or charter school  
366 may provide transportation to students described under this  
367 section.

368 (b) Each school district and charter school capacity  
369 determinations for its schools, by grade level, must be updated  
370 every 12 weeks ~~current~~ and ~~must~~ be identified on the school  
371 district and charter school's websites. In determining the  
372 capacity of each district school, the district school board  
373 shall incorporate the specifications, plans, elements, and  
374 commitments contained in the school district educational  
375 facilities plan and the long-term work programs required under  
376 s. 1013.35. Each charter school governing board shall determine  
377 capacity based upon its charter school contract. Each virtual  
378 charter school and each school district with a contract with an  
379 approved virtual instruction program provider shall determine  
380 capacity based upon the enrollment requirements established  
381 under s. 1002.45(1)(e)4.

382 (3) Each district school board shall adopt by rule and post  
383 on its website the process required to participate in controlled  
384 open enrollment. The process must:

385 (f) Require school districts to provide information on  
386 Address the availability of transportation options, such as:

387 1. The responsibility of school districts to provide  
388 transportation to another public school pursuant to ss. 1002.38,



420138

389 1002.39, and 1002.394.

390 2. The availability of funds for transportation under ss.  
391 1002.394, 1002.395, and 1011.68.

392 3. Any other transportation the school district may  
393 provide.

394 4. Any transportation options available in the community.

395 (j) Require school districts to maintain a wait list of  
396 students who are denied access due to capacity and notify  
397 parents when space becomes available.

398 (k) Require schools to accept students throughout the  
399 school year as capacity becomes available.

400 Section 11. Subsections (1) and (7), paragraph (a) of  
401 subsection (10), paragraphs (b) and (f) of subsection (17), and  
402 paragraph (a) of subsection (21) of section 1002.33, Florida  
403 Statutes, are amended to read:

404 1002.33 Charter schools.—

405 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—All charter schools in Florida are  
406 public schools and shall be part of the state's program of  
407 public education. A charter school may be formed by creating a  
408 new school or converting an existing public school to charter  
409 status. A charter school may operate a virtual charter school  
410 pursuant to s. 1002.45(1)(d) to provide online instruction to  
411 students, pursuant to s. 1002.455, in kindergarten through grade

412 12. The school district in which the student enrolls in the  
413 virtual charter school shall report the student for funding  
414 pursuant to s. 1011.61(1)(c)1.b.(VI), and the home school  
415 district shall not report the student for funding. An existing  
416 charter school that is seeking to become a virtual charter  
417 school must amend its charter or submit a new application



420138

418 pursuant to subsection (6) to become a virtual charter school. A  
419 virtual charter school is subject to the requirements of this  
420 section; however, a virtual charter school is exempt from  
421 subparagraph (7)(a)13., subsections (18) and (19), paragraph  
422 (20)(c), and s. 1003.03. A public school may not use the term  
423 charter in its name unless it has been approved under this  
424 section.

425 (7) CHARTER.—The terms and conditions for the operation of  
426 a charter school, including a virtual charter school, shall be  
427 set forth by the sponsor and the applicant in a written  
428 contractual agreement, called a charter. The sponsor and the  
429 governing board of the charter school or virtual charter school  
430 shall use the standard charter contract or standard virtual  
431 charter contract, respectively, pursuant to subsection (21),  
432 which shall incorporate the approved application and any addenda  
433 approved with the application. Any term or condition of a  
434 proposed charter contract or proposed virtual charter contract  
435 that differs from the standard charter or virtual charter  
436 contract adopted by rule of the State Board of Education shall  
437 be presumed a limitation on charter school flexibility. The  
438 sponsor may not impose unreasonable rules or regulations that  
439 violate the intent of giving charter schools greater flexibility  
440 to meet educational goals. The charter shall be signed by the  
441 governing board of the charter school and the sponsor, following  
442 a public hearing to ensure community input.

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

445 1. The school's mission, the types of students to be  
446 served, and, for a virtual charter school, the types of students





420138

447 the school intends to serve who reside outside of the sponsoring  
448 school district, and the ages and grades to be included.

449         2. The focus of the curriculum, the instructional methods  
450 to be used, any distinctive instructional techniques to be  
451 employed, and identification and acquisition of appropriate  
452 technologies needed to improve educational and administrative  
453 performance which include a means for promoting safe, ethical,  
454 and appropriate uses of technology which comply with legal and  
455 professional standards.

456             a. The charter shall ensure that reading is a primary focus  
457 of the curriculum and that resources are provided to identify  
458 and provide specialized instruction for students who are reading  
459 below grade level. The curriculum and instructional strategies  
460 for reading must be consistent with the Next Generation Sunshine  
461 State Standards and grounded in scientifically based reading  
462 research.

463             b. In order to provide students with access to diverse  
464 instructional delivery models, to facilitate the integration of  
465 technology within traditional classroom instruction, and to  
466 provide students with the skills they need to compete in the  
467 21st century economy, the Legislature encourages instructional  
468 methods for blended learning courses consisting of both  
469 traditional classroom and online instructional techniques.  
470 Charter schools may implement blended learning courses which  
471 combine traditional classroom instruction and virtual  
472 instruction. Students in a blended learning course must be full-  
473 time students of the charter school pursuant to s.

474 1011.61(1)(a)1. Instructional personnel certified pursuant to s.  
475 1012.55 who provide virtual instruction for blended learning



476 courses may be employees of the charter school or may be under  
477 contract to provide instructional services to charter school  
478 students. At a minimum, such instructional personnel must hold  
479 an active state or school district adjunct certification under  
480 s. 1012.57 for the subject area of the blended learning course.  
481 The funding and performance accountability requirements for  
482 blended learning courses are the same as those for traditional  
483 courses.

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

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

490 b. How these baseline rates will be compared to rates of  
491 academic progress achieved by these same students while  
492 attending the charter school.

493 c. To the extent possible, how these rates of progress will  
494 be evaluated and compared with rates of progress of other  
495 closely comparable student populations.

496  
497 A district school board is required to provide academic student  
498 performance data to charter schools for each of their students  
499 coming from the district school system, as well as rates of  
500 academic progress of comparable student populations in the  
501 district school system.

502 4. The methods used to identify the educational strengths  
503 and needs of students and how well educational goals and  
504 performance standards are met by students attending the charter



505 school. The methods shall provide a means for the charter school  
506 to ensure accountability to its constituents by analyzing  
507 student performance data and by evaluating the effectiveness and  
508 efficiency of its major educational programs. Students in  
509 charter schools shall, at a minimum, participate in the  
510 statewide assessment program created under s. 1008.22.

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

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

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

519 8. The ways by which the school will achieve a  
520 racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or  
521 within the racial/ethnic range of other nearby public schools or  
522 school districts.

523 9. The financial and administrative management of the  
524 school, including a reasonable demonstration of the professional  
525 experience or competence of those individuals or organizations  
526 applying to operate the charter school or those hired or  
527 retained to perform such professional services and the  
528 description of clearly delineated responsibilities and the  
529 policies and practices needed to effectively manage the charter  
530 school. A description of internal audit procedures and  
531 establishment of controls to ensure that financial resources are  
532 properly managed must be included. Both public sector and  
533 private sector professional experience shall be equally valid in



534 such a consideration.

535         10. The asset and liability projections required in the  
536 application which are incorporated into the charter and shall be  
537 compared with information provided in the annual report of the  
538 charter school.

539         11. A description of procedures that identify various risks  
540 and provide for a comprehensive approach to reduce the impact of  
541 losses; plans to ensure the safety and security of students and  
542 staff; plans to identify, minimize, and protect others from  
543 violent or disruptive student behavior; and the manner in which  
544 the school will be insured, including whether or not the school  
545 will be required to have liability insurance, and, if so, the  
546 terms and conditions thereof and the amounts of coverage.

547         12. The term of the charter which shall provide for  
548 cancellation of the charter if insufficient progress has been  
549 made in attaining the student achievement objectives of the  
550 charter and if it is not likely that such objectives can be  
551 achieved before expiration of the charter. The initial term of a  
552 charter shall be for 5 years, excluding 2 planning years. In  
553 order to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for  
554 charter school construction, charter schools that are operated  
555 by a municipality or other public entity as provided by law are  
556 eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the  
557 sponsor. A charter lab school is eligible for a charter for a  
558 term of up to 15 years. In addition, to facilitate access to  
559 long-term financial resources for charter school construction,  
560 charter schools that are operated by a private, not-for-profit,  
561 s. 501(c) (3) status corporation are eligible for up to a 15-year  
562 charter, subject to approval by the sponsor. Such long-term



420138

563 charters remain subject to annual review and may be terminated  
564 during the term of the charter, but only according to the  
565 provisions set forth in subsection (8).

566 13. The facilities to be used and their location. The  
567 sponsor may not require a charter school to have a certificate  
568 of occupancy or a temporary certificate of occupancy for such a  
569 facility earlier than 15 calendar days before the first day of  
570 school.

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

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

577 16. A timetable for implementing the charter which  
578 addresses the implementation of each element thereof and the  
579 date by which the charter shall be awarded in order to meet this  
580 timetable.

581 17. In the case of an existing public school that is being  
582 converted to charter status, alternative arrangements for  
583 current students who choose not to attend the charter school and  
584 for current teachers who choose not to teach in the charter  
585 school after conversion in accordance with the existing  
586 collective bargaining agreement or district school board rule in  
587 the absence of a collective bargaining agreement. However,  
588 alternative arrangements shall not be required for current  
589 teachers who choose not to teach in a charter lab school, except  
590 as authorized by the employment policies of the state university  
591 which grants the charter to the lab school.



592 18. Full disclosure of the identity of all relatives  
593 employed by the charter school who are related to the charter  
594 school owner, president, chairperson of the governing board of  
595 directors, superintendent, governing board member, principal,  
596 assistant principal, or any other person employed by the charter  
597 school who has equivalent decisionmaking authority. For the  
598 purpose of this subparagraph, the term "relative" means father,  
599 mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first  
600 cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-  
601 law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law,  
602 stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother,  
603 stepsister, half brother, or half sister.

604 19. Implementation of the activities authorized under s.  
605 1002.331 by the charter school when it satisfies the eligibility  
606 requirements for a high-performing charter school. A high-  
607 performing charter school shall notify its sponsor in writing by  
608 March 1 if it intends to increase enrollment or expand grade  
609 levels the following school year. The written notice shall  
610 specify the amount of the enrollment increase and the grade  
611 levels that will be added, as applicable.

612 (b) The sponsor has 30 days after approval of the  
613 application to provide an initial proposed charter contract to  
614 the charter school. The applicant and the sponsor have 40 days  
615 thereafter to negotiate and notice the charter contract for  
616 final approval by the sponsor unless both parties agree to an  
617 extension. The proposed charter contract shall be provided to  
618 the charter school at least 7 calendar days before the date of  
619 the meeting at which the charter is scheduled to be voted upon  
620 by the sponsor. The Department of Education shall provide



621 mediation services for any dispute regarding this section  
622 subsequent to the approval of a charter application and for any  
623 dispute relating to the approved charter, except a dispute  
624 regarding a charter school application denial. If either the  
625 charter school or the sponsor indicates in writing that the  
626 party does not desire to settle any dispute arising under this  
627 section through mediation procedures offered by the Department  
628 of Education, a charter school may immediately appeal any formal  
629 or informal decision by the sponsor to an administrative law  
630 judge appointed by the Division of Administrative Hearings. If  
631 the Commissioner of Education determines that the dispute cannot  
632 be settled through mediation, the dispute may also be appealed  
633 to an administrative law judge appointed by the Division of  
634 Administrative Hearings. The administrative law judge has final  
635 order authority to rule on issues of equitable treatment of the  
636 charter school as a public school, whether proposed provisions  
637 of the charter violate the intended flexibility granted charter  
638 schools by statute, or any other matter regarding this section,  
639 except a dispute regarding charter school application denial, a  
640 charter termination, or a charter nonrenewal. The administrative  
641 law judge shall award the prevailing party reasonable attorney  
642 fees and costs incurred during the mediation process,  
643 administrative proceeding, and any appeals, to be paid by the  
644 party against whom the administrative law judge rules.

645 (c)1. A charter may be renewed provided that a program  
646 review demonstrates that the criteria in paragraph (a) have been  
647 successfully accomplished and that none of the grounds for  
648 nonrenewal established by paragraph (8) (a) has been documented.  
649 In order to facilitate long-term financing for charter school



650 construction, charter schools operating for a minimum of 3 years  
651 and demonstrating exemplary academic programming and fiscal  
652 management are eligible for a 15-year charter renewal. Such  
653 long-term charter is subject to annual review and may be  
654 terminated during the term of the charter.

655 2. The 15-year charter renewal that may be granted pursuant  
656 to subparagraph 1. shall be granted to a charter school that has  
657 received a school grade of "A" or "B" pursuant to s. 1008.34 in  
658 3 of the past 4 years and is not in a state of financial  
659 emergency or deficit position as defined by this section. Such  
660 long-term charter is subject to annual review and may be  
661 terminated during the term of the charter pursuant to subsection  
662 (8).

663 (d) A charter may be modified during its initial term or  
664 any renewal term upon the recommendation of the sponsor or the  
665 charter school's governing board and the approval of both  
666 parties to the agreement. Changes to curriculum which are  
667 consistent with state standards shall be deemed approved unless  
668 the sponsor and the Department of Education determine in writing  
669 that the curriculum is inconsistent with state standards.  
670 Modification during any term may include, but is not limited to,  
671 consolidation of multiple charters into a single charter if the  
672 charters are operated under the same governing board, regardless  
673 of the renewal cycle. A charter school that is not subject to a  
674 school improvement plan and that closes as part of a  
675 consolidation shall be reported by the sponsor as a  
676 consolidation.

677 (e) A charter may be terminated by a charter school's  
678 governing board through voluntary closure. The decision to cease





420138

679 operations must be determined at a public meeting. The governing  
680 board shall notify the parents and sponsor of the public meeting  
681 in writing before the public meeting. The governing board must  
682 notify the sponsor, parents of enrolled students, and the  
683 department in writing within 24 hours after the public meeting  
684 of its determination. The notice shall state the charter  
685 school's intent to continue operations or the reason for the  
686 closure and acknowledge that the governing board agrees to  
687 follow the procedures for dissolution and reversion of public  
688 funds pursuant to paragraphs (8)(d)-(f) and (9)(o).

689 (f) A charter may include a provision requiring the charter  
690 school to be held responsible for all costs associated with, but  
691 not limited to, mediation, damages, and attorney fees incurred  
692 by the district in connection with complaints to the Office of  
693 Civil Rights or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

694 (10) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—

695 (a) 1. A charter school may be exempt from the requirements  
696 of s. 1002.31 if the school is open to any student covered in an  
697 interdistrict agreement and any student residing in the school  
698 district in which the charter school is located.

699 2. A virtual charter school when enrolling students shall  
700 comply with the applicable requirements of s. 1002.31 and with  
701 the enrollment requirements established under s. 1002.45(1)(e)4.

702 3. A ~~However, in the case of a charter lab school, the~~  
703 charter lab school shall be open to any student eligible to  
704 attend the lab school as provided in s. 1002.32 or who resides  
705 in the school district in which the charter lab school is  
706 located.

707 4. Any eligible student shall be allowed interdistrict



420138

708 transfer to attend a charter school when based on good cause.  
709 Good cause shall include, but is not limited to, geographic  
710 proximity to a charter school in a neighboring school district.

711 (17) FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a charter school,  
712 regardless of the sponsorship, shall be funded as if they are in  
713 a basic program or a special program, the same as students  
714 enrolled in other public schools in a school district. Funding  
715 for a charter lab school shall be as provided in s. 1002.32.

716 (b)1. The basis for the agreement for funding students  
717 enrolled in a charter school shall be the sum of the school  
718 district's operating funds from the Florida Education Finance  
719 Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations  
720 Act, including gross state and local funds, discretionary  
721 lottery funds, and funds from the school district's current  
722 operating discretionary millage levy; divided by total funded  
723 weighted full-time equivalent students in the school district;  
724 and multiplied by the weighted full-time equivalent students for  
725 the charter school. Charter schools whose students or programs  
726 meet the eligibility criteria in law are entitled to their  
727 proportionate share of categorical program funds included in the  
728 total funds available in the Florida Education Finance Program  
729 by the Legislature, including transportation, and the evidence-  
730 based reading allocation, ~~and the Florida digital classrooms~~  
731 ~~allocation~~. Total funding for each charter school shall be  
732 recalculated during the year to reflect the revised calculations  
733 under the Florida Education Finance Program by the state and the  
734 actual weighted full-time equivalent students reported by the  
735 charter school during the full-time equivalent student survey  
736 periods designated by the Commissioner of Education. For charter



420138

737 schools operated by a not-for-profit or municipal entity, any  
738 unrestricted current and capital assets identified in the  
739 charter school's annual financial audit may be used for other  
740 charter schools operated by the not-for-profit or municipal  
741 entity within the school district. Unrestricted current assets  
742 shall be used in accordance with s. 1011.62, and any  
743 unrestricted capital assets shall be used in accordance with s.  
744 1013.62(2).

745       2.a. Students enrolled in a charter school sponsored by a  
746 state university or Florida College System institution pursuant  
747 to paragraph (5)(a) shall be funded as if they are in a basic  
748 program or a special program in the school district. The basis  
749 for funding these students is the sum of the total operating  
750 funds from the Florida Education Finance Program for the school  
751 district in which the school is located as provided in s.  
752 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act, including gross  
753 state and local funds, discretionary lottery funds, and funds  
754 from each school district's current operating discretionary  
755 millage levy, divided by total funded weighted full-time  
756 equivalent students in the district, and multiplied by the full-  
757 time equivalent membership of the charter school. The Department  
758 of Education shall develop a tool that each state university or  
759 Florida College System institution sponsoring a charter school  
760 shall use for purposes of calculating the funding amount for  
761 each eligible charter school student. The total amount obtained  
762 from the calculation must be appropriated from state funds in  
763 the General Appropriations Act to the charter school.

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



420138

766 pursuant to paragraph (5) (a) is determined pursuant to s.  
767 1013.62 and the General Appropriations Act.

768 (f) Funding for a virtual charter school shall be as  
769 provided in s. 1002.45(6) ~~s. 1002.45(7)~~.

770 (21) PUBLIC INFORMATION ON CHARTER SCHOOLS.—

771 (a) The Department of Education shall provide information  
772 to the public, directly and through sponsors, on how to form and  
773 operate a charter school and how to enroll in a charter school  
774 once it is created. This information shall include the standard  
775 application form, standard charter and virtual charter contracts  
776 ~~contract~~, standard evaluation instrument, and standard charter  
777 and virtual charter renewal contracts ~~contract~~, which shall  
778 include the information specified in subsection (7) and shall be  
779 developed by consulting and negotiating with both sponsors and  
780 charter schools before implementation. The charter and virtual  
781 charter contracts and charter renewal and virtual charter  
782 contracts shall be used by charter school sponsors.

783 Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) and subsection  
784 (12) of section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

785 1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

786 (8) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—

787 (a) The department shall:

788 1. Publish and update, as necessary, information on the  
789 department website about the Family Empowerment Scholarship  
790 Program, including, but not limited to, student eligibility  
791 criteria, parental responsibilities, and relevant data.

792 2. Cross-check ~~before each distribution of funds~~ the list  
793 of participating scholarship students with the public school  
794 enrollment lists ~~before each scholarship payment~~ to avoid



795 duplication.

796 3. Maintain and publish a list of nationally norm-  
797 referenced tests identified for purposes of satisfying the  
798 testing requirement in subparagraph (9)(c)1. The tests must meet  
799 industry standards of quality in accordance with state board  
800 rule.

801 4. Notify eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
802 organizations of the deadlines for submitting the verified list  
803 of students determined to be eligible for a scholarship.

804 5. Notify each school district of a parent's participation  
805 in the scholarship program for purposes of paragraph (7)(f).

806 6. Deny or terminate program participation upon a parent's  
807 failure to comply with subsection (10).

808 7. Notify the parent and the organization when a  
809 scholarship account is closed and program funds revert to the  
810 state.

811 8. Notify an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
812 organization of any of the organization's or other  
813 organization's identified students who are receiving  
814 scholarships under this chapter.

815 9. Maintain on its website a list of approved providers as  
816 required by s. 1002.66, eligible postsecondary educational  
817 institutions, eligible private schools, and eligible  
818 organizations and may identify or provide links to lists of  
819 other approved providers.

820 10. Require each organization to verify eligible  
821 expenditures before the distribution of funds for any  
822 expenditures made pursuant to subparagraphs (4)(b)1. and 2.  
823 Review of expenditures made for services specified in



824 subparagraphs (4) (b) 3.-15. may be completed after the purchase  
825 is made.

826 11. Investigate any written complaint of a violation of  
827 this section by a parent, a student, a private school, a public  
828 school, a school district, an organization, a provider, or  
829 another appropriate party in accordance with the process  
830 established under s. 1002.421.

831 12. Require quarterly reports by an organization, which  
832 must include, at a minimum, the number of students participating  
833 in the program; the demographics of program participants; the  
834 disability category of program participants; the matrix level of  
835 services, if known; the program award amount per student; the  
836 total expenditures for the purposes specified in paragraph  
837 (4) (b); the types of providers of services to students; and any  
838 other information deemed necessary by the department.

839 13. Notify eligible nonprofit scholarship funding  
840 organizations that scholarships may not be awarded in a school  
841 district in which the award will exceed 99 percent of the school  
842 district's share of state funding through the Florida Education  
843 Finance Program as calculated by the department.

844 14. Adjust payments to eligible nonprofit scholarship-  
845 funding organizations and, when the Florida Education Finance  
846 Program is recalculated, adjust the amount of state funds  
847 allocated to school districts through the Florida Education  
848 Finance Program based upon the results of the cross-check  
849 completed pursuant to subparagraph 2.

850 (12) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

851 (a)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible  
852 pursuant to paragraph (3) (a) are established for up to 18,000



853 students annually beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.  
854 Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, the maximum number of  
855 students participating in the scholarship program under this  
856 section shall annually increase by 1.0 percent of the state's  
857 total full-time equivalent student membership ~~public school~~  
858 ~~student enrollment~~. An eligible student who meets any of the  
859 following requirements shall be excluded from the maximum number  
860 of students if the student:

861 ~~a. Received a scholarship pursuant to s. 1002.395 during~~  
862 ~~the previous school year but did not receive a renewal~~  
863 ~~scholarship based solely on the eligible nonprofit scholarship-~~  
864 ~~funding organization's lack of available funds after the~~  
865 ~~organization fully exhausted its efforts to use funds available~~  
866 ~~for awards under ss. 1002.395 and 1002.40(11)(i). Eligible~~  
867 ~~nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations with students who~~  
868 ~~meet the criterion in this subparagraph must annually notify the~~  
869 ~~department in a format and by a date established by the~~  
870 ~~department. The maximum number of scholarships awarded pursuant~~  
871 ~~to this subparagraph shall not exceed 15,000 per school year;~~

872 ~~a.b.~~ Is a dependent child of a member of the United States  
873 Armed Forces, a foster child, or an adopted child; or

874 ~~b.e.~~ Is determined eligible pursuant to subparagraph  
875 (3)(a)1. or subparagraph (3)(a)2. and either spent the prior  
876 school year in attendance at a Florida public school or,  
877 beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, is eligible to enroll in  
878 kindergarten. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "prior  
879 school year in attendance" means that the student was enrolled  
880 and reported by a school district for funding during either the  
881 preceding October or February full-time equivalent student



420138

882 membership Florida Education Finance Program surveys in  
883 kindergarten through grade 12, which includes time spent in a  
884 Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program if funded  
885 under the Florida Education Finance Program.

886       2. The scholarship amount provided to a student for any  
887 single school year shall be for tuition and fees for an eligible  
888 private school, not to exceed annual limits, which shall be  
889 determined in accordance with this subparagraph. The calculated  
890 scholarship amount for a participating student shall be based  
891 upon the grade level and school district in which the student  
892 was assigned as 100 percent of the funds per unweighted full-  
893 time equivalent in the Florida Education Finance Program for a  
894 student in the basic program established pursuant to s.  
895 1011.62(1)(c)1., plus a per-full-time equivalent share of funds  
896 for all categorical programs, except for the exceptional student  
897 education guaranteed allocation established pursuant to s.  
898 1011.62(1)(e).

899       3. The amount of the scholarship shall be the calculated  
900 amount or the amount of the private school's tuition and fees,  
901 whichever is less. The amount of any assessment fee required by  
902 the participating private school and any costs to provide a  
903 digital device, including Internet access, if necessary, to the  
904 student may be paid from the total amount of the scholarship.

905       4. A scholarship of \$750 or an amount equal to the school  
906 district expenditure per student riding a school bus, as  
907 determined by the department, whichever is greater, may be  
908 awarded to a student who is determined eligible pursuant to  
909 subparagraph (3)(a)1. or subparagraph (3)(a)2. and enrolled in a  
910 Florida public school that is different from the school to which





420138

911 the student was assigned or in a lab school as defined in s.  
912 1002.32 if the school district does not provide the student with  
913 transportation to the school.

914 ~~5. Upon notification from the organization on July 1,~~  
915 ~~September 1, December 1, and February 1 that an application has~~  
916 ~~been approved for the program, the department shall verify that~~  
917 ~~the student is not prohibited from receiving a scholarship~~  
918 ~~pursuant to subsection (6).~~ The organization must provide the  
919 department with the documentation necessary to verify the  
920 student's participation. Upon receiving the documentation  
921 ~~verification~~, the department shall transfer, from state funds  
922 only, the amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. to the  
923 organization for quarterly disbursement to parents of  
924 participating students each school year in which the scholarship  
925 is in force. For a student exiting a Department of Juvenile  
926 Justice commitment program who chooses to participate in the  
927 scholarship program, the amount of the Family Empowerment  
928 Scholarship calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. must be  
929 transferred from the school district in which the student last  
930 attended a public school before commitment to the Department of  
931 Juvenile Justice. When a student enters the scholarship program,  
932 the organization must receive all documentation required for the  
933 student's participation, including the private school's and the  
934 student's fee schedules, at least 30 days before the first  
935 quarterly scholarship payment is made for the student.

936 6. The initial payment shall be made after the  
937 organization's verification of admission acceptance, and  
938 subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued  
939 enrollment and attendance at the private school. Payment must be



420138

940 by individual warrant made payable to the student's parent or by  
941 funds transfer or any other means of payment that the department  
942 deems to be commercially viable or cost-effective. If the  
943 payment is made by warrant, the warrant must be delivered by the  
944 organization to the private school of the parent's choice, and  
945 the parent shall restrictively endorse the warrant to the  
946 private school. An organization shall ensure that the parent to  
947 whom the warrant is made has restrictively endorsed the warrant  
948 to the private school for deposit into the account of the  
949 private school or that the parent has approved a funds transfer  
950 before any scholarship funds are deposited.

951 (b)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible  
952 pursuant to paragraph (3) (b) are established for up to 26,500  
953 ~~20,000~~ students annually beginning in the 2022-2023 ~~2021-2022~~  
954 school year. Beginning in the 2023-2024 ~~2022-2023~~ school year,  
955 the maximum number of students participating in the scholarship  
956 program under this section shall annually increase by 1.0  
957 percent of the state's total exceptional student education full-  
958 time equivalent student membership ~~enrollment~~, not including  
959 gifted students. An eligible student who meets any of the  
960 following requirements shall be excluded from the maximum number  
961 of students if the student:

962 a. Received specialized instructional services under the  
963 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.  
964 1002.66 during the previous school year and the student has a  
965 current IEP developed by the district ~~local~~ school board in  
966 accordance with rules of the State Board of Education;

967 b. Is a dependent child of a member of the United States  
968 Armed Forces, a foster child, or an adopted child;



420138

969 c. Spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida  
970 public school or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.  
971 For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "prior school year  
972 in attendance" means that the student was enrolled and reported  
973 by:

974 (I) A school district for funding during either the  
975 preceding October or February full-time equivalent student  
976 membership ~~Florida Education Finance Program~~ surveys in  
977 kindergarten through grade 12, which includes time spent in a  
978 Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program if funded  
979 under the Florida Education Finance Program;

980 (II) The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind during  
981 the preceding October or February full-time equivalent student  
982 membership surveys in kindergarten through grade 12;

983 (III) A school district for funding during the preceding  
984 October or February full-time equivalent student membership  
985 ~~Florida Education Finance Program~~ surveys, was at least 4 years  
986 of age when enrolled and reported, and was eligible for services  
987 under s. 1003.21(1)(e); or

988 (IV) Received a John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with  
989 Disabilities in the 2021-2022 school year.

990 2. For a student who has a Level I to Level III matrix of  
991 services or a diagnosis by a physician or psychologist, the  
992 calculated scholarship amount for a student participating in the  
993 program must be based upon the grade level and school district  
994 in which the student would have been enrolled as the total funds  
995 per unweighted full-time equivalent in the Florida Education  
996 Finance Program for a student in the basic exceptional student  
997 education program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)1. and (e)1.c.,



998 plus a per full-time equivalent share of funds for all  
999 categorical programs, as funded in the General Appropriations  
1000 Act, except that for the exceptional student education  
1001 guaranteed allocation, as provided in s. 1011.62(1)(e)1.c. and  
1002 2., the funds must be allocated based on the school district's  
1003 average exceptional student education guaranteed allocation  
1004 funds per exceptional student education full-time equivalent  
1005 student.

1006 3. For a student with a Level IV or Level V matrix of  
1007 services, the calculated scholarship amount must be based upon  
1008 the school district to which the student would have been  
1009 assigned as the total funds per full-time equivalent for the  
1010 Level IV or Level V exceptional student education program  
1011 pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)2.a. or b., plus a per-full time  
1012 equivalent share of funds for all categorical programs, as  
1013 funded in the General Appropriations Act.

1014 4. For a student who received a Gardiner Scholarship  
1015 pursuant to s. 1002.385 in the 2020-2021 school year, the amount  
1016 shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to  
1017 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-  
1018 2021 school year.

1019 5. For a student who received a John M. McKay Scholarship  
1020 pursuant to s. 1002.39 in the 2020-2021 school year, the amount  
1021 shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to  
1022 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-  
1023 2021 school year.

1024 ~~6. Upon notification from an organization on July 1,~~  
1025 ~~September 1, December 1, and February 1 that an application has~~  
1026 ~~been approved for the program, the department shall verify that~~



420138

1027 ~~the student is not prohibited from receiving a scholarship~~  
1028 ~~pursuant to subsection (6).~~ The organization must provide the  
1029 department with the documentation necessary to verify the  
1030 student's participation.

1031       7. Upon receiving the documentation verification, the  
1032 department shall release, from state funds only, the student's  
1033 scholarship funds to the organization, to be deposited into the  
1034 student's account in four equal amounts no later than September  
1035 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1 of each school year in  
1036 which the scholarship is in force.

1037       8. Accrued interest in the student's account is in addition  
1038 to, and not part of, the awarded funds. Program funds include  
1039 both the awarded funds and accrued interest.

1040       9. The organization may develop a system for payment of  
1041 benefits by funds transfer, including, but not limited to, debit  
1042 cards, electronic payment cards, or any other means of payment  
1043 which the department deems to be commercially viable or cost-  
1044 effective. A student's scholarship award may not be reduced for  
1045 debit card or electronic payment fees. Commodities or services  
1046 related to the development of such a system must be procured by  
1047 competitive solicitation unless they are purchased from a state  
1048 term contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

1049       10. Moneys received pursuant to this section do not  
1050 constitute taxable income to the qualified student or the parent  
1051 of the qualified student.

1052       Section 13. Paragraph (j) of subsection (6), paragraph (d)  
1053 of subsection (9), and paragraph (a) of subsection (11) of  
1054 section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1055       1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—



1056 (6) OBLIGATIONS OF ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING  
1057 ORGANIZATIONS.—An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
1058 organization:

1059 (j)1. May use eligible contributions received pursuant to  
1060 this section and ss. 212.099, 212.1832, and 1002.40 during the  
1061 state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected for  
1062 administrative expenses if the organization has operated as an  
1063 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for at least  
1064 the preceding 3 fiscal years and did not have any findings of  
1065 material weakness or material noncompliance in its most recent  
1066 audit under paragraph (m). Administrative expenses from eligible  
1067 contributions may not exceed 3 percent of the total amount of  
1068 all scholarships funded by an eligible scholarship-funding  
1069 organization under this chapter. Such administrative expenses  
1070 must be reasonable and necessary for the organization's  
1071 management and distribution of scholarships funded under this  
1072 chapter. Administrative expenses may include developing or  
1073 contracting with rideshare programs or facilitating carpool  
1074 strategies for recipients of a transportation scholarship. No  
1075 funds authorized under this subparagraph shall be used for  
1076 lobbying or political activity or expenses related to lobbying  
1077 or political activity. Up to one-third of the funds authorized  
1078 for administrative expenses under this subparagraph may be used  
1079 for expenses related to the recruitment of contributions from  
1080 taxpayers. An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
1081 organization may not charge an application fee.

1082 2. Must expend for annual or partial-year scholarships an  
1083 amount equal to or greater than 75 percent of the net eligible  
1084 contributions remaining after administrative expenses during the



1085 state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected. No  
1086 more than 25 percent of such net eligible contributions may be  
1087 carried forward to the following state fiscal year. All amounts  
1088 carried forward, for audit purposes, must be specifically  
1089 identified for particular students, by student name and the name  
1090 of the school to which the student is admitted, subject to the  
1091 requirements of ss. 1002.22 and 1002.221 and 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g,  
1092 and the applicable rules and regulations issued pursuant  
1093 thereto. Any amounts carried forward shall be expended for  
1094 annual or partial-year scholarships in the following state  
1095 fiscal year. No later than September 30 of each year, net  
1096 eligible contributions remaining on June 30 of each year that  
1097 are in excess of the 25 percent that may be carried forward  
1098 shall be used to provide scholarships to eligible students or  
1099 transferred to other eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
1100 organizations to provide scholarships for eligible students. All  
1101 transferred funds must be deposited by each eligible nonprofit  
1102 scholarship-funding organization receiving such funds into its  
1103 scholarship account. All transferred amounts received by any  
1104 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must be  
1105 separately disclosed in the annual financial audit required  
1106 under paragraph (m).

1107         3. Must, before granting a scholarship for an academic  
1108 year, document each scholarship student's eligibility for that  
1109 academic year. A scholarship-funding organization may not grant  
1110 multiyear scholarships in one approval process.

1111  
1112 Information and documentation provided to the Department of  
1113 Education and the Auditor General relating to the identity of a



420138

1114 taxpayer that provides an eligible contribution under this  
1115 section shall remain confidential at all times in accordance  
1116 with s. 213.053.

1117 (9) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—The Department of  
1118 Education shall:

1119 (d) Cross-check the list of participating scholarship  
1120 students with the public school enrollment lists to avoid  
1121 duplication and, when the Florida Education Finance Program is  
1122 recalculated, adjust the amount of state funds allocated to  
1123 school districts through the Florida Education Finance Program  
1124 based upon the results of the cross-check.

1125 (11) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT AND PAYMENT.—

1126 (a) The scholarship amount provided to any student for any  
1127 single school year by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
1128 organization from eligible contributions shall be for total  
1129 costs authorized under paragraph (6) (d), not to exceed annual  
1130 limits, which shall be determined as follows:

1131 1. For a student who received a scholarship in the 2018-  
1132 2019 school year, who remains eligible, and who is enrolled in  
1133 an eligible private school, the amount shall be the greater  
1134 amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. or a percentage of  
1135 the unweighted FTE funding amount for the 2018-2019 state fiscal  
1136 year and thereafter as follows:

1137 a. Eighty-eight percent for a student enrolled in  
1138 kindergarten through grade 5.

1139 b. Ninety-two percent for a student enrolled in grade 6  
1140 through grade 8.

1141 c. Ninety-six percent for a student enrolled in grade 9  
1142 through grade 12.





420138

1143           2. For students initially eligible in the 2019-2020 school  
1144 year or thereafter, the calculated amount for a student to  
1145 attend an eligible private school shall be calculated in  
1146 accordance with s. 1002.394(12) (a).

1147           3. The scholarship amount awarded to a student enrolled in  
1148 a Florida public school ~~in which a student is enrolled and that~~  
1149 is different from the school to which the student was assigned  
1150 or in a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32, must be an amount  
1151 equal to the school district expenditure per student riding a  
1152 school bus, as determined by the department, or is limited to  
1153 \$750, whichever is greater.

1154           Section 14. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section  
1155 1002.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1156           1002.40 The Hope Scholarship Program.—

1157           (8) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—The department  
1158 shall:

1159           (a) Cross-check the list of participating scholarship  
1160 students with the public school enrollment lists to avoid  
1161 duplication and, when the Florida Education Finance Program is  
1162 recalculated, adjust the amount of state funds allocated to  
1163 school districts through the Florida Education Finance Program  
1164 based upon the results of the cross-check.

1165           Section 15. Subsections (1), (2), and (6) of section  
1166 1002.411, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1167           1002.411 New Worlds Reading Scholarship Accounts.—

1168           (1) NEW WORLDS READING SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS.—New Worlds  
1169 Reading Scholarship Accounts are established to provide  
1170 educational options for students.

1171           (2) ELIGIBILITY.—Contingent upon available funds, and on a



420138

1172 first-come, first-served basis, each student ~~in grades 3 through~~  
1173 ~~5~~ who is enrolled in a Florida public school in kindergarten  
1174 through grade 5 is eligible for a reading scholarship account if  
1175 the student has a substantial reading deficiency identified  
1176 under s. 1008.25(5)(a) or scored below a Level 3 on the ~~grade 3~~  
1177 ~~or grade 4~~ statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA)  
1178 assessment in the prior school year. An eligible student who is  
1179 classified as an English Language Learner and is enrolled in a  
1180 program or receiving services that are specifically designed to  
1181 meet the instructional needs of English Language Learner  
1182 students shall receive priority.

1183 (6) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.—

1184 (a) By September 30, the school district shall notify the  
1185 parent of each student in kindergarten ~~grades 3~~ through grade 5  
1186 who has a substantial reading deficiency identified under s.  
1187 1008.25(5)(a) or scored below a level 3 on the statewide,  
1188 standardized ELA assessment in the prior school year of the  
1189 process to request and receive a reading scholarship, subject to  
1190 available funds.

1191 (b) A school district may not prohibit instructional  
1192 personnel from providing services pursuant to this section on  
1193 the instructional personnel's school campus outside regular work  
1194 hours, subject to school district policies for safety and  
1195 security operations to protect students, instructional  
1196 personnel, and educational facilities.

1197 Section 16. Effective January 1, 2023, paragraph (e) of  
1198 subsection (1) of section 1002.421, Florida Statutes, is amended  
1199 to read:

1200 1002.421 State school choice scholarship program



420138

1201 accountability and oversight.—

1202 (1) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—A private  
1203 school participating in an educational scholarship program  
1204 established pursuant to this chapter must be a private school as  
1205 defined in s. 1002.01(2) in this state, be registered, and be in  
1206 compliance with all requirements of this section in addition to  
1207 private school requirements outlined in s. 1002.42, specific  
1208 requirements identified within respective scholarship program  
1209 laws, and other provisions of Florida law that apply to private  
1210 schools, and must:

1211 (e) Annually complete and submit to the department a  
1212 notarized scholarship compliance statement certifying that all  
1213 school employees and contracted personnel with direct student  
1214 contact have undergone background screening pursuant to s.  
1215 435.12 ~~s. 943.0542~~ and have met the screening standards as  
1216 provided in s. 435.04.

1217  
1218 The department shall suspend the payment of funds to a private  
1219 school that knowingly fails to comply with this subsection, and  
1220 shall prohibit the school from enrolling new scholarship  
1221 students, for 1 fiscal year and until the school complies. If a  
1222 private school fails to meet the requirements of this subsection  
1223 or has consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the  
1224 report required under paragraph (q), the commissioner may  
1225 determine that the private school is ineligible to participate  
1226 in a scholarship program.

1227 Section 17. Subsections (6) through (11) of section  
1228 1002.45, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)  
1229 through (10), respectively, and subsections (1) and (2),



420138

1230 paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of subsection (3), subsections (4)  
1231 and (5), and present subsections (6), (7), (8), and (11) of  
1232 section 1002.45, Florida Statutes, are amended, to read:

1233 1002.45 Virtual instruction programs.—

1234 (1) PROGRAM.—

1235 (a) For purposes of this section, the term:

1236 1. "Approved virtual instruction program provider" means a  
1237 provider that is approved by the State Board ~~Department~~ of  
1238 Education under subsection (2), the Florida Virtual School, a  
1239 franchise of the Florida Virtual School, or a Florida College  
1240 System institution.

1241 2. "Department" means the Department of Education.

1242 ~~3.2.~~ "Virtual instruction program" means a program of  
1243 instruction provided in an interactive learning environment  
1244 created through technology in which students are separated from  
1245 their teachers by time or space, or both.

1246 (b) 1. Each school district shall provide at least one  
1247 option for part-time and full-time virtual instruction for  
1248 students residing within the school district. All school  
1249 districts must provide parents with timely written notification  
1250 of at least one open enrollment period for full-time students of  
1251 90 days or more which ends 30 days before the first day of the  
1252 school year. ~~The purpose of the program is to make quality~~  
1253 ~~virtual instruction available to students using online and~~  
1254 ~~distance learning technology in the nontraditional classroom.~~ A  
1255 school district virtual instruction program shall consist of the  
1256 following:

1257 ~~a.1.~~ Full-time and part-time virtual instruction for  
1258 students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12.



420138

1259            ~~b.2.~~ Full-time or part-time virtual instruction for  
1260 students enrolled in dropout prevention and academic  
1261 intervention programs under s. 1003.53, Department of Juvenile  
1262 Justice education programs under s. 1003.52, core-curricula  
1263 courses to meet class size requirements under s. 1003.03, or  
1264 Florida College System institutions under this section.

1265            2. Each virtual instruction program established under  
1266 paragraph (c) by a school district either directly or through a  
1267 contract with an approved virtual instruction program provider  
1268 shall operate under its own Master School Identification Number  
1269 as prescribed by the department.

1270            (c) To provide students residing within the school district  
1271 ~~with~~ the option of participating in virtual instruction programs  
1272 as required by paragraph (b), a school district may:

1273            1. Contract with the Florida Virtual School or establish a  
1274 franchise of the Florida Virtual School pursuant to s.  
1275 1002.37(2) for the provision of a program under paragraph (b).  
1276 ~~Using this option is subject to the requirements of this section~~  
1277 ~~and s. 1011.61(1)(c)1.b.(III) and (IV) and (4). A district may~~  
1278 ~~report full-time equivalent student membership for credit earned~~  
1279 ~~by a student who is enrolled in a virtual education course~~  
1280 ~~provided by the district which was completed after the end of~~  
1281 ~~the regular school year if the FTE is reported no later than the~~  
1282 ~~deadline for amending the final student membership report for~~  
1283 ~~that year.~~

1284            2. Contract with an approved virtual instruction program  
1285 provider under subsection (2) for the provision of a full-time  
1286 or part-time program under paragraph (b).

1287            3. Enter into an agreement with other school districts to



1288 allow the participation of its students in an approved virtual  
1289 instruction program provided by the other school district. The  
1290 agreement must indicate a process for the transfer of funds  
1291 required by paragraph (6) (b) ~~(7)(a)~~.

1292 4. Establish school district operated part-time or full-  
1293 time kindergarten through grade 12 virtual instruction programs  
1294 ~~under paragraph (b) for students enrolled in the school~~  
1295 ~~district. A full-time program shall operate under its own Master~~  
1296 ~~School Identification Number.~~

1297 5. Enter into an agreement with a virtual charter school  
1298 authorized by the school district under s. 1002.33.

1299  
1300 Contracts under subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. may include  
1301 multidistrict contractual arrangements ~~that may be~~ executed by a  
1302 regional consortium service organization established pursuant to  
1303 s. 1001.451 for its member districts. A multidistrict  
1304 contractual arrangement or an agreement under subparagraph 3. is  
1305 not subject to s. 1001.42(4)(d) and does not require the  
1306 participating school districts to be contiguous. These  
1307 arrangements may be used to fulfill the requirements of  
1308 paragraph (b).

1309 (d) A virtual charter school may provide full-time or part-  
1310 time virtual instruction for students in kindergarten through  
1311 grade 12 residing within the school district sponsoring the  
1312 virtual charter school if the virtual charter school has a  
1313 charter approved pursuant to s. 1002.33. A virtual charter  
1314 school may:

- 1315 1. Contract with the Florida Virtual School.  
1316 2. Contract with an approved virtual instruction program



420138

1317 provider under subsection (2).

1318 3. Enter into an agreement with a school district to allow  
1319 the participation of the virtual charter school's students in  
1320 the school district's virtual instruction program. The agreement  
1321 must indicate a process for reporting of student enrollment and  
1322 the transfer of funds required by paragraph (6) (b) ~~(7) (a)~~.

1323 (e) Each school district shall:

1324 1. Provide to the department by each October 1, a copy of  
1325 each contract and the amount ~~amounts~~ paid per unweighted full-  
1326 time equivalent virtual student for services procured pursuant  
1327 to subparagraphs (c)1. and 2.

1328 2. Expend any ~~the~~ difference in the amount of funds per  
1329 unweighted full-time equivalent virtual student allocated to  
1330 provided for a student participating in the school district  
1331 virtual instruction program pursuant to subsection (6) (7) and  
1332 the amount ~~price~~ paid per unweighted full-time equivalent  
1333 virtual student by the school district for a contract executed  
1334 pursuant to subparagraph (c)1. or subparagraph (c)2. on ~~for~~  
1335 acquiring computer and device hardware and associated operating  
1336 system software that comply with the requirements of s.  
1337 1001.20 (4) (a)1.b.

1338 3. Provide to the department ~~and~~ by September 1 of each  
1339 year ~~report to the department~~ an itemized list of items acquired  
1340 in subparagraph 2 ~~with these funds~~.

1341 ~~4.3.~~ Limit the enrollment of ~~virtual~~ full-time equivalent  
1342 virtual students residing outside of the school district  
1343 providing the virtual instruction pursuant to paragraph (c) to  
1344 no more than 50 percent of the total enrolled ~~virtual~~ full-time  
1345 equivalent virtual students residing inside the school district



420138

1346 providing the virtual instruction. This subparagraph applies to  
1347 any virtual instruction contract or agreement that is entered  
1348 into for the first time after June 30, 2021. However, a school  
1349 district may not enroll more ~~virtual~~ full-time equivalent  
1350 virtual students residing outside of the school district than  
1351 the total number of reported full-time equivalent students  
1352 residing inside the school district.

1353 (2) PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS.—

1354 (a) The department shall annually publish on its website  
1355 ~~online~~ a list of providers approved by the State Board of  
1356 Education to offer virtual instruction programs. To be approved  
1357 ~~by the department~~, a virtual instruction program provider must  
1358 document that it:

1359 1. Is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies,  
1360 employment practices, and operations;

1361 2. Complies with the antidiscrimination provisions of s.  
1362 1000.05;

1363 3. Locates an administrative office or offices in this  
1364 state, requires its administrative staff to be state residents,  
1365 requires all instructional staff to be Florida-certified  
1366 teachers under chapter 1012 and conducts background screenings  
1367 for all employees or contracted personnel, as required by s.  
1368 1012.32, using state and national criminal history records;

1369 4. Electronically provides to parents and students specific  
1370 information ~~posted and accessible online~~ that includes, but is  
1371 not limited to, the following teacher-parent and teacher-student  
1372 contact information for each course:

1373 a. How to contact the instructor via phone, e-mail, or  
1374 online messaging tools.





420138

1375           b. How to contact technical support via phone, e-mail, or  
1376 online messaging tools.

1377           c. How to contact the administration office via phone, e-  
1378 mail, or online messaging tools.

1379           d. Any requirement for regular contact with the instructor  
1380 for the course and clear expectations for meeting the  
1381 requirement.

1382           e. The requirement that the instructor in each course must,  
1383 at a minimum, conduct one contact with the parent and the  
1384 student each month;

1385           5. Possesses prior, successful experience offering virtual  
1386 instruction ~~online~~ courses to elementary, middle, or high school  
1387 students as demonstrated by quantified student learning gains in  
1388 each subject area and grade level provided for consideration as  
1389 an instructional program option. However, for a virtual  
1390 instruction program provider without sufficient prior,  
1391 successful experience offering online courses, the State Board  
1392 of Education ~~department~~ may conditionally approve the virtual  
1393 instruction program provider to offer courses measured pursuant  
1394 to subparagraph (7) (a)2. ~~(8) (a)2.~~ Conditional approval shall be  
1395 valid for 1 school year only and, based on the virtual  
1396 instruction program provider's experience in offering the  
1397 courses, the State Board of Education may ~~department shall~~  
1398 ~~determine whether to~~ grant approval to offer a virtual  
1399 instruction program;

1400           6. Is accredited by a regional accrediting association as  
1401 defined by State Board of Education rule;

1402           7. Ensures instructional and curricular quality through a  
1403 detailed curriculum and student performance accountability plan



420138

1404 that addresses every subject and grade level it intends to  
1405 provide through contract with the school district, including:  
1406       a. Courses and programs that meet the standards of the  
1407 International Association for K-12 Online Learning and the  
1408 Southern Regional Education Board.  
1409       b. Instructional content and services that align with, and  
1410 measure student attainment of, student proficiency in the Next  
1411 Generation Sunshine State Standards.  
1412       c. Mechanisms that determine and ensure that a student has  
1413 satisfied requirements for grade level promotion and high school  
1414 graduation with a standard diploma, as appropriate;  
1415       8. Publishes ~~for the general public~~, in accordance with  
1416 disclosure requirements adopted in rule by the State Board of  
1417 Education, as part of its application as an approved virtual  
1418 instruction program a provider and in all contracts negotiated  
1419 pursuant to this section:  
1420       a. Information and data about the curriculum of each full-  
1421 time and part-time virtual instruction program.  
1422       b. School policies and procedures.  
1423       c. Certification status and physical location of all  
1424 administrative and instructional personnel.  
1425       d. Hours and times of availability of instructional  
1426 personnel.  
1427       e. Student-teacher ratios.  
1428       f. Student completion and promotion rates.  
1429       g. Student, educator, and school performance accountability  
1430 outcomes;  
1431       9. If the approved virtual instruction program provider is  
1432 a Florida College System institution, employs instructors who



420138

1433 meet the certification requirements for instructional staff  
1434 under chapter 1012; and

1435       10. Performs an annual financial audit of its accounts and  
1436 records conducted by an independent auditor who is a certified  
1437 public accountant licensed under chapter 473. The independent  
1438 auditor shall conduct the audit ~~which is~~ in accordance with  
1439 rules adopted by the Auditor General ~~and, is conducted~~ in  
1440 compliance with generally accepted auditing standards, and  
1441 ~~include~~ includes a report on financial statements presented in  
1442 accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The  
1443 audit report shall be accompanied by a written statement from  
1444 the approved virtual instruction program provider in response to  
1445 any deficiencies identified within the audit report and shall be  
1446 submitted by the approved virtual instruction program provider  
1447 to the State Board of Education and the Auditor General no later  
1448 than 9 months after the end of the preceding fiscal year.

1449       (b) An approved virtual instruction program provider that  
1450 maintains compliance with all requirements of this section shall  
1451 retain its approved status for a period of ~~during the~~ 3 school  
1452 years after the date of ~~the department's approval~~ by the State  
1453 Board of Education under paragraph (a) as long as the provider  
1454 ~~continues to comply with all requirements of this section.~~  
1455 ~~However, each provider approved by the department for the 2011-~~  
1456 ~~2012 school year must reapply for approval to provide a part-~~  
1457 ~~time program for students in grades 9 through 12.~~

1458       (3) VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Each virtual  
1459 instruction program under this section must:

1460       (b) Offer instruction that is designed to enable a student  
1461 to gain proficiency in each virtual instruction ~~virtually~~



420138

1462 ~~delivered~~ course of study.

1463 (c) Provide each student enrolled in the virtual  
1464 instruction program with all the necessary instructional  
1465 materials.

1466 (d) Provide each full-time student enrolled in the virtual  
1467 instruction program who qualifies for free or reduced-price  
1468 school lunches under the National School Lunch Act, or who is on  
1469 the direct certification list, and who does not have a computer  
1470 or Internet access in his or her home with:

1471 1. All equipment necessary for participants in the virtual  
1472 instruction program, including, but not limited to, a computer,  
1473 computer monitor, and printer, if a printer is necessary to  
1474 participate in the virtual instruction program; and

1475 2. Access to or reimbursement for all Internet services  
1476 necessary for online delivery of instruction.

1477 (4) CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS.—Each contract with an approved  
1478 virtual instruction program provider must, at minimum:

1479 (a) Set forth a detailed curriculum plan that illustrates  
1480 how students will be provided services and be measured for  
1481 attainment of proficiency in the Next Generation Sunshine State  
1482 Standards for each grade level and subject.

1483 (b) Provide a method for determining that a student has  
1484 satisfied the requirements for graduation in s. 1002.3105(5), s.  
1485 1003.4281, or s. 1003.4282 if the contract is for the provision  
1486 of a full-time virtual instruction program to students in grades  
1487 9 through 12.

1488 (c) Specify a method for resolving conflicts among the  
1489 parties.

1490 (d) Specify authorized reasons for termination of the



420138

1491 contract.

1492 (e) Require the approved virtual instruction program  
1493 provider to be responsible for all debts of the virtual  
1494 instruction program if the contract is not renewed or is  
1495 terminated.

1496 (f) Require the approved virtual instruction program  
1497 provider to comply with all requirements of this section.

1498 (g) Require the approved virtual instruction program  
1499 provider to submit a concise, uniform, monthly financial  
1500 statement summary sheet in a form prescribed by the department.

1501 (h) Provide the current incoming baseline standard of  
1502 student academic achievement, the outcomes to be achieved, the  
1503 method of measurement that will be used, and a detailed  
1504 description of:

1505 1. How the baseline student academic achievement levels and  
1506 prior rates of academic progress will be established.

1507 2. How these baseline rates will be compared to rates of  
1508 academic progress achieved by the same students while enrolled  
1509 in the virtual instruction program.

1510 3. To the extent possible, how the rates of progress will  
1511 be evaluated and compared with rates of progress of other  
1512 closely comparable student populations.

1513 (i) Require the approved virtual instruction program  
1514 provider to annually submit an accountability report that  
1515 contains demographic information and student achievement  
1516 performance data, that links baseline student data to the  
1517 provider performance projections identified in the contract.

1518  
1519 A contracting school district shall facilitate compliance with



420138

1520 the requirements of paragraphs (h) and (i).

1521 ~~(5) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.—A student may enroll in a virtual~~  
1522 ~~instruction program provided by the school district or by a~~  
1523 ~~virtual charter school pursuant to s. 1002.455.~~

1524 (5)(6) STUDENT PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each student  
1525 enrolled in the school district's a virtual instruction program  
1526 authorized pursuant to paragraph (1)(c) or virtual charter  
1527 school must:

1528 (a) Comply with the compulsory attendance requirements of  
1529 s. 1003.21. Student attendance must be verified by the school  
1530 district.

1531 (b) Take statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22.  
1532 Statewide assessments may be administered within the school  
1533 district in which such student resides, or as specified in the  
1534 contract in accordance with s. 1008.24(3). If requested by the  
1535 approved virtual instruction program provider or virtual charter  
1536 school, the district of residence must provide the student with  
1537 access to the district's testing facilities.

1538 (6)(7) VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION PROGRAM AND VIRTUAL CHARTER  
1539 SCHOOL FUNDING.—

1540 (a) All virtual instruction programs established pursuant  
1541 to paragraph (1)(c) are subject to the requirements of s.  
1542 1011.61(1)(c)1.b.(III), (IV), (VI) and (4) and the school  
1543 district providing the virtual instruction program shall report  
1544 the full-time equivalent students, in a manner prescribed by the  
1545 department. A school district may report a full-time equivalent  
1546 student for credit earned by a student who is enrolled in a  
1547 virtual instruction course provided by the district which was  
1548 completed after the end of the regular school year if the full-



420138

1549 time equivalent student is reported no later than the deadline  
1550 for amending the final full-time equivalent student membership  
1551 report for that year ~~Students enrolled in a virtual instruction~~  
1552 ~~program or a virtual charter school shall be funded through the~~  
1553 ~~Florida Education Finance Program as provided in the General~~  
1554 ~~Appropriations Act. However, such funds may not be provided for~~  
1555 ~~the purpose of fulfilling the class size requirements in ss.~~  
1556 ~~1003.03 and 1011.685. The school district providing the virtual~~  
1557 ~~instruction shall report the full-time equivalent students for a~~  
1558 ~~virtual instruction program or a virtual charter school to the~~  
1559 ~~department in a manner prescribed by the department.~~

1560 (b) Students enrolled in a virtual instruction program  
1561 shall be funded in the Florida Education Finance Program as  
1562 provided in the General Appropriations Act. The calculation to  
1563 determine the amount of funds for each student through the  
1564 Florida Education Finance Program shall include the sum of the  
1565 base Florida Education Finance Program pursuant to s.  
1566 1011.62(1)(s) and all categorical programs except for the  
1567 categorical programs established pursuant to ss. 1011.62(1)(f),  
1568 1011.62(7), 1011.62(13), 1011.68, 1011.685, and 1012.71.

1569 Students residing outside of the school district reporting the  
1570 full-time equivalent virtual student shall be funded from state  
1571 funds only.

1572 ~~(b) For purposes of a virtual instruction program or a~~  
1573 ~~virtual charter school, "full-time equivalent student" has the~~  
1574 ~~same meaning as provided in s. 1011.61(1)(c)1.b.(III) or (IV).~~

1575 ~~(c) For a student enrolled in a kindergarten through grade~~  
1576 ~~12 virtual instruction program, a "full-time equivalent student"~~  
1577 ~~has the same meaning as provided in s. 1011.61(1)(c)1.b.(III)~~



420138

1578 and ~~(IV)~~.

1579 ~~(d) The full-time equivalent student membership calculated~~  
1580 ~~under this subsection is subject to the requirements in s.~~  
1581 ~~1011.61(4).~~

1582 ~~(c)~~~~(e)~~ A Florida College System institution provider may  
1583 not report students who are served in a virtual instruction  
1584 program for funding under the Florida College System Program  
1585 Fund.

1586 ~~(7)~~~~(8)~~ ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—

1587 (a) Each approved virtual instruction program provider  
1588 contracted pursuant to ~~under~~ this section must:

1589 1. Participate in the statewide assessment program under s.  
1590 1008.22 and in the state's education performance accountability  
1591 system under s. 1008.31.

1592 2. Receive a school grade under s. 1008.34 or a school  
1593 improvement rating under s. 1008.341, as applicable. The ~~school~~  
1594 ~~grade or~~ school improvement rating received by each approved  
1595 virtual instruction program provider shall be based upon the  
1596 aggregated assessment scores of all students served by the  
1597 provider statewide. Each approved virtual instruction program  
1598 provider shall receive a district grade pursuant to s. 1008.34  
1599 based upon the aggregated assessment scores of all students  
1600 served by the provider statewide and a separate school grade for  
1601 each school district with which it contracts based upon the  
1602 assessment scores of all students served within the school  
1603 district. The department shall publish the school grade or  
1604 school improvement rating received by each approved virtual  
1605 instruction program provider on its Internet website. The  
1606 department shall develop an evaluation method for providers of





420138

1607 part-time programs which includes the percentage of students  
1608 making learning gains, the percentage of students successfully  
1609 passing any required end-of-course assessment, the percentage of  
1610 students taking Advanced Placement examinations, and the  
1611 percentage of students scoring 3 or higher on an Advanced  
1612 Placement examination.

1613 (b) The performance of part-time students in grades 9  
1614 through 12 shall not be included for purposes of school grades  
1615 or school improvement ratings under subparagraph (a)2.; however,  
1616 their performance shall be included for school grading or school  
1617 improvement rating purposes by the district nonvirtual school  
1618 providing the student's primary instruction.

1619 (c) An approved virtual instruction program provider that  
1620 receives a school grade of "D" or "F" pursuant to ~~under~~ s.  
1621 1008.34 or a school improvement rating of "Unsatisfactory"  
1622 pursuant to ~~under~~ s. 1008.341 must file a school improvement  
1623 plan with the department for consultation to determine the  
1624 causes for low performance and corrective actions necessary to  
1625 improve performance ~~to develop a plan for correction and~~  
1626 ~~improvement.~~

1627 (d) An approved virtual instruction program provider's  
1628 contract is automatically ~~must be~~ terminated if the provider  
1629 earns two consecutive ~~receives a school grades~~ grade of "D" or  
1630 "F" pursuant to ~~under~~ s. 1008.34 after all school grade appeals  
1631 are final or earns two consecutive a school improvement ratings  
1632 ~~rating~~ of "Unsatisfactory" pursuant to ~~under~~ s. 1008.341 ~~for 2~~  
1633 ~~years during any consecutive 4-year period~~ or has violated any  
1634 qualification requirement pursuant to subsection (2). An  
1635 approved virtual instruction program A provider that has a



420138

1636 contract terminated under this paragraph may not be considered  
1637 an approved virtual instruction program provider for ~~a period of~~  
1638 at least 1 year after the date upon which the contract was  
1639 terminated and until the State Board of Education ~~department~~  
1640 determines that the virtual instruction program provider is in  
1641 compliance with subsection (2) and has corrected each cause of  
1642 the provider's low performance.

1643 ~~(10)-(11)~~ RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt  
1644 rules necessary to administer this section, including rules that  
1645 prescribe disclosure requirements under subsection (2), a  
1646 standard contract that meets the requirements under subsection  
1647 (4), and school district reporting requirements under subsection  
1648 (6) ~~(7)~~.

1649 Section 18. Section 1002.455, Florida Statutes, is amended  
1650 to read:

1651 1002.455 Student eligibility for K-12 virtual instruction.—  
1652 All students, including home education and private school  
1653 students, are eligible to participate in any of the following  
1654 virtual instruction options:

1655 (1) School district operated part-time or full-time  
1656 kindergarten through grade 12 virtual instruction programs  
1657 pursuant to s. 1002.45(1)(c)4. to students within the school  
1658 district ~~under s. 1002.45(1)(b)~~.

1659 (2) Part-time or full-time virtual charter school  
1660 instruction authorized pursuant to s. 1002.45(1)(c)5. ~~under s.~~  
1661 ~~1002.33~~ to students within the school district or to students in  
1662 other school districts throughout the state pursuant to s.  
1663 1002.31; however, the school district enrolling the full-time  
1664 equivalent virtual student shall comply with the enrollment



420138

1665 requirements established under to s. 1002.45(1)(e)4.

1666 (3) Virtual courses offered in the course code directory to  
1667 students within the school district or to students in other  
1668 school districts throughout the state pursuant to s. 1003.498.

1669 (4) Florida Virtual School instructional services  
1670 authorized pursuant to ~~under~~ s. 1002.37.

1671 (5) Virtual instruction provided by a school district  
1672 through a contract with an approved virtual instruction program  
1673 provider pursuant to s. 1002.45(1)(c)2. to students within the  
1674 school district or to students in other school districts  
1675 throughout the state pursuant to s. 1002.31; however the school  
1676 district enrolling the full-time equivalent virtual student  
1677 shall comply with the enrollment requirements established under  
1678 s. 1002.45(1)(e)4.

1679 Section 19. Subsection (4) of section 1002.81, Florida  
1680 Statutes, is amended to read:

1681 1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of 45  
1682 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

1683 (4) "Direct enhancement services" means services for  
1684 families and children that are in addition to payments for the  
1685 placement of children in the school readiness program. Direct  
1686 enhancement services for families and children may include  
1687 supports for providers, parent training and involvement  
1688 activities, and strategies to meet the needs of unique  
1689 populations and local eligibility priorities. Direct enhancement  
1690 services offered by an early learning coalition shall be  
1691 consistent with the activities prescribed in s. 1002.89(4)(b) ~~s.~~  
1692 ~~1002.89(5)(b).~~

1693 Section 20. Paragraphs (d), (m), and (p) of subsection (2)



420138

1694 and paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 1002.82, Florida  
1695 Statutes, are amended to read:

1696 1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

1697 (2) The department shall:

1698 (d) Establish procedures for the annual ~~biennial~~  
1699 calculation of the prevailing market rate and procedures for the  
1700 collection of data to support the calculation of the cost of  
1701 care pursuant to s. 1002.90 ~~or an alternative model that has~~  
1702 ~~been approved by the Administration for Children and Families~~  
1703 ~~pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.45(e).~~

1704 (m) Provide technical support to an early learning  
1705 coalition to facilitate the use of a standard statewide provider  
1706 contract adopted by the department to be used with each school  
1707 readiness program provider, with standardized attachments by  
1708 provider type. The department shall publish a copy of the  
1709 standard statewide provider contract on its website. The  
1710 standard statewide contract shall include, at a minimum,  
1711 contracted slots, if applicable, in accordance with the Child  
1712 Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, 45 C.F.R. parts 98  
1713 and 99; quality improvement strategies, if applicable; program  
1714 assessment requirements; and provisions for provider probation,  
1715 termination for cause, and emergency termination for those  
1716 actions or inactions of a provider that pose an immediate and  
1717 serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the  
1718 children. The standard statewide provider contract shall also  
1719 include appropriate due process procedures. During the pendency  
1720 of an appeal of a termination, the provider may not continue to  
1721 offer its services. Any provision imposed upon a provider that  
1722 is inconsistent with, or prohibited by, law is void and



420138

1723 unenforceable. Provisions for termination for cause must also  
1724 include failure to meet the minimum quality measures established  
1725 under paragraph (n) for a period of up to 5 years, unless the  
1726 coalition determines that the provider is essential to meeting  
1727 capacity needs based on the assessment under s. 1002.85(2)(i) ~~s.~~  
1728 ~~1002.85(2)(j)~~ and the provider has an active improvement plan  
1729 pursuant to paragraph (n).

1730 (p) No later than July 1, 2022, develop and adopt  
1731 requirements for the implementation of a program designed to  
1732 make available contracted slots to serve children at the  
1733 greatest risk of school failure as determined by such children  
1734 being located in an area that has been designated as a poverty  
1735 area tract according to the latest census data. The contracted  
1736 slot program may also be used to increase the availability of  
1737 child care capacity based on the assessment under s.  
1738 1002.85(2)(i) ~~s. 1002.85(2)(j)~~.

1739 (7) By January 1 of each year, the department shall  
1740 annually publish on its website a report of its activities  
1741 conducted under this section. The report must include a summary  
1742 of the coalitions' annual reports, a statewide summary, and the  
1743 following:

1744 (a) An analysis of early learning activities throughout the  
1745 state, including the school readiness program and the Voluntary  
1746 Prekindergarten Education Program.

1747 1. The total and average number of children served in the  
1748 school readiness program, enumerated by age, eligibility  
1749 priority category, and coalition, and the total number of  
1750 children served in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1751 Program.



420138

1752           2. A summary of expenditures by coalition, by fund source,  
1753 including a breakdown by coalition of the percentage of  
1754 expenditures for administrative activities, quality activities,  
1755 nondirect services, and direct services for children.

1756           3. A description of the department's and each coalition's  
1757 expenditures by fund source for the quality and enhancement  
1758 activities described in s. 1002.89(4)(b) ~~s. 1002.89(5)(b)~~.

1759           4. A summary of annual findings and collections related to  
1760 provider fraud and parent fraud.

1761           5. Data regarding the coalitions' delivery of early  
1762 learning programs.

1763           6. The total number of children disenrolled statewide and  
1764 the reason for disenrollment.

1765           7. The total number of providers by provider type.

1766           8. The number of school readiness program providers who  
1767 have completed the program assessment required under paragraph  
1768 (2)(n); the number of providers who have not met the minimum  
1769 program assessment composite score for contracting established  
1770 under paragraph (2)(n); and the number of providers that have an  
1771 active improvement plan based on the results of the program  
1772 assessment under paragraph (2)(n).

1773           9. The total number of provider contracts revoked and the  
1774 reasons for revocation.

1775           Section 21. Subsection (17) of section 1002.84, Florida  
1776 Statutes, is amended to read:

1777           1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers  
1778 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

1779           (17)(a) Distribute the school readiness program funds as  
1780 allocated in the General Appropriations Act to the eligible



420138

1781 providers using the following methodology:

1782 1. For each county in the early learning coalition,  
1783 multiply the cost of care by care level as provided in s.  
1784 1002.90 by the county's district cost differential provided in  
1785 s. 1011.62(2).

1786 2. If a county enacted a local ordinance before  
1787 January 1, 2022, that establishes the county's staff-to-children  
1788 ratio for licensed child care facilities below the ratio  
1789 established in s. 402.305(4), multiply the provider  
1790 reimbursement rates for that county by the adjustment factor  
1791 specified in the General Appropriations Act.

1792 3. Apply the weight established pursuant to s. 1002.90 for  
1793 each provider type to calculate the minimum provider  
1794 reimbursement rates by care level.

1795 4. Multiply the weighted provider reimbursement rates by 22  
1796 percent to determine the amount of the school readiness  
1797 allocation an early learning coalition is eligible to retain  
1798 pursuant to s. 1002.89(4).

1799 (b) Distribute to each eligible provider the minimum  
1800 provider reimbursement rate, by provider type and care level,  
1801 regardless of the provider's private pay rate. All minimum  
1802 provider reimbursement rates shall be charged as direct services  
1803 pursuant to s. 1002.89.

1804  
1805 Each early learning coalition with approved minimum provider  
1806 reimbursement rates for the infant to age 5 care levels that are  
1807 higher than the minimum provider reimbursement rates established  
1808 in this subsection may continue to implement its approved  
1809 minimum provider reimbursement rates until the rates established



420138

1810 ~~in this subsection exceed its approved rates. Adopt a payment~~  
1811 ~~schedule that encompasses all programs funded under this part~~  
1812 ~~and part V of this chapter. The payment schedule must take into~~  
1813 ~~consideration the prevailing market rate or an alternative model~~  
1814 ~~that has been approved by the Administration for Children and~~  
1815 ~~Families pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.45(c), include the~~  
1816 ~~projected number of children to be served, and be submitted for~~  
1817 ~~approval by the department. Informal child care arrangements~~  
1818 ~~shall be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of the rate~~  
1819 ~~adopted for a family day care home.~~

1820 Section 22. Paragraphs (c) through (j) of subsection (2) of  
1821 section 1002.85, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
1822 paragraphs (b) through (i), respectively, and present paragraphs  
1823 (b) and (c) of that subsection are amended to read:

1824 1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

1825 (2) Each early learning coalition must biennially submit a  
1826 school readiness program plan to the department before the  
1827 expenditure of funds. A coalition may not implement its school  
1828 readiness program plan until it receives approval from the  
1829 department. A coalition may not implement any revision to its  
1830 school readiness program plan until the coalition submits the  
1831 revised plan to and receives approval from the department. If  
1832 the department rejects a plan or revision, the coalition must  
1833 continue to operate under its previously approved plan. The plan  
1834 must include, but is not limited to:

1835 ~~(b) The minimum number of children to be served by care~~  
1836 ~~level.~~

1837 (b) ~~(e)~~ The coalition's procedures for implementing the  
1838 requirements of this part, including:





1839           1. Single point of entry.  
1840           2. Uniform waiting list.  
1841           3. Eligibility and enrollment processes and local  
1842 eligibility priorities for children pursuant to s. 1002.87.  
1843           4. Parent access and choice.  
1844           5. Sliding fee scale and policies on applying the waiver or  
1845 reduction of fees in accordance with s. 1002.84(9).  
1846           6. Use of preassessments and postassessments, as  
1847 applicable.  
1848           ~~7. Payment rate schedule.~~  
1849           ~~7.8.~~ Use of contracted slots, as applicable, based on the  
1850 results of the assessment required under paragraph (i) ~~(j)~~.  
1851           Section 23. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
1852 1002.87, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:  
1853           1002.87 School readiness program; eligibility and  
1854 enrollment.—  
1855           (1) Each early learning coalition shall give priority for  
1856 participation in the school readiness program as follows:  
1857           (c) Subsequent priority shall be given, based on the early  
1858 learning coalition's local priorities identified under s.  
1859 1002.85(2)(i) ~~s. 1002.85(2)(j)~~, to children who meet the  
1860 following criteria:  
1861           1. A child from birth to the beginning of the school year  
1862 for which the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in  
1863 a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. who is from a working  
1864 family that is economically disadvantaged, and may include such  
1865 child's eligible siblings, beginning with the school year in  
1866 which the sibling is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a  
1867 public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. until the beginning of



420138

1868 the school year in which the sibling is eligible to begin 6th  
1869 grade, provided that the first priority for funding an eligible  
1870 sibling is local revenues available to the coalition for funding  
1871 direct services.

1872         2. A child of a parent who transitions from the work  
1873 program into employment as described in s. 445.032 from birth to  
1874 the beginning of the school year for which the child is eligible  
1875 for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s.  
1876 1003.21(1)(a)2.

1877         3. An at-risk child who is at least 9 years of age but  
1878 younger than 13 years of age. An at-risk child whose sibling is  
1879 enrolled in the school readiness program within an eligibility  
1880 priority category listed in paragraphs (a) and (b) and  
1881 subparagraph 1. shall be given priority over other children who  
1882 are eligible under this paragraph.

1883         4. A child who is younger than 13 years of age from a  
1884 working family that is economically disadvantaged.

1885         5. A child of a parent who transitions from the work  
1886 program into employment as described in s. 445.032 who is  
1887 younger than 13 years of age.

1888         6. A child who has special needs, has been determined  
1889 eligible as a student with a disability, has a current  
1890 individual education plan with a Florida school district, and is  
1891 not younger than 3 years of age. A special needs child eligible  
1892 under this paragraph remains eligible until the child is  
1893 eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under  
1894 s. 1003.21(1)(a)2.

1895         7. A child who otherwise meets one of the eligibility  
1896 criteria in paragraphs (a) and (b) and subparagraphs 1. and 2.



420138

1897 but who is also enrolled concurrently in the federal Head Start  
1898 Program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1899 Section 24. Section 1002.89, Florida Statutes, is amended  
1900 to read:

1901 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

1902 (1) DETERMINATION OF EARLY LEARNING COALITION SCHOOL  
1903 READINESS PROGRAM FUNDING.—Funding for the school readiness  
1904 program shall be used by ~~allocated among~~ the early learning  
1905 coalitions in accordance with this part section and the General  
1906 Appropriations Act.

1907 (a) School readiness program allocation.—If the annual  
1908 allocation for the school readiness program is not determined in  
1909 the General Appropriations Act or the substantive bill  
1910 implementing the General Appropriations Act, it shall be  
1911 determined as follows:

1912 1. For each county in the early learning coalition, the  
1913 total school readiness eligible population, as adopted by the  
1914 Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference pursuant to s.  
1915 216.136(8), shall be multiplied by the county's district cost  
1916 differential provided in s. 1011.62(2).

1917 2. If a county passed a local ordinance before January 1,  
1918 2022, that establishes the county's staff-to-children ratio for  
1919 licensed child care facilities below the ratio established in s.  
1920 402.305(4), multiply the product calculated in subparagraph 1.  
1921 by the adjustment factor specified in the General Appropriations  
1922 Act.

1923 3. Each county's school readiness allocation shall be based  
1924 on the county's proportionate share of the total adjusted  
1925 eligible school readiness population.



420138

1926           (b) Gold Seal Quality Care Program allocation.—There is  
1927 created the Gold Seal Quality Care Program allocation to provide  
1928 eligible school readiness program providers the rate  
1929 differential established pursuant to s. 1002.945(6). Subject to  
1930 legislative appropriation, all expenditures from the Gold Seal  
1931 Quality Care Program allocation shall be used by the department  
1932 to help meet federal targeted requirements for improving quality  
1933 to the extent allowable in the state’s approved Child Care and  
1934 Development Fund Plan.

1935           (c) Differential payment program allocation.—There is  
1936 created the differential payment program allocation to provide  
1937 eligible school readiness program providers the differential pay  
1938 established pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(o). Subject to legislative  
1939 appropriation, all expenditures from the differential payment  
1940 program allocation shall be used by the department to help meet  
1941 federal targeted requirements for improving quality to the  
1942 extent allowable in the state’s approved Child Care and  
1943 Development Fund Plan.

1944           (d) Special needs differential allocation.—There is created  
1945 the special needs differential allocation to assist eligible  
1946 school readiness program providers to implement the special  
1947 needs rate provisions defined in the state’s approved Child Care  
1948 and Development Fund Plan. Subject to legislative appropriation,  
1949 each early learning coalition shall be reimbursed based on  
1950 actual expenditures. All expenditures from the special needs  
1951 differential allocation shall be used by the department to help  
1952 meet federal targeted requirements for improving quality to the  
1953 extent allowable in the state’s approved plan.

1954           (2) INSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS.—All instructions to early



420138

1955 learning coalitions for administering this section shall emanate  
1956 from the department in accordance with the policies of the  
1957 Legislature.

1958 ~~(3) All cost savings and all revenues received through a~~  
1959 ~~mandatory sliding fee scale shall be used to increase the number~~  
1960 ~~of children served.~~

1961 (3)-(4) MATCHING FUND REQUIREMENTS.—All state, federal, and  
1962 local matching funds provided to an early learning coalition for  
1963 purposes of this section shall be used for implementation of its  
1964 approved school readiness program plan, including the hiring of  
1965 staff to effectively operate the school readiness program.

1966 (4)-(5) COST REQUIREMENTS.—Costs shall be kept to the  
1967 minimum necessary for the efficient and effective administration  
1968 of the school readiness program with the highest priority of  
1969 expenditure being direct services for eligible children.

1970 However, no more than 5 percent of the funds allocated in  
1971 paragraph (1) (a) described in subsection (4) may be used for  
1972 administrative costs and no more than 22 percent of the funds  
1973 allocated in paragraph (1) (a) described in subsection (4) may be  
1974 used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative  
1975 costs, quality activities, and nondirect services as follows:

1976 (a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s.  
1977 98.54, which shall include monitoring providers using the  
1978 standard methodology adopted under s. 1002.82 to improve  
1979 compliance with state and federal regulations and law pursuant  
1980 to the requirements of the statewide provider contract adopted  
1981 under s. 1002.82(2) (m).

1982 (b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as  
1983 described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.53, which shall be limited to the



1984 following:

1985 1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and  
1986 coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related  
1987 to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents  
1988 and the public to promote informed child care choices specified  
1989 in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

1990 2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to  
1991 school readiness program providers and their staff to assist  
1992 them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program  
1993 assessment required under s. 1002.82(2)(n), child care  
1994 performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate  
1995 curricula and related classroom resources that support  
1996 curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing continued  
1997 professional development and training. Any grants awarded  
1998 pursuant to this subparagraph shall comply with ss. 215.971 and  
1999 287.058.

2000 3. Providing training, technical assistance, and financial  
2001 support to school readiness program providers, staff, and  
2002 parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, child  
2003 development research and best practices, developmentally  
2004 appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child  
2005 interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and  
2006 safety, nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the  
2007 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,  
2008 prevention, and reporting.

2009 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the  
2010 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding  
2011 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal  
2012 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for



420138

2013 infant and toddler care.

2014 5. Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and  
2015 enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as  
2016 described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.

2017 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and  
2018 parents, including providing developmental and health screenings  
2019 to school readiness program children.

2020 (c) Nondirect services as described in applicable Office of  
2021 Management and Budget instructions are those services not  
2022 defined as administrative, direct, or quality services that are  
2023 required to administer the school readiness program. Such  
2024 services include, but are not limited to:

2025 1. Assisting families to complete the required application  
2026 and eligibility documentation.

2027 2. Determining child and family eligibility.

2028 3. Recruiting eligible child care providers.

2029 4. Processing and tracking attendance records.

2030 5. Developing and maintaining a statewide child care  
2031 information system.

2032  
2033 As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does  
2034 not include payments to school readiness program providers for  
2035 direct services provided to children who are eligible under s.  
2036 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or  
2037 quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

2038 ~~(5)~~ LIMITATION ON THE USE OF PROGRAM FUNDS.—Funds  
2039 appropriated for the school readiness program may not be  
2040 expended for the purchase or improvement of land; for the  
2041 purchase, construction, or permanent improvement of any building



420138

2042 or facility; or for the purchase of buses. However, funds may be  
2043 expended for minor remodeling and upgrading of child care  
2044 facilities which is necessary for the administration of the  
2045 program and to ensure that providers meet state and local child  
2046 care standards, including applicable health and safety  
2047 requirements.

2048 Section 25. Effective upon this act becoming a law, section  
2049 1002.895, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2050 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness program  
2051 market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

2052 (1) The department shall establish procedures for the  
2053 adoption of a market rate schedule ~~until an alternative model~~  
2054 ~~that has been approved by the Administration for Children and~~  
2055 ~~Families pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.45(c) is available for~~  
2056 ~~adoption~~. The schedule must include, at a minimum, county-by-  
2057 county rates:

2058 (a) The market rate, including the minimum and the maximum  
2059 rates for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality  
2060 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to its accrediting  
2061 association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size  
2062 requirements.

2063 (b) The market rate for child care providers that do not  
2064 hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.

2065 (2) The market rate schedule, ~~at a minimum,~~ must  
2066 differentiate rates by provider type, including, but not limited  
2067 to:

2068 (a) ~~Differentiate rates by type, including, but not limited~~  
2069 ~~to, a Child care providers provider that hold holds a Gold Seal~~  
2070 ~~Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere adheres to~~





420138

2071 their ~~its~~ accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and  
2072 group size requirements. ~~7~~ a

2073 (b) Child care providers facility licensed under s.  
2074 402.305, ~~a public or nonpublic school exempt from licensure~~  
2075 ~~under s. 402.3025,~~ a faith-based child care providers facility  
2076 exempt from licensure under s. 402.316 that do ~~does~~ not hold a  
2077 Gold Seal Quality Care designation, and a large family child  
2078 care homes ~~home~~ licensed under s. 402.3131 that do not hold a  
2079 Gold Seal Quality Care designation. ~~7~~

2080 (c) Public or nonpublic schools exempt from licensure under  
2081 s. 402.3025.

2082 (d) ~~or a~~ Family day care homes ~~home~~ licensed or registered  
2083 under s. 402.313.

2084 (e) Large family child care homes licensed under s.  
2085 402.3131.

2086 (3) ~~(b)~~ The market rate schedule must differentiate rates by  
2087 the type of child care services provided for children with  
2088 special needs or risk categories, infants, toddlers, 2-year-old  
2089 children, 3-year-old children, 4-year-old children, 5-year-old  
2090 preschool-age children, and school-age children.

2091 (4) ~~(c)~~ The market rate schedule must differentiate rates  
2092 between full-time and part-time child care services and consider  
2093 discounted rates for child care services for multiple children  
2094 in a single family.

2095 ~~(d) Consider discounted rates for child care services for~~  
2096 ~~multiple children in a single family.~~

2097 (5) ~~(3)~~ The market rate schedule must be based exclusively  
2098 on the prices charged for child care services.

2099 (6) The department shall establish procedures to annually



420138

2100 collect data regarding the cost of care to include, but not be  
2101 limited to:

2102 (a) Data from the Department of Economic Opportunity's  
2103 Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research on the  
2104 average salary for child care personnel to include, at a  
2105 minimum, child care instructors and child care directors.

2106 (b) Data from child care providers as part of data  
2107 collected under s. 1002.92(4) to include, at a minimum, the  
2108 average annual cost of materials and curriculum, the average  
2109 annual cost of food and maintenance costs, and the average  
2110 annual cost of any regulatory fees or operational costs per  
2111 child.

2112 (7) The department shall provide all applicable data  
2113 collected in this section to the Early Learning Programs  
2114 Estimating Conference established pursuant to s. 216.136(8).

2115 ~~(4) The market rate schedule shall be considered by an~~  
2116 ~~early learning coalition in the adoption of a payment schedule.~~  
2117 ~~The payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing~~  
2118 ~~market rate and include the projected number of children to be~~  
2119 ~~served by each county and be submitted for approval by the~~  
2120 ~~department. Informal child care arrangements shall be reimbursed~~  
2121 ~~at not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted for a family day~~  
2122 ~~care home.~~

2123 (8)~~(5)~~ The department may contract with one or more  
2124 qualified entities to administer this section and provide  
2125 support and technical assistance for child care providers.

2126 (9)~~(6)~~ The department may adopt rules for establishing  
2127 procedures for the collection of child care providers' market  
2128 rate, the calculation of the prevailing market rate by program



420138

2129 care level and provider type in a predetermined geographic  
2130 market, and the publication of the market rate schedule.

2131 Section 26. Effective upon this act becoming a law, section  
2132 1002.90, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

2133 1002.90 School readiness cost-of-care information.-  
2134 Annually, the principals of the Early Learning Programs  
2135 Estimating Conference established in s. 216.136(8) shall develop  
2136 official cost-of-care information based on actual school  
2137 readiness direct services program expenditures and information  
2138 provided pursuant to s. 1002.895. Conference principals shall  
2139 agree on the cost of child care by care level and provider type,  
2140 the provider type weights, and the methods of computation. The  
2141 department shall provide the conference principals with all  
2142 requested and necessary data to develop such information. The  
2143 data may include a matrix by early learning coalition of any  
2144 full-time equivalent changes made by the Division of Early  
2145 Learning as part of its administration of the school readiness  
2146 program. The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference shall  
2147 provide the official cost-of-care information to the Legislature  
2148 at least 90 days before the scheduled annual legislative  
2149 session.

2150 Section 27. Subsection (4) of section 1002.92, Florida  
2151 Statutes, is amended to read:

2152 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and  
2153 referral.-

2154 (4) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 and  
2155 licensed and registered family day care homes must provide the  
2156 statewide child care and resource and referral network with the  
2157 following information annually:



420138

- 2158 (a) Type of program.
- 2159 (b) Hours of service.
- 2160 (c) Ages of children served.
- 2161 (d) Fees and eligibility for services.
- 2162 (e) Data required under s. 1002.895.

2163 Section 28. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (1) of  
2164 section 1002.995, Florida Statutes, to read:

2165 1002.995 Early learning professional development standards  
2166 and career pathways.—

2167 (1) The department shall:

2168 (c) Subject to the appropriation of funds by the  
2169 Legislature, provide incentives to school readiness personnel  
2170 who meet the requirements of s. 1002.88(1)(e) and  
2171 prekindergarten instructors who meet the requirements specified  
2172 in s. 1002.55, s. 1002.61, or s. 1002.63 and who possess a  
2173 reading certification or endorsement or a literacy micro-  
2174 credential as specified in s. 1003.485 and teach students in the  
2175 school readiness program or the voluntary prekindergarten  
2176 education program.

2177 Section 29. Subsections (3) through (5) of section  
2178 1003.485, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)  
2179 through (7), respectively, paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection  
2180 (1), subsection (2), paragraphs (d) and (h) of present  
2181 subsection (4), and paragraph (b) of present subsection (5) are  
2182 amended, and paragraph (g) is added to subsection (1) of that  
2183 section, to read:

2184 1003.485 The New Worlds Reading Initiative.—

2185 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

2186 (a) "Administrator" means a state university registered



2187 with the department under s. 1002.395(15)(i) and designated to  
2188 administer the initiative under paragraph (3)(a) ~~(2)(a)~~.

2189 (b) "Annual tax credit amount" means, for any state fiscal  
2190 year, the sum of the amount of tax credits approved under  
2191 paragraph (5)(b) ~~(3)(b)~~, including tax credits to be taken under  
2192 s. 211.0252, s. 212.1833, s. 220.1876, s. 561.1212, or s.  
2193 624.51056, which are approved for taxpayers whose taxable years  
2194 begin on or after January 1 of the calendar year preceding the  
2195 start of the applicable state fiscal year.

2196 (g) "Micro-credential" means evidence-based professional  
2197 development activities that are competency-based, personalized,  
2198 and on-demand. Educators must demonstrate their competence via  
2199 evidence submitted and reviewed by trained evaluators.

2200 (2) NEW WORLDS READING INITIATIVE; PURPOSE ADMINISTRATION.—  
2201 The purpose of the New Worlds Reading Initiative is established  
2202 under the department is to improve literacy skills and instill a  
2203 love of reading by providing high-quality, free books to  
2204 students in kindergarten through grade 5 who are reading below  
2205 grade level and to improve the literacy skills of students in  
2206 kindergarten through grade 12. The New Worlds Reading Initiative  
2207 shall consist of:

2208 (a) The program established under this section to provide  
2209 high-quality, free books to students.

2210 (b) The New Worlds Reading Scholarship Program under s.  
2211 1002.411.

2212 (c) The New Worlds Scholar program under s. 1008.365, which  
2213 rewards high school students who instill a love of reading and  
2214 improve the literacy skills of students in kindergarten through  
2215 grade 3.



420138

2216 (d) The micro-credential program established under this  
2217 section which emphasizes strong core instruction and a tiered  
2218 model of reading interventions for struggling readers.

2219 (3) ~~(a)~~ DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.—The department shall:

2220 (a) ~~1.~~ Designate an administrator to implement the  
2221 initiative and to receive funding as provided in this section.  
2222 The administrator must have an academic innovation institution  
2223 with extensive experience in:

2224 1. ~~a.~~ Conducting academic research in early literacy  
2225 instruction.

2226 2. ~~b.~~ Implementing online delivery of early learning and  
2227 literacy training for educators nationally.

2228 3. ~~c.~~ Developing online support materials that assist  
2229 parents and caregivers in developing early literacy skills.

2230 4. ~~d.~~ Conducting fundraising and public awareness campaigns  
2231 to support the development and growth of evidence-based  
2232 educational initiatives that support learning at home and in  
2233 schools.

2234 (b) ~~2.~~ Publish information about the initiative and tax  
2235 credits under subsection (5) ~~(3)~~ on its website, including the  
2236 process for a taxpayer to select the administrator as the  
2237 recipient of funding through a tax credit.

2238 (c) ~~3.~~ Beginning September 30, 2022, and annually  
2239 thereafter, report on its website the number of students  
2240 participating in the initiative in each school district,  
2241 information from the annual financial report under paragraph  
2242 (4) (i) ~~subparagraph (b) ~~6.~~~~, and the academic achievement and  
2243 learning gains, as applicable, of participating students based  
2244 on data provided by school districts as permitted under s.



420138

2245 1002.22. The department shall establish a date by which the  
2246 administrator and each school district must annually provide the  
2247 data necessary to complete the report.

2248 (4) ~~(b)~~ ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The administrator  
2249 shall:

2250 (a) ~~1~~. Develop, in consultation with the Just Read, Florida!  
2251 Office under s. 1001.215, a selection of high-quality books  
2252 encompassing diverse subjects and genres for each grade level to  
2253 be mailed to students in the initiative.

2254 (b) ~~2~~. Distribute books at no cost to students as provided  
2255 in paragraph (6) (c) ~~(4) (e)~~ either directly or through an  
2256 agreement with a book distribution company.

2257 (c) ~~3~~. Assist local implementation of the initiative by  
2258 providing marketing materials to school districts and any  
2259 partnering nonprofit organizations to assist with public  
2260 awareness campaigns and other activities designed to increase  
2261 family engagement and instill a love of reading in students.

2262 (d) ~~4~~. Maintain a clearinghouse for information on national,  
2263 state, and local nonprofit organizations that support efforts to  
2264 improve literacy and provide books to children.

2265 (e) ~~5~~. Develop for parents of students in the initiative  
2266 resources and training materials for parents of students in the  
2267 initiative, that engage families in reading and support the  
2268 reading achievement of their students ~~Including brief video~~  
2269 ~~training modules, which engage families in reading and assist~~  
2270 ~~with improving student literacy skills.~~ The administrator shall  
2271 periodically send to parents hyperlinks to these resources and  
2272 materials, including video modules, via text message and e-mail,  
2273 ~~tips for facilitating reading at home and hyperlinks to the~~



420138

2274 ~~video training modules.~~

2275 (f) Provide professional development and resources to  
2276 teachers that correlate with the books provided through the  
2277 initiative.

2278 (g) Develop a micro-credential that requires teachers to  
2279 demonstrate competency to:

2280 1. Diagnose literacy difficulties and determine the  
2281 appropriate range of literacy interventions based upon the age  
2282 and literacy deficiency of the student;

2283 2. Use evidence-based instructional and intervention  
2284 practices, including strategies identified by the Just Read,  
2285 Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8); and

2286 3. Effectively use progress monitoring and intervention  
2287 materials.

2288 (h) Administer the early literacy micro-credential program  
2289 established under this section, which must include components on  
2290 content, student learning, pedagogy, and professional  
2291 development and must build on a strong foundation of  
2292 scientifically researched and evidence-based reading  
2293 instructional and intervention programs that incorporate  
2294 explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching  
2295 phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text  
2296 comprehension and incorporate decodable or phonetic text  
2297 instructional strategies, as identified by the Just Read,  
2298 Florida! Office, pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

2299 1. At a minimum, the micro-credential curriculum must be  
2300 designed specifically for instructional personnel in  
2301 prekindergarten through grade 3 based upon the strategies and  
2302 techniques identified in s. 1002.59 and address foundational





420138

2303 literacy skills of students in grades 4 through 12.

2304 2. The micro-credential must be competency based and  
2305 designed for eligible instructional personnel to complete the  
2306 credentialing process in no more than 60 hours, in an online  
2307 format. The micro-credential may be delivered in an in-person  
2308 format. Eligible instructional personnel may receive the micro-  
2309 credential once competency is demonstrated even if it is prior  
2310 to the completion of 60 hours.

2311 3. The micro-credential must be available by December 31,  
2312 2022, at no cost, to instructional personnel as defined in s.  
2313 1012.01(2); prekindergarten instructors as specified in ss.  
2314 1002.55, 1002.61, and 1002.63; and child care personnel as  
2315 defined in ss. 1002.88(1)(e) and 402.302(3).

2316 (i)6. Annually submit to the department an annual financial  
2317 report that includes, at a minimum, the amount of eligible  
2318 contributions received by the administrator; the amount spent on  
2319 each activity required by this subsection ~~paragraph~~, including  
2320 administrative expenses; and the number of students and  
2321 households served under the initiative.

2322 (j)7. Maintain separate accounts for operating funds and  
2323 funds for the purchase and delivery of books.

2324 (k)8. Expend eligible contributions received only for the  
2325 purchase and delivery of books and to implement the requirements  
2326 of this section, as well as for administrative expenses not to  
2327 exceed 2 percent of total eligible contributions.  
2328 Notwithstanding s. 1002.395(6)(j)2., the administrator may carry  
2329 forward up to 25 percent of eligible contributions to the  
2330 following state fiscal year for purposes authorized by this  
2331 subsection. Any eligible contributions in excess of the 25



420138

2332 percent carry forward not used to provide additional books  
2333 throughout the year to eligible students shall revert to the  
2334 state treasury.

2335 ~~(1)~~<sup>9</sup>. Upon receipt of a contribution, provide the taxpayer  
2336 that made the contribution with a certificate of contribution. A  
2337 certificate of contribution must include the taxpayer's name  
2338 and, if available, its federal employer identification number;  
2339 the amount contributed; the date of contribution; and the name  
2340 of the administrator.

2341 ~~(6)~~<sup>4</sup> ELIGIBILITY; NOTIFICATION; SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2342 OBLIGATIONS.—

2343 (d) Upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school  
2344 year, students must be provided options for specific book topics  
2345 or genres in order to maximize student interest in reading.

2346 (h) School districts and partnering nonprofit organizations  
2347 shall raise awareness of the initiative, including information  
2348 on eligibility and video training modules under paragraph (4) (e)  
2349 ~~subparagraph (2) (b) 5~~, through, at least, the following:

2350 1. The student handbook and the read-at-home plan under s.  
2351 1008.25(5) (c).

2352 2. A parent or curriculum night or separate initiative  
2353 awareness event at each elementary school.

2354 3. Partnering with the county library to host awareness  
2355 events, which should coincide with other initiatives such as  
2356 library card drives, family library nights, summer access  
2357 events, and other family engagement programming.

2358 ~~(7)~~<sup>5</sup> ADMINISTRATION; RULES.—

2359 (b) The Department of Revenue may adopt rules necessary to  
2360 administer this section and ss. 211.0252, 212.1833, 220.1876,



420138

2361 561.1212, and 624.51056, including rules establishing  
2362 application forms, procedures governing the approval of tax  
2363 credits and carryforward tax credits under subsection (5) ~~(3)~~,  
2364 and procedures to be followed by taxpayers when claiming  
2365 approved tax credits on their returns.

2366 Section 30. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
2367 1003.498, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2368 1003.498 School district virtual course offerings.—

2369 (2) School districts may offer virtual courses for students  
2370 enrolled in the school district. These courses must be  
2371 identified in the course code directory. Students may  
2372 participate in these virtual course offerings pursuant to s.  
2373 1002.455.

2374 (b)1. Any student who is enrolled in a school district may  
2375 register and enroll in an online course offered by any other  
2376 school district in the state. The school district in which the  
2377 student completes the course shall report the student's  
2378 completion of that course for funding pursuant to s.  
2379 1011.61(1)(c)1.b.(VI), and the home school district shall not  
2380 report the student for funding for that course.

2381 2. The full-time equivalent student membership calculated  
2382 under this subsection is subject to the requirements in s.  
2383 1011.61(4). The Department of Education shall establish  
2384 procedures to enable interdistrict coordination for the delivery  
2385 and funding of this online option.

2386 3. Funding for virtual courses shall be as provided in s.  
2387 1002.45(6).

2388 Section 31. Paragraph (a) of subsection (13) of section  
2389 1003.52, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:



420138

2390 1003.52 Educational services in Department of Juvenile  
2391 Justice programs.—

2392 (13) (a) ~~Funding for~~ Eligible students enrolled in juvenile  
2393 justice education programs shall be funded the same as students  
2394 enrolled in traditional public schools funded in ~~provided~~  
2395 ~~through~~ the Florida Education Finance Program and as specified  
2396 ~~provided~~ in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act.

2397 ~~Funding shall include, at a minimum:~~

2398 1. ~~Weighted program funding or the basic amount for current~~  
2399 ~~operation multiplied by the district cost differential as~~  
2400 ~~provided in s. 1011.62(2);~~

2401 2. ~~The supplemental allocation for juvenile justice~~  
2402 ~~education as provided in s. 1011.62(9);~~

2403 3. ~~A proportionate share of the district's exceptional~~  
2404 ~~student education guaranteed allocation, the supplemental~~  
2405 ~~academic instruction allocation, and the instructional materials~~  
2406 ~~allocation;~~

2407 4. ~~An amount equivalent to the proportionate share of the~~  
2408 ~~state average potential discretionary local effort for~~  
2409 ~~operations, which shall be determined as follows:~~

2410 a. ~~If the district levies the maximum discretionary local~~  
2411 ~~effort and the district's discretionary local effort per FTE is~~  
2412 ~~less than the state average potential discretionary local effort~~  
2413 ~~per FTE, the proportionate share shall include both the~~  
2414 ~~discretionary local effort and the compression supplement per~~  
2415 ~~FTE. If the district's discretionary local effort per FTE is~~  
2416 ~~greater than the state average per FTE, the proportionate share~~  
2417 ~~shall be equal to the state average; or~~

2418 b. ~~If the district does not levy the maximum discretionary~~



420138

2419 ~~local effort and the district's actual discretionary local~~  
2420 ~~effort per FTE is less than the state average potential~~  
2421 ~~discretionary local effort per FTE, the proportionate share~~  
2422 ~~shall be equal to the district's actual discretionary local~~  
2423 ~~effort per FTE. If the district's actual discretionary local~~  
2424 ~~effort per FTE is greater than the state average per FTE, the~~  
2425 ~~proportionate share shall be equal to the state average~~  
2426 ~~potential local effort per FTE; and~~

2427 ~~5. A proportionate share of the district's proration to~~  
2428 ~~funds available, if necessary.~~

2429 Section 32. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section  
2430 1003.621, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2431 1003.621 Academically high-performing school districts.—It  
2432 is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and reward school  
2433 districts that demonstrate the ability to consistently maintain  
2434 or improve their high-performing status. The purpose of this  
2435 section is to provide high-performing school districts with  
2436 flexibility in meeting the specific requirements in statute and  
2437 rules of the State Board of Education.

2438 (2) COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTES AND RULES.—Each academically  
2439 high-performing school district shall comply with all of the  
2440 provisions in chapters 1000-1013, and rules of the State Board  
2441 of Education which implement these provisions, pertaining to the  
2442 following:

2443 (g) Those statutes pertaining to planning and budgeting,  
2444 including chapter 1011, except s. 1011.62(8)(e) ~~s.~~  
2445 ~~1011.62(8)(d)~~, relating to the requirement for a comprehensive  
2446 reading plan. A district that is exempt from submitting a  
2447 comprehensive reading plan shall be deemed approved to receive



420138

2448 the evidence-based reading instruction allocation. Each  
2449 academically high-performing school district may provide up to 2  
2450 days of virtual instruction as part of the required 180 actual  
2451 teaching days or the equivalent on an hourly basis each school  
2452 year, as specified by rules of the State Board of Education.  
2453 Virtual instruction that is conducted in accordance with the  
2454 plan approved by the department, is teacher-developed, and is  
2455 aligned with the standards for enrolled courses complies with s.  
2456 1011.60(2). The day or days must be indicated on the calendar  
2457 approved by the school board. The district shall submit a plan  
2458 for each day of virtual instruction to the department for  
2459 approval, in a format prescribed by the department, with  
2460 assurances of alignment to statewide student standards as  
2461 described in s. 1003.41 before the start of each school year.

2462 Section 33. Subsection (6) of section 1004.015, Florida  
2463 Statutes, is amended to read:

2464 1004.015 Florida Talent Development Council.—

2465 (6) The council shall coordinate, facilitate, and  
2466 communicate statewide efforts to meet supply and demand needs  
2467 for the state's health care workforce. Annually, by beginning  
2468 ~~December 1, 2021,~~ the council shall report on the implementation  
2469 of this subsection and any other relevant information on the  
2470 Florida Talent Development Council's web page located on the  
2471 Department of Economic Opportunity's website. To support the  
2472 efforts of the council, the Board of Governors and the State  
2473 Board of Education shall:

2474 ~~(a) Conduct a statistically valid biennial data-driven gap~~  
2475 ~~analysis of the supply and demand of the health care workforce.~~  
2476 ~~Demand must align with the Labor Market Estimating Conference~~



420138

2477 ~~created in s. 216.136.~~

2478        ~~(a) (b)~~ Provide 10-year trend information on nursing  
2479 education programs subject to the requirements of s. 464.019.  
2480 The Department of Health, the Board of Governors, the State  
2481 Board of Education, the Commission for Independent Education,  
2482 the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, the  
2483 Florida Center for Nursing, and postsecondary institutions  
2484 participating in a state grant, fund, or performance-based  
2485 incentive program under s. 1009.89, s. 1009.896, or s. 1009.897  
2486 ~~or s. 1009.891~~, shall provide data, by institution and program,  
2487 on:

2488            1. The number ~~and type of programs and~~ student slots  
2489 available.

2490            2. The number of student applications submitted, the number  
2491 of qualified student applicants, ~~and~~ the number of students  
2492 accepted, and the number of students enrolled.

2493            3. The number of program graduates.

2494            4. Program retention rates of students tracked from program  
2495 entry to graduation.

2496            5. Graduate passage rates, as defined in s. 464.003, on and  
2497 the number of times each graduate took the National Council of  
2498 State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination.

2499            6. The number of graduates who become employed as practical  
2500 or professional nurses in the state.

2501            7. The educational advancement of nurses through career  
2502 pathways by comparing their initial degree to the highest degree  
2503 they obtained for the preceding 10 years.

2504            8. The outcomes of students enrolled at institutions  
2505 participating in the Linking Industry to Nursing Education



420138

2506 (LINE) Fund under s. 1009.896 or the Prepping Institutions,  
2507 Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing  
2508 Education (PIPELINE) Fund under s. 1009.897.

2509 9. The outcomes of graduates who have received a nursing  
2510 student loan forgiveness repayment under s. 1009.66. Such data  
2511 must include, for the previous 4 fiscal years, the number of  
2512 graduates who have received a repayment, the amount repaid on  
2513 behalf of each graduate, each graduate's employer of record for  
2514 each repayment and the length of employment at each employer,  
2515 and the level or levels of nursing licensure earned by each  
2516 graduate.

2517 (b)(e) Develop definitions for data elements and a uniform  
2518 a survey for use by the Department of Health, the Commission for  
2519 Independent Education, the Independent Colleges and Universities  
2520 of Florida, and postsecondary institutions participating in a  
2521 state loan forgiveness program, grant, fund, or performance-  
2522 based incentive program under s. 1009.66, s. 1009.89, s.  
2523 1009.896, or s. 1009.897 ~~or s. 1009.891,~~ to collect data  
2524 required under paragraph (a) ~~(b)~~. The survey must include, but  
2525 is not limited to, a student's age, gender, race, ethnicity,  
2526 veteran status, wage, employer information, loan debt, and  
2527 retirement expectations.

2528 Section 34. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2), paragraphs (a)  
2529 and (b) of subsection (4), and paragraph (c) of subsection (5)  
2530 of section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

2531 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for  
2532 teacher preparation programs.—

2533 (2) UNIFORM CORE CURRICULA AND CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT.—

2534 (b) The rules to establish uniform core curricula for each





420138

2535 state-approved teacher preparation program must include, but are  
2536 not limited to, the following:

2537 1. Candidate instruction and assessment in the Florida  
2538 Educator Accomplished Practices across content areas.

2539 2. The use of state-adopted content standards to guide  
2540 curricula and instruction.

2541 3. Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading  
2542 instructional strategies that improve reading performance for  
2543 all students, including explicit, systematic, and sequential  
2544 approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary,  
2545 fluency, and text comprehension and multisensory intervention  
2546 strategies.

2547 4. Content literacy and mathematics practices.

2548 5. Strategies appropriate for the instruction of English  
2549 language learners.

2550 6. Strategies appropriate for the instruction of students  
2551 with disabilities.

2552 7. Strategies to differentiate instruction based on student  
2553 needs.

2554 8. Strategies and practices to support evidence-based  
2555 content aligned to state standards and grading practices ~~The use~~  
2556 ~~of character-based classroom management.~~

2557 9. Strategies appropriate for the early identification of a  
2558 student in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge and  
2559 the referral of such student to a mental health professional for  
2560 support.

2561 10. Strategies to support the use of technology in  
2562 education and distance learning.

2563 (4) CONTINUED PROGRAM APPROVAL.—Continued approval of a



420138

2564 teacher preparation program shall be based upon evidence that  
2565 the program continues to implement the requirements for initial  
2566 approval and upon significant, objective, and quantifiable  
2567 measures of the program and the performance of the program  
2568 completers.

2569 (a) The criteria for continued approval must include each  
2570 of the following:

2571 1. Candidate readiness based on passage rates on educator  
2572 certification examinations under s. 1012.56, as applicable  
2573 ~~Documentation from the program that each program candidate met~~  
2574 ~~the admission requirements provided in subsection (3).~~

2575 ~~2. Documentation from the program that the program and each~~  
2576 ~~program completer have met the requirements provided in~~  
2577 ~~subsection (2).~~

2578 ~~2.3.~~ Evidence of performance in each of the following  
2579 areas:

2580 ~~a. Placement rate of program completers into instructional~~  
2581 ~~positions in Florida public schools and private schools, if~~  
2582 ~~available.~~

2583 ~~b. Rate of retention for employed program completers in~~  
2584 ~~instructional positions in Florida public schools.~~

2585 ~~a.e.~~ Performance of students in prekindergarten through  
2586 grade 12 who are assigned to in-field program completers on  
2587 statewide assessments using the results of the student learning  
2588 growth formula adopted under s. 1012.34.

2589 ~~d. Performance of students in prekindergarten through grade~~  
2590 ~~12 who are assigned to in-field program completers aggregated by~~  
2591 ~~student subgroup, as defined in the federal Elementary and~~  
2592 ~~Secondary Education Act (ESEA), 20 U.S.C. s.~~



420138

2593 ~~6311(b)(2)(C)(v)(II), as a measure of how well the program~~  
2594 ~~prepares teachers to work with a diverse population of students~~  
2595 ~~in a variety of settings in Florida public schools.~~

2596 ~~b.e.~~ Results of program completers' annual evaluations in  
2597 accordance with the timeline as set forth in s. 1012.34.

2598 ~~c.f.~~ Workforce contributions, including placement of  
2599 program completers in instructional positions in Florida public  
2600 and private schools, with additional weight given to production  
2601 of program completers in statewide critical teacher shortage  
2602 areas as identified in s. 1012.07.

2603 ~~3.4.~~ Results of the program completers' survey measuring  
2604 their satisfaction with preparation for the realities of the  
2605 classroom.

2606 ~~4.5.~~ Results of the employers' survey measuring  
2607 satisfaction with the program and the program's responsiveness  
2608 to local school districts.

2609 (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for  
2610 continued approval of teacher preparation programs which include  
2611 the program review process, the continued approval timelines,  
2612 and the performance level targets for each of the continued  
2613 approval criteria in paragraph (a). Additional criteria may be  
2614 approved by the State Board of Education. The Commissioner of  
2615 Education shall determine the continued approval of each program  
2616 based on the data collected pursuant to this section and the  
2617 rules of the State Board of Education, which may include  
2618 weighted criteria and may authorize continued program approval  
2619 based on a review conducted by a nationally recognized  
2620 accrediting entity. The rules must establish criteria, based on  
2621 program size, for determining whether a program review is



420138

2622 necessary, whether program quality should be aggregated and  
2623 measured at the provider or institution level, and whether  
2624 program reviews may be validly conducted on a remote basis.

2625 (5) PRESERVICE FIELD EXPERIENCE.—All postsecondary  
2626 instructors, school district personnel and instructional  
2627 personnel, and school sites preparing instructional personnel  
2628 through preservice field experience courses and internships  
2629 shall meet special requirements. District school boards may pay  
2630 student teachers during their internships.

2631 (c) Preservice field experience must fully prepare a  
2632 candidate to manage a classroom by requiring the candidate to  
2633 practice and demonstrate the uniform core curricula specific to  
2634 the candidate's area or areas of program concentration with a  
2635 diverse population of students in a variety of challenging  
2636 environments, including, but not limited to, high-poverty  
2637 schools, urban schools, and rural schools. Beginning with  
2638 candidates entering a program in the 2023-2024 school year, a  
2639 minimum of 60 hours of preservice ~~The length of structured~~ field  
2640 experience must be completed before the culminating field  
2641 experience, which must include a minimum of 12 weeks of student  
2642 teaching experiences may be extended to ensure that candidates  
2643 achieve the competencies needed to meet certification  
2644 requirements.

2645 Section 35. Section 1004.6496, Florida Statutes, is created  
2646 to read:

2647 1004.6496 Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic  
2648 Education.—

2649 (1) The Board of Trustees of the University of Florida may  
2650 use funds as provided in the General Appropriations Act to



420138

2651 establish the Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education  
2652 as an academic unit within the University of Florida. The  
2653 purpose of the center is to support teaching and research  
2654 concerning the ideas, traditions, and texts that form the  
2655 foundations of western and American civilization.

2656 (2) The goals of the center are to:

2657 (a) Educate university students in core texts and great  
2658 debates of Western civilization.

2659 (b) Educate university students in the principles, ideals,  
2660 and institutions of the American political order.

2661 (c) Educate university students in the foundations of  
2662 responsible leadership and informed citizenship.

2663 (d) Provide programming and training related to civic  
2664 education and the values of open inquiry and civil discourse to  
2665 support the K-20 system.

2666 (e) Coordinate with the Florida Institute of Politics  
2667 created pursuant to s. 1004.6499 and The Adam Smith Center for  
2668 the Study of Economic Freedom created pursuant to s. 1004.64991  
2669 and assist in the curation and implementation of Portraits in  
2670 Patriotism created pursuant to s. 1003.44.

2671 Section 36. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and subsections  
2672 (4), (5), and (8) of section 1004.85, Florida Statutes, are  
2673 amended to read:

2674 1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

2675 (3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to  
2676 this section may offer competency-based certification programs  
2677 specifically designed for noneducation major baccalaureate  
2678 degree holders to enable program participants to meet the  
2679 educator certification requirements of s. 1012.56. An educator



420138

2680 preparation institute choosing to offer a competency-based  
2681 certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section  
2682 must implement a program previously approved by the Department  
2683 of Education for this purpose or a program developed by the  
2684 institute and approved by the department for this purpose.  
2685 Approved programs shall be available for use by other approved  
2686 educator preparation institutes.

2687 (a) Within 90 days after receipt of a request for approval,  
2688 the Department of Education shall approve a preparation program  
2689 pursuant to the requirements of this subsection or issue a  
2690 statement of the deficiencies in the request for approval. The  
2691 department shall approve a certification program if the  
2692 institute provides evidence of the institute's capacity to  
2693 implement a competency-based program that includes each of the  
2694 following:

2695 1.a. Participant instruction and assessment in the Florida  
2696 Educator Accomplished Practices across content areas.

2697 b. The use of state-adopted student content standards to  
2698 guide curriculum and instruction.

2699 c. Scientifically researched and evidence-based reading  
2700 instructional strategies that improve reading performance for  
2701 all students, including explicit, systematic, and sequential  
2702 approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary,  
2703 fluency, and text comprehension and multisensory intervention  
2704 strategies.

2705 d. Content literacy and mathematical practices.

2706 e. Strategies appropriate for instruction of English  
2707 language learners.

2708 f. Strategies appropriate for instruction of students with



420138

2709 disabilities.

2710 g. Strategies to differentiate instruction based on student  
2711 needs.

2712 h. Strategies and practices to support evidence-based  
2713 content aligned to state standards and grading practices ~~The use~~  
2714 ~~of character-based classroom management.~~

2715 i. Strategies appropriate for the early identification of a  
2716 student in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge and  
2717 the referral of such student to a mental health professional for  
2718 support.

2719 j. Strategies to support the use of technology in education  
2720 and distance learning.

2721 2. An educational plan for each participant to meet  
2722 certification requirements and demonstrate his or her ability to  
2723 teach the subject area for which the participant is seeking  
2724 certification, which is based on an assessment of his or her  
2725 competency in the areas listed in subparagraph 1.

2726 3. Field experiences appropriate to the certification  
2727 subject area specified in the educational plan with a diverse  
2728 population of students in a variety of challenging environments,  
2729 including, but not limited to, high-poverty schools, urban  
2730 schools, and rural schools, under the supervision of qualified  
2731 educators. The state board shall determine in rule the amount of  
2732 field experience necessary to serve as the teacher of record,  
2733 beginning with candidates entering a program in the 2023-2024  
2734 school year.

2735 4. A certification ombudsman to facilitate the process and  
2736 procedures required for participants who complete the program to  
2737 meet any requirements related to the background screening



420138

2738 pursuant to s. 1012.32 and educator professional or temporary  
2739 certification pursuant to s. 1012.56.

2740 (4) Continued approval of each program approved pursuant to  
2741 this section shall be determined by the Commissioner of  
2742 Education based upon a periodic review of the following areas:

2743 (a) Candidate readiness based on passage rates on educator  
2744 certification examinations under s. 1012.56, as applicable

2745 ~~Documentation from the program that each program completer has~~  
2746 ~~met the requirements of paragraphs (3)(a)-(c).~~

2747 (b) Evidence of performance in each of the following areas:

2748 ~~1. Placement rate of program completers into instructional~~  
2749 ~~positions in Florida public schools and private schools, if~~  
2750 ~~available.~~

2751 ~~2. Rate of retention for employed program completers in~~  
2752 ~~instructional positions in Florida public schools.~~

2753 ~~1.3.~~ Performance of students in prekindergarten through  
2754 grade 12 who are assigned to in-field program completers on  
2755 statewide assessments using the results of the student learning  
2756 growth formula adopted under s. 1012.34.

2757 ~~4. Performance of students in prekindergarten through grade~~  
2758 ~~12 who are assigned to in-field program completers aggregated by~~  
2759 ~~student subgroups, as defined in the federal Elementary and~~  
2760 ~~Secondary Education Act (ESEA), 20 U.S.C. s.~~

2761 ~~6311(b)(2)(C)(v)(II), as a measure of how well the program~~  
2762 ~~prepares teachers to work with a diverse population of students~~  
2763 ~~in a variety of settings in Florida public schools.~~

2764 ~~2.5.~~ Results of program completers' annual evaluations in  
2765 accordance with the timeline as set forth in s. 1012.34.

2766 ~~3.6.~~ Workforce contributions, including placement of





420138

2767 program completers in instructional positions in Florida public  
2768 and private schools, with additional weight given to production  
2769 of program completers in statewide critical teacher shortage  
2770 areas as identified in s. 1012.07.

2771 (5) Each institute approved pursuant to this section shall  
2772 submit to the Department of Education annual performance  
2773 evaluations that measure the effectiveness of the programs,  
2774 including the pass rates of participants on all examinations  
2775 required for teacher certification, employment rates,  
2776 longitudinal retention rates, and satisfaction surveys of  
2777 employers and program completers ~~candidates~~. The satisfaction  
2778 surveys must be designed to measure the sufficient preparation  
2779 of the educator for the realities of the classroom and the  
2780 institute's responsiveness to local school districts. These  
2781 evaluations shall be used by the Department of Education for  
2782 purposes of continued approval of an educator preparation  
2783 institute's certification program.

2784 (8) The State Board of Education shall ~~may~~ adopt rules  
2785 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement ~~the~~  
2786 ~~provisions of~~ this section, which may include weighted criteria  
2787 and may authorize continued program approval based on a review  
2788 conducted by a nationally recognized accrediting entity. The  
2789 rules must establish criteria, based on program size, for  
2790 determining whether a program review is necessary, whether  
2791 program quality should be aggregated and measured at the  
2792 provider or institution level, and whether program reviews may  
2793 be validly conducted on a remote basis including performance  
2794 ~~targets for the measures used for continued program approval~~  
2795 ~~described in subsection (4).~~



420138

2796 Section 37. Section 1006.12, Florida Statutes, is amended  
2797 to read:

2798 1006.12 Safe-school officers at each public school.—For the  
2799 protection and safety of school personnel, property, students,  
2800 and visitors, each district school board and school district  
2801 superintendent shall partner with law enforcement agencies or  
2802 security agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school  
2803 officers at each school facility within the district, including  
2804 charter schools. A district school board must collaborate with  
2805 charter school governing boards to facilitate charter school  
2806 access to all safe-school officer options available under this  
2807 section. The school district may implement any combination of  
2808 the options in subsections (1)-(4) to best meet the needs of the  
2809 school district and charter schools.

2810 (1) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER.—A school district may  
2811 establish school resource officer programs through a cooperative  
2812 agreement with law enforcement agencies.

2813 (a) School resource officers shall undergo criminal  
2814 background checks, drug testing, and a psychological evaluation  
2815 and be certified law enforcement officers, as defined in s.  
2816 943.10(1), who are employed by a law enforcement agency as  
2817 defined in s. 943.10(4). The powers and duties of a law  
2818 enforcement officer shall continue throughout the employee's  
2819 tenure as a school resource officer.

2820 (b) School resource officers shall abide by district school  
2821 board policies and shall consult with and coordinate activities  
2822 through the school principal, but shall be responsible to the  
2823 law enforcement agency in all matters relating to employment,  
2824 subject to agreements between a district school board and a law



2825 enforcement agency. Activities conducted by the school resource  
2826 officer which are part of the regular instructional program of  
2827 the school shall be under the direction of the school principal.

2828 (c) Complete mental health crisis intervention training  
2829 using a curriculum developed by a national organization with  
2830 expertise in mental health crisis intervention. The training  
2831 shall improve officers' knowledge and skills as first responders  
2832 to incidents involving students with emotional disturbance or  
2833 mental illness, including de-escalation skills to ensure student  
2834 and officer safety.

2835 (2) SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICER.—A school district may commission  
2836 one or more school safety officers for the protection and safety  
2837 of school personnel, property, and students within the school  
2838 district. The district school superintendent may recommend, and  
2839 the district school board may appoint, one or more school safety  
2840 officers.

2841 (a) School safety officers shall undergo criminal  
2842 background checks, drug testing, and a psychological evaluation  
2843 and be law enforcement officers, as defined in s. 943.10(1),  
2844 certified under the provisions of chapter 943 and employed by  
2845 either a law enforcement agency or by the district school board.  
2846 If the officer is employed by the district school board, the  
2847 district school board is the employing agency for purposes of  
2848 chapter 943, and must comply with the provisions of that  
2849 chapter.

2850 (b) A school safety officer has and shall exercise the  
2851 power to make arrests for violations of law on district school  
2852 board property and to arrest persons, whether on or off such  
2853 property, who violate any law on such property under the same



420138

2854 conditions that deputy sheriffs are authorized to make arrests.  
2855 A school safety officer has the authority to carry weapons when  
2856 performing his or her official duties.

2857 (c) School safety officers must complete mental health  
2858 crisis intervention training using a curriculum developed by a  
2859 national organization with expertise in mental health crisis  
2860 intervention. The training shall improve officers' knowledge and  
2861 skills as first responders to incidents involving students with  
2862 emotional disturbance or mental illness, including de-escalation  
2863 skills to ensure student and officer safety.

2864 (d) A district school board may enter into mutual aid  
2865 agreements with one or more law enforcement agencies as provided  
2866 in chapter 23. A school safety officer's salary may be paid  
2867 jointly by the district school board and the law enforcement  
2868 agency, as mutually agreed to.

2869 (3) SCHOOL GUARDIAN.—At the school district's or the  
2870 charter school governing board's discretion, as applicable,  
2871 pursuant to s. 30.15, a school district or charter school  
2872 governing board may participate in the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian  
2873 Program to meet the requirement of establishing a safe-school  
2874 officer. The following individuals may serve as a school  
2875 guardian, in support of school-sanctioned activities for  
2876 purposes of s. 790.115, upon satisfactory completion of the  
2877 requirements under s. 30.15(1)(k) and certification by a  
2878 sheriff:

2879 (a) A school district employee or personnel, as defined  
2880 under s. 1012.01, or a charter school employee, as provided  
2881 under s. 1002.33(12)(a), who volunteers to serve as a school  
2882 guardian in addition to his or her official job duties; or



420138

2883 (b) An employee of a school district or a charter school  
2884 who is hired for the specific purpose of serving as a school  
2885 guardian.

2886 (4) SCHOOL SECURITY GUARD.—A school district or charter  
2887 school governing board may contract with a security agency as  
2888 defined in s. 493.6101(18) to employ as a school security guard  
2889 an individual who holds a Class "D" and Class "G" license  
2890 pursuant to chapter 493, provided the following training and  
2891 contractual conditions are met:

2892 (a) An individual who serves as a school security guard,  
2893 for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section,  
2894 must:

2895 1. Demonstrate completion of 144 hours of required training  
2896 pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k)2.

2897 2. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a  
2898 psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the  
2899 Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the  
2900 evaluation to the sheriff's office, school district, or charter  
2901 school governing board, as applicable. The Department of Law  
2902 Enforcement is authorized to provide the sheriff's office,  
2903 school district, or charter school governing board with mental  
2904 health and substance abuse data for compliance with this  
2905 paragraph.

2906 3. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent  
2907 random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s.  
2908 112.0455 and the sheriff's office, school district, or charter  
2909 school governing board, as applicable.

2910 4. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon  
2911 inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual



2912 basis and provide documentation to the sheriff's office, school  
2913 district, or charter school governing board, as applicable.

2914 (b) The contract between a security agency and a school  
2915 district or a charter school governing board regarding  
2916 requirements applicable to school security guards serving in the  
2917 capacity of a safe-school officer for purposes of satisfying the  
2918 requirements of this section shall define the entity or entities  
2919 responsible for training and the responsibilities for  
2920 maintaining records relating to training, inspection, and  
2921 firearm qualification.

2922 (c) School security guards serving in the capacity of a  
2923 safe-school officer pursuant to this subsection are in support  
2924 of school-sanctioned activities for purposes of s. 790.115, and  
2925 must aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant  
2926 incidents on school premises.

2927 (5) NOTIFICATION.—The school district shall notify the  
2928 county sheriff and the Office of Safe Schools immediately after,  
2929 but no later than 72 hours after:

2930 (a) A safe-school officer is dismissed for misconduct or is  
2931 otherwise disciplined.

2932 (b) A safe-school officer discharges his or her firearm in  
2933 the exercise of the safe-school officer's duties, other than for  
2934 training purposes.

2935 (6) EXEMPTION.—Any information that would identify whether  
2936 a particular individual has been appointed as a safe-school  
2937 officer pursuant to this section held by a law enforcement  
2938 agency, school district, or charter school is exempt from s.  
2939 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This  
2940 subsection is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act



2941 in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October  
2942 2, 2023, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through  
2943 reenactment by the Legislature.

2944  
2945 If a district school board, through its adopted policies,  
2946 procedures, or actions, denies a charter school access to any  
2947 safe-school officer options pursuant to this section, the school  
2948 district must assign a school resource officer or school safety  
2949 officer to the charter school. Under such circumstances, the  
2950 charter school's share of the costs of the school resource  
2951 officer or school safety officer may not exceed the safe school  
2952 allocation funds provided to the charter school pursuant to s.  
2953 1011.62(12) ~~s. 1011.62(13)~~ and shall be retained by the school  
2954 district.

2955 Section 38. Subsection (1) of section 1006.22, Florida  
2956 Statutes, is amended to read:

2957 1006.22 Safety and health of students being transported.—  
2958 Maximum regard for safety and adequate protection of health are  
2959 primary requirements that must be observed by district school  
2960 boards in routing buses, appointing drivers, and providing and  
2961 operating equipment, in accordance with all requirements of law  
2962 and rules of the State Board of Education in providing  
2963 transportation pursuant to s. 1006.21:

2964 (1) (a) District school boards shall use school buses, as  
2965 defined in s. 1006.25, for all regular transportation. Regular  
2966 transportation or regular use means transportation of students  
2967 to and from school or school-related activities that are part of  
2968 a scheduled series or sequence of events to the same location.  
2969 "Students" means, for the purposes of this section, students



2970 enrolled in the public schools in prekindergarten disability  
2971 programs and in kindergarten through grade 12. District school  
2972 boards may regularly use motor vehicles other than school buses  
2973 only under the following conditions:

2974 1. When the transportation is for physically handicapped or  
2975 isolated students and the district school board has elected to  
2976 provide for the transportation of the student through written or  
2977 oral contracts or agreements.

2978 2. When the transportation is a part of a comprehensive  
2979 contract for a specialized educational program between a  
2980 district school board and a service provider who provides  
2981 instruction, transportation, and other services.

2982 3. When the transportation is provided through a public  
2983 transit system.

2984 4. When the transportation is for trips to and from school  
2985 sites or agricultural education sites or for trips to and from  
2986 agricultural education-related events or competitions, but is  
2987 not for customary transportation between a student's residence  
2988 and such sites.

2989 5. When the transportation is for trips to and from school  
2990 sites ~~to allow students to participate in a career education~~  
2991 ~~program that is not offered at the high school in which such~~  
2992 ~~students are enrolled~~ but is not for customary transportation  
2993 between a student's residence and such sites.

2994 (b) When the transportation of students is provided, as  
2995 authorized in this subsection, in a vehicle other than a school  
2996 bus that is owned, operated, rented, contracted, or leased by a  
2997 school district or charter school, the following provisions  
2998 shall apply:





420138

2999           1. The vehicle must be a ~~passenger car or multipurpose~~  
3000 ~~passenger vehicle or truck, as defined in 49 C.F.R. part 571,~~  
3001 designed to transport fewer than 10 students or be a  
3002 multifunction school activity bus, as defined in 49 CFR s.  
3003 571.3, if it is designed to transport more than 10 persons.

3004 Students must be transported in designated seating positions and  
3005 must use the occupant crash protection system provided by the  
3006 manufacturer unless the student's physical condition prohibits  
3007 such use.

3008           2. An authorized vehicle may not be driven by a student on  
3009 a public right-of-way. An authorized vehicle may be driven by a  
3010 student on school or private property as part of the student's  
3011 educational curriculum if no other student is in the vehicle.

3012           3. The driver of an authorized vehicle transporting  
3013 students must maintain a valid driver license and must comply  
3014 with the requirements of the school district's locally adopted  
3015 safe driver plan, which includes review of driving records for  
3016 disqualifying violations.

3017           4. The district school board or charter school must adopt a  
3018 policy that addresses procedures and liability for trips under  
3019 this paragraph, including a provision that school buses are to  
3020 be used whenever practical and specifying consequences for  
3021 violation of the policy.

3022           Section 39. Subsection (3) is added to section 1006.27,  
3023 Florida Statutes, to read:

3024           1006.27 Pooling of school buses and related purchases by  
3025 district school boards; transportation services contracts.—

3026           (3) The Driving Choice Grant Program is created within the  
3027 department to improve access to reliable and safe transportation



420138

3028 for students participating in public educational school choices  
3029 pursuant to s. 1002.20(6)(a) and to support innovative solutions  
3030 that increase the efficiency of public school transportation.

3031 (a) Grant proposals may include:

3032 1. Transportation resource planning and sharing among  
3033 school districts and local governments.

3034 2. Developing or contracting with rideshare programs or  
3035 developing carpool strategies.

3036 3. Developing options to reduce costs and increase  
3037 efficiencies while improving access to transportation options  
3038 for families.

3039 4. Developing options to address personnel challenges.

3040 5. Expanding the use of transportation funds under ss.  
3041 1002.394, 1002.395, and 1011.68 to help cover the cost of  
3042 transporting students to and from school.

3043 (b) The department shall publish on its website, by  
3044 December 31, 2023, an interim report and by December 31, 2024, a  
3045 final report that includes:

3046 1. The best practices used by grant recipients to increase  
3047 transportation options for students, including any  
3048 transportation barriers addressed by grant recipients.

3049 2. The number of students served by grant recipients,  
3050 including the number of students transported to a school that is  
3051 different from the school to which the student is assigned.

3052 Section 40. Subsections (4) through (6) of section 1006.73,  
3053 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5) through (7),  
3054 respectively, subsection (1) and present subsection (4) are  
3055 amended, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, to  
3056 read:



420138

3057           1006.73 Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network.—  
3058           (1) PURPOSE.—The Board of Governors and the Department of  
3059 Education will jointly oversee the host entity in accordance  
3060 with subsection (6) ~~(5)~~ that will deliver the following services  
3061 to public postsecondary education institutions in this state,  
3062 which, for the purposes of this section, means all Florida  
3063 College System and State University System institutions:  
3064           (a) Provide information regarding and access to distance  
3065 learning courses and degree programs offered by public  
3066 postsecondary education institutions within the state.  
3067           (b) Coordinate with the Florida College System and the  
3068 State University System to identify and provide online academic  
3069 support services and resources when the multi-institutional  
3070 provision of such services and resources is more cost-effective  
3071 or operationally effective.  
3072           (c) Administer a single library automation system and  
3073 associated resources and services that all public postsecondary  
3074 institutions shall use to support learning, teaching, and  
3075 research needs and develop automated library management tools  
3076 that shall include, but are not limited to, the following  
3077 services and functions:  
3078           1. A shared Internet-based catalog and discovery tool that  
3079 allows a user to search and, if authorized, access the aggregate  
3080 library holdings of the state's public postsecondary education  
3081 institutions. The catalog and discovery tool shall allow a user  
3082 to search the library holdings of one institution, selected  
3083 institutions, or all institutions and, to the extent feasible,  
3084 shall include an interlibrary loan function that ensures an  
3085 authorized user can access the required library holding.



420138

3086           2. An Internet-based searchable collection of electronic  
3087 resources which shall include, but not be limited to, full-text  
3088 journals, articles, databases, and electronic books licensed  
3089 pursuant to paragraph (d).

3090           3. An integrated library management system and its  
3091 associated services that all public postsecondary education  
3092 institution academic libraries shall use for purposes of  
3093 acquiring, cataloging, circulating, and tracking library  
3094 material.

3095           4. A statewide searchable database that includes an  
3096 inventory of digital archives and collections held by public  
3097 postsecondary education institutions.

3098           (d) In collaboration with library staff from Florida  
3099 College System institutions and state universities, coordinate  
3100 the negotiation of statewide licensing of electronic library  
3101 resources and preferred pricing agreements, issue purchase  
3102 orders, and enter into contracts for the acquisition of library  
3103 support services, electronic resources, and other goods and  
3104 services necessary to carry out its duties under this section.

3105           (e) Promote and provide recommendations concerning the use  
3106 and distribution of low-cost, no-cost, or open-access textbooks  
3107 and education resources and innovative pricing techniques that  
3108 comply with all applicable laws, in regards to copyrighted  
3109 material and statewide accessibility measures, as a method for  
3110 reducing costs.

3111           (f) Provide support for the adoption, adaptation, and  
3112 creation of open educational resources by faculty members from  
3113 Florida College System institutions and state universities.

3114           (g) ~~(f)~~ Provide appropriate help desk support, training, and



420138

3115 consultation services to institutions and students.

3116 (4) FLORIDA STUDENT OPEN ACCESS RESOURCES.—There is  
3117 established a statewide initiative to increase the amount of  
3118 open access resources available to postsecondary students in the  
3119 state through the development of the Student Open Access  
3120 Resources Repository, a statewide, Internet-based, searchable  
3121 database of open education resources curated by the faculty of  
3122 Florida College System institutions and state universities, and  
3123 the establishment of the Student Open Access Resource Grant  
3124 Program.

3125 (a) For purposes of this section, the term “open  
3126 educational resources” means high-quality teaching, learning,  
3127 and research resources that reside in the public domain or have  
3128 been released under an intellectual property license that  
3129 permits the free use and repurposing of such resources by  
3130 others. The term may include other resources that are legally  
3131 available and free of cost to students. Open educational  
3132 resources include, but are not limited to, full courses, course  
3133 materials, modules, textbooks, faculty-created content,  
3134 streaming videos, exams, software, and other tools, materials,  
3135 or techniques used to support access to knowledge.

3136 (b) The chancellors of the State University System and the  
3137 Florida College System shall collaborate and take the lead in  
3138 identifying and developing processes to coordinate and support  
3139 the adaptation or development of open educational resources by  
3140 teams of faculty, librarians, and instructional designers within  
3141 a Florida College System institution or state university, or  
3142 across multiple institutions and universities. Such processes  
3143 shall include, but not be limited to, ensuring quality and



420138

3144 accuracy of content, suitability for publication, and compliance  
3145 with federal and state copyright laws and regulations. Pursuant  
3146 to the processes developed by the chancellors, the Florida  
3147 Postsecondary Academic Library Network shall:

3148 1. Serve as the lead agency.  
3149 2. Facilitate interinstitutional collaborations.  
3150 3. Host approved digital assets and on-demand printing  
3151 capabilities.

3152 4. Ensure compliance with federal and state laws and  
3153 regulations relating to accessibility, copyright, student data  
3154 privacy and security, and quality assurance.

3155 5. Provide training for resource and professional  
3156 development.

3157 6. Administer the grant program under paragraph (d).  
3158 (c) Resources available in the Student Open Access

3159 Resources Repository shall:

3160 1. Comply with the processes developed by the chancellors  
3161 of the State University System and Florida College System  
3162 pursuant to paragraph (b).

3163 2. Be based upon the statewide course numbering system as  
3164 specified in s. 1007.01.

3165 3. Accelerate textbook affordability pursuant to s.  
3166 1004.085.

3167 (d) The Student Open Access Resource Grant Program is  
3168 created to provide funding for public institutions of higher  
3169 education, faculty, and staff to create and expand the use of  
3170 open educational resources.

3171 1. A Florida College System institution or state university  
3172 may apply to the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network



420138

3173 for a grant under the program to support the development and  
3174 curation of open educational resources and for migrating  
3175 existing content to the Student Open Access Resource Repository.

3176 2. Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, the Florida  
3177 Postsecondary Academic Library Network may award grants to  
3178 Florida College System institutions and state universities that  
3179 apply for grants pursuant to this section. The Florida Academic  
3180 Library Network shall prioritize courses with high student  
3181 enrollment, courses with high textbook or materials costs, and  
3182 courses identified as general education core courses pursuant to  
3183 s. 1007.25 when establishing award criteria.

3184 3. Florida College System institutions and state  
3185 universities receiving grant funds shall agree to openly license  
3186 and share, under the broadest possible license, any open  
3187 educational resources developed or adapted using the grant and  
3188 post such resources to the Student Open Access Resources  
3189 Repository.

3190 4. By fiscal year 2023-2024, grant funds provided to the  
3191 Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network host entity shall  
3192 be awarded to Florida College System institutions and state  
3193 universities.

3194 (e) Each Florida College System institution and state  
3195 university shall post prominently in its course registration  
3196 system and on its website, as early as is feasible, but at least  
3197 45 days before the first day of class for each term, courses  
3198 that utilize open educational resources and have zero textbook  
3199 costs as indicated by an icon next to each eligible course. A  
3200 Zero Textbook Cost Indicator developed by the Florida  
3201 Postsecondary Academic Library Network may be used for this



420138

3202 purpose.  
3203 (5) ~~(4)~~ REPORTING.—  
3204 (a) Beginning December 31, 2021, and each year thereafter,  
3205 the host entity shall submit a report to the Chancellors of the  
3206 State University System and the Florida College System regarding  
3207 the implementation and operation of all components described in  
3208 this section, including, but not limited to, all of the  
3209 following:—  
3210 1. Usage information collected under paragraph (2) (c).—  
3211 2. Information and associated costs relating to the  
3212 services and functions of the program.—and  
3213 3. The implementation and operation of the automated  
3214 library services.  
3215 4. The number and value of grants awarded under paragraph  
3216 (4) (d) and the distribution of those funds.  
3217 5. The number and types of courses placed in the Student  
3218 Open Access Resources Repository.  
3219 6. Information on the utilization of the Student Open  
3220 Access Resources Repository and utilization of open educational  
3221 resources in course sections, by Florida College System  
3222 institution and state university.  
3223 (b) The Chancellors will provide an annual report on the  
3224 performance of the host entity in delivering the services and  
3225 any recommendations for changes needed to this section to the  
3226 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House  
3227 of Representatives, the Board of Governors, and the State Board  
3228 of Education. The Board of Governors and the Department of  
3229 Education shall include any necessary funding increases in their  
3230 annual legislative budget requests.





420138

3231 Section 41. Subsections (17) and (24) of section 1007.271,  
3232 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3233 1007.271 Dual enrollment programs.—

3234 (17) Instructional materials assigned for use within dual  
3235 enrollment courses shall be made available to dual enrollment  
3236 students ~~from Florida public high schools~~ free of charge. A  
3237 postsecondary institution may not require payment for  
3238 instructional materials costs eligible for reimbursement under  
3239 s. 1009.30 ~~This subsection does not prohibit a Florida College~~  
3240 ~~System institution from providing instructional materials at no~~  
3241 ~~cost to a home education student or student from a private~~  
3242 ~~school.~~ Instructional materials purchased by a district school  
3243 board or Florida College System institution board of trustees on  
3244 behalf of dual enrollment students shall be the property of the  
3245 board against which the purchase is charged.

3246 (24) (a) The dual enrollment program for a private school  
3247 student consists of the enrollment of an eligible private school  
3248 student in a postsecondary course creditable toward an associate  
3249 degree, a career certificate, or a baccalaureate degree. In  
3250 addition, a private school in which a student, including, but  
3251 not limited to, students with disabilities, is enrolled must  
3252 award credit toward high school completion for the postsecondary  
3253 course under the dual enrollment program. To participate in the  
3254 dual enrollment program, an eligible private school student  
3255 must:

3256 1. Provide proof of enrollment in a private school pursuant  
3257 to subsection (2).

3258 2. Be responsible for his or her own ~~instructional~~  
3259 ~~materials and~~ transportation unless provided for in the



420138

3260 articulation agreement.

3261           3. Sign a private school articulation agreement pursuant to  
3262 paragraph (b).

3263           (b) Each public postsecondary institution eligible to  
3264 participate in the dual enrollment program pursuant to s.  
3265 1011.62(1)(i) must enter into a private school articulation  
3266 agreement with each eligible private school in its geographic  
3267 service area seeking to offer dual enrollment courses to its  
3268 students, including, but not limited to, students with  
3269 disabilities. By August 1 of each year, the eligible  
3270 postsecondary institution shall complete and submit the private  
3271 school articulation agreement to the Department of Education.  
3272 The private school articulation agreement must include, at a  
3273 minimum:

3274           1. A delineation of courses and programs available to the  
3275 private school student. The postsecondary institution may add,  
3276 revise, or delete courses and programs at any time.

3277           2. The initial and continued eligibility requirements for  
3278 private school student participation, not to exceed those  
3279 required of other dual enrollment students.

3280           3. The student's responsibilities for providing his or her  
3281 own ~~instructional materials and~~ transportation.

3282           4. A provision clarifying that the private school will  
3283 award appropriate credit toward high school completion for the  
3284 postsecondary course under the dual enrollment program.

3285           5. A provision expressing that costs associated with  
3286 tuition and fees, including registration, and laboratory fees,  
3287 will not be passed along to the student.

3288           Section 42. Section 1007.36, Florida Statutes, is created



420138

3289 to read:

3290 1007.36 Inclusive Transition and Employment Management  
3291 Program.—As authorized by and consistent with funding  
3292 appropriated in the General Appropriations Act, the Inclusive  
3293 Transition and Employment Management Program is created within  
3294 the Department of Education for the purpose of providing young  
3295 adults with disabilities who are between the ages of 16 years  
3296 and 28 years with transitional skills, education, and on-the-job  
3297 experience to allow them to acquire and retain permanent  
3298 employment.

3299 Section 43. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection  
3300 (3), and paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (4) of section  
3301 1008.33, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3302 1008.33 Authority to enforce public school improvement.—

3303 (1) The State Board of Education shall comply with the  
3304 federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), 20 U.S.C.  
3305 ss. 6301 et seq., its implementing regulations, and the ESEA  
3306 plan flexibility waiver approved for Florida by the United  
3307 States Secretary of Education. The state board may adopt rules  
3308 to maintain compliance with the ESEA and the ESEA plan  
3309 flexibility waiver.

3310 (3) (a) The academic performance of all students has a  
3311 significant effect on the state school system. Pursuant to Art.  
3312 IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes the duty of the  
3313 State Board of Education to supervise Florida's public school  
3314 system, the state board shall equitably enforce the  
3315 accountability requirements of the state school system and may  
3316 impose state requirements on school districts in order to  
3317 improve the academic performance of all districts, schools, and



420138

3318 students based upon the provisions of the Florida Early  
3319 Learning-20 Education Code, chapters 1000-1013; the federal ESEA  
3320 and its implementing regulations; and the ESEA plan flexibility  
3321 ~~waiver~~ approved for Florida by the United States Secretary of  
3322 Education.

3323 (4) (a) The state board shall apply intensive intervention  
3324 and support strategies tailored to the needs of schools earning  
3325 two consecutive grades of "D" or a grade of "F." In the first  
3326 full school year after a school initially earns a grade of "D,"  
3327 ~~two consecutive grades of "D" or a grade of "F,"~~ the school  
3328 district must immediately implement intervention and support  
3329 strategies prescribed in rule under paragraph (3) (c). For a  
3330 school that initially earns a grade of "F" or a second  
3331 consecutive grade of "D," the school district must either  
3332 continue implementing or immediately begin implementing  
3333 intervention and support strategies prescribed in rule under  
3334 paragraph (3) (c) and, by September 1, provide the department, by  
3335 September 1, with the memorandum of understanding negotiated  
3336 pursuant to s. 1001.42(21) and, by October 1, a district-managed  
3337 turnaround plan for approval by the state board. The district-  
3338 managed turnaround plan may include a proposal for the district  
3339 to implement an extended school day, a summer program, or a  
3340 combination of an extended school day and a summer program, or  
3341 any other option authorized under paragraph (b) for state board  
3342 approval. A school district is not required to wait until a  
3343 school earns a second consecutive grade of "D" to submit a  
3344 turnaround plan for approval by the state board under this  
3345 paragraph. Upon approval by the state board, the school district  
3346 must implement the plan for the remainder of the school year and



420138

3347 continue the plan for 1 full school year. The state board may  
3348 allow a school an additional year of implementation before the  
3349 school must implement a turnaround option required under  
3350 paragraph (b) if it determines that the school is likely to  
3351 improve to a grade of "C" or higher after the first full school  
3352 year of implementation.

3353 (b) Unless an additional year of implementation is provided  
3354 pursuant to paragraph (a), a school that completes a plan cycle  
3355 under paragraph (a) and does not improve to a grade of ~~earns~~  
3356 ~~three consecutive grades below a "C"~~ or higher must implement  
3357 one of the following:

3358 1. Reassign students to another school and monitor the  
3359 progress of each reassigned student;

3360 2. Close the school and reopen the school as one or more  
3361 charter schools, each with a governing board that has a  
3362 demonstrated record of effectiveness; or

3363 3. Contract with an outside entity that has a demonstrated  
3364 record of effectiveness to provide turnaround services  
3365 identified in state board rule, which may include school  
3366 leadership, educational modalities, teacher and leadership  
3367 professional development, curriculum, operation and management  
3368 services, school-based administrative staffing, budgeting,  
3369 scheduling, other educational service provider functions, or any  
3370 combination thereof ~~operate the school~~. Selection of an outside  
3371 entity may include one or a combination of the following:

3372 a. An external operator, which may be a district-managed  
3373 charter school or a high-performing charter school network in  
3374 which all instructional personnel are not employees of the  
3375 school district, but are employees of an independent governing



420138

3376 board composed of members who did not participate in the review  
3377 or approval of the charter.

3378 b. A contractual agreement that allows for a charter school  
3379 network or any of its affiliated subsidiaries to provide  
3380 individualized consultancy services tailored to address the  
3381 identified needs of one or more schools under this section.

3382  
3383 A school district and outside entity under this subparagraph  
3384 must enter, at minimum, a 2-year, performance-based contract.  
3385 The contract must include school performance and growth metrics  
3386 the outside entity must meet on an annual basis. The state board  
3387 may require the school district to modify or cancel the  
3388 contract.

3389 Section 44. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section  
3390 1008.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3391 1008.34 School grading system; school report cards;  
3392 district grade.—

3393 (3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.—

3394 (c)1. The calculation of a school grade shall be based on  
3395 the percentage of points earned from the components listed in  
3396 subparagraph (b)1. and, if applicable, subparagraph (b)2. The  
3397 State Board of Education shall adopt in rule a school grading  
3398 scale that sets the percentage of points needed to earn each of  
3399 the school grades listed in subsection (2). There shall be at  
3400 least five percentage points separating the percentage  
3401 thresholds needed to earn each of the school grades. The state  
3402 board shall annually ~~periodically~~ review the percentage of  
3403 school grades of "A" and "B" for the school year to determine  
3404 whether to adjust the school grading scale upward for the



420138

3405 following school year's school grades. The first adjustment  
3406 would occur no earlier than the 2023-2024 school year. An  
3407 adjustment must be made if the percentage of schools earning a  
3408 grade of "A" or "B" in the current year represents 75 percent or  
3409 more of all graded schools within a particular school type,  
3410 which consists of elementary, middle, high, and combination. The  
3411 adjustment must reset the minimum required percentage of points  
3412 for each grade of "A", "B", "C", or "D" at the next highest  
3413 percentage ending in the numeral 5 or 0, whichever is closest to  
3414 the current percentage. Annual reviews of the percentage of  
3415 schools earning a grade of "A" or "B" and adjustments to the  
3416 required points must be suspended when the following grading  
3417 scale for a specific school type is achieved:

3418 a. Ninety percent or more of the points for a grade of "A".

3419 b. Eighty to eighty-nine percent of the points for a grade  
3420 of "B".

3421 c. Seventy to seventy-nine percent of the points for a  
3422 grade of "C".

3423 d. Sixty to sixty-nine percent of the points for a grade of  
3424 "D."

3425  
3426 ~~When the school grading scale to determine if the scale should~~  
3427 ~~be adjusted upward to meet raised expectations and encourage~~  
3428 ~~increased student performance. If the state board adjusts the~~  
3429 ~~grading scale upward, the state board must inform the public and~~  
3430 ~~the school districts of the reasons for and degree of the~~  
3431 ~~adjustment and its anticipated impact on school grades.~~

3432 2. The calculation of school grades may not include any  
3433 provision that would raise or lower the school's grade beyond



420138

3434 the percentage of points earned. Extra weight may not be added  
3435 in the calculation of any components.

3436 Section 45. Effective upon this act becoming a law, and  
3437 annually until January 1, 2025, the Department of Education  
3438 shall collect from each school district, by grade level, the  
3439 range and median number of minutes per school year, including as  
3440 a percentage of net instructional time, students in  
3441 prekindergarten through grade 5 spend on district-required  
3442 assessments and coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
3443 and state-required assessments and coordinated screening and  
3444 progress monitoring. Annually, beginning January 1, 2023,  
3445 through January 1, 2025, the department shall submit a report to  
3446 the Governor and the Legislature summarizing the data collected  
3447 from school districts, including recommendations for minimizing  
3448 duplicative district assessments and progress monitoring.

3449 Section 46. Paragraph (a) of subsection (18) of section  
3450 1009.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3451 1009.26 Fee waivers.—

3452 (18) (a) ~~Beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year,~~ For  
3453 every course in a Program of Strategic Emphasis, as identified  
3454 in subparagraph 3., in which a student is enrolled, a state  
3455 university shall waive 100 percent of the tuition and fees for  
3456 an equivalent course in such program for a student who:

3457 1. Is a resident for tuition purposes under s. 1009.21.

3458 2. Has earned at least 60 semester credit hours towards a  
3459 baccalaureate degree within 2 academic years after initial  
3460 enrollment at a Florida public postsecondary institution.

3461 3. Enrolls in one of 10 ~~eight~~ Programs of Strategic  
3462 Emphasis as adopted by the Board of Governors. The Board of





420138

3463 Governors shall adopt eight Programs of Strategic Emphasis in  
3464 science, technology, engineering, or math and, beginning with  
3465 the 2022-2023 academic year, two Programs of Strategic Emphasis  
3466 in the critical workforce gap analysis category for which a  
3467 student may be eligible to receive the tuition and fee waiver  
3468 authorized by this subsection. The programs identified by the  
3469 board must reflect the priorities of the state and be offered at  
3470 a majority of state universities.

3471 Section 47. Subsection (2), paragraph (a) of subsection  
3472 (3), subsection (5), and paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of  
3473 section 1009.30, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3474 1009.30 Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program.—

3475 (2) The Department of Education shall administer the Dual  
3476 Enrollment Scholarship Program in accordance with rules adopted  
3477 by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (8) ~~(9)~~.

3478 (3) (a) ~~Beginning in the 2021 fall term,~~ The program shall  
3479 reimburse eligible postsecondary institutions for tuition and  
3480 related instructional materials costs for dual enrollment  
3481 courses taken during the fall or spring terms by eligible  
3482 students, consisting of:

3483 1. Private school students who take dual enrollment courses  
3484 pursuant to s. 1007.271(24)(b); or

3485 2. Home education program secondary students ~~during the~~  
3486 ~~fall or spring terms.~~

3487 (5) ~~Annually, by March 15,~~ Each participating institution  
3488 must report to the department any eligible secondary students  
3489 from private schools or home education programs who were  
3490 enrolled during the ~~previous~~ fall or spring terms within 30 days  
3491 after the end of regular registration. ~~Annually, by July 15,~~



420138

3492 Each participating institution must report to the department any  
3493 eligible public school, private school, or home education  
3494 program students who were enrolled during the summer term within  
3495 30 days after the end of regular registration. For each dual  
3496 enrollment course in which the student is enrolled, the report  
3497 must include a unique student identifier, the postsecondary  
3498 institution name, the postsecondary course number, and the  
3499 postsecondary course name. The department shall reimburse each  
3500 participating institution no later than 30 days after the  
3501 institution has reported enrollment for that term.

3502 (6) (d) Institutions shall be reimbursed for instructional  
3503 materials costs ~~based on a rate specified in the General~~  
3504 ~~Appropriations Act.~~

3505 ~~(7) For dual enrollment courses taken during the fall and~~  
3506 ~~spring terms, the department must reimburse institutions by~~  
3507 ~~April 15 of the same year. For dual enrollment courses taken~~  
3508 ~~during the summer term, the department must reimburse~~  
3509 ~~institutions by August 15 of the same year, before the beginning~~  
3510 ~~of the next academic year.~~

3511 (7)~~(8)~~ Reimbursement for dual enrollment courses is  
3512 contingent upon an appropriation in the General Appropriations  
3513 Act each year. If the statewide reimbursement amount is greater  
3514 than the appropriation, the institutional reimbursement amounts  
3515 specified in subsection (6) shall be prorated among the  
3516 institutions that have reported eligible students to the  
3517 department by the deadlines specified in subsection (5).

3518 (8)~~(9)~~ The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
3519 implement this section.

3520 Section 48. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section



420138

3521 1009.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3522 1009.89 The William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to  
3523 Student Education grants.—

3524 (5)

3525 (c) By September 1 of each year, institutions receiving  
3526 funding as provided in the General Appropriations Act must  
3527 submit an Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program  
3528 Accountability Report to the Department of Education, in a  
3529 format prescribed by the department. The report must use the  
3530 most recently available information on Florida resident students  
3531 and include, at a minimum, the following performance metrics, by  
3532 institution:

3533 1. Access rate based upon percentage of Pell-eligible  
3534 students.

3535 2. Affordability rate based upon average student loan debt;  
3536 federal, state, and institutional financial assistance; and  
3537 average tuition and fees.

3538 3. Graduation rate.

3539 4. Retention rate.

3540 5. Postgraduate employment or continuing education rate.

3541

3542 The department shall recommend minimum performance standards  
3543 that institutions must meet to remain eligible to receive grants  
3544 pursuant to this section. Each eligible institution shall post  
3545 prominently on its website, by October 1 of each year, its  
3546 performance on these metrics, as reported to the department.

3547 Section 49. Subsections (5) through (9) of section  
3548 1009.895, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4)  
3549 through (8), respectively, and paragraph (c) of subsection (1),



420138

3550 subsection (4), paragraph (a) of present subsection (5), and  
3551 present subsection (8) are amended to read:

3552 1009.895 Open Door Grant Program.—

3553 (1) As used in this section, the term:

3554 (c) "Institution" means school district postsecondary  
3555 technical career centers under s. 1001.44, Florida College  
3556 System institutions under s. 1000.21(3), ~~and~~ charter technical  
3557 career centers under s. 1002.34, and school districts with  
3558 eligible integrated education and training programs.

3559 ~~(4) To be eligible to receive an open door grant under this~~  
3560 ~~section, a student must complete the Free Application for~~  
3561 ~~Federal Student Aid for each academic year in which the grant is~~  
3562 ~~sought.~~

3563 ~~(5)~~ Subject to the availability of funds:

3564 (a) A student who enrolls in an eligible program offered by  
3565 an institution and who does not receive state or federal  
3566 financial aid may apply for and be awarded a grant to cover two-  
3567 thirds of the cost of the program, if at the time of enrollment  
3568 the student pays one-third of the cost of the program and signs  
3569 an agreement to either complete the program or pay an additional  
3570 one-third of the cost of the program in the event of  
3571 noncompletion. The department shall reimburse the institution in  
3572 an amount equal to one-third of the cost of the program upon a  
3573 student's completion of the program. An additional one-third  
3574 shall be provided upon attainment of a workforce credential or  
3575 certificate by the student. Grant funds may be used to cover the  
3576 student's one-third of the cost of the program for students in  
3577 integrated education and training programs and students who do  
3578 not have a high school diploma and meet the requirements



420138

3579 established by the department. An institution may cover the  
3580 student's one-third of the cost of the program based on student  
3581 need, as determined by the institution.

3582 (7)(8) The department shall compile the data provided under  
3583 paragraph (6)(d) ~~(7)(d)~~ and annually report such data, in the  
3584 aggregate and categorize such information by eligible  
3585 institution, to the State Board of Education. The report shall  
3586 also include information on the average wage, age, gender, race,  
3587 ethnicity, veteran status, and other relevant information, of  
3588 students who have completed workforce training programs  
3589 categorized by credential name and relevant occupation.

3590 Section 50. Section 1009.896, Florida Statutes, is created  
3591 to read:

3592 1009.896 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE)  
3593 Fund.—

3594 (1) This section shall be known and may be cited as the  
3595 "Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Act."

3596 (2) Recognizing that the state has a persistent and growing  
3597 nursing shortage, it is the intent of the Legislature to address  
3598 this critical workforce need by incentivizing collaboration  
3599 between nursing education programs and health care partners  
3600 through the establishment of the LINE Fund. This fund is  
3601 intended to meet local, regional, and state workforce demand by  
3602 recruiting faculty and clinical preceptors, increasing the  
3603 capacity of high-quality nursing education programs, and  
3604 increasing the number of nursing education program graduates who  
3605 are prepared to enter the workforce.

3606 (3) As used in this section, the term:

3607 (a) "Health care partner" means a health care provider as



420138

3608 defined in s. 768.38(2).

3609 (b) "Institution" means a school district career center  
3610 under s. 1001.44, a charter technical career center under s.  
3611 1002.34, a Florida College System institution, a state  
3612 university, or an independent nonprofit college or university  
3613 located and chartered in this state and accredited by an agency  
3614 or association that is recognized by the database created and  
3615 maintained by the United States Department of Education to grant  
3616 baccalaureate degrees, which has a nursing education program  
3617 that meets or exceeds the following:

3618 1. For a certified nursing assistant program, a completion  
3619 rate of at least 70 percent for the prior year.

3620 2. For a licensed practical nurse, associate of science in  
3621 nursing, and bachelor of science in nursing program, a first-  
3622 time passage rate on the National Council of State Boards of  
3623 Nursing Licensing Examination of at least 70 percent for the  
3624 prior year.

3625 (c) "Student" means a person who is a resident for tuition  
3626 purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21 and enrolled in a nursing  
3627 education program at an institution.

3628 (4) The LINE Fund shall be administered by the Board of  
3629 Governors for state universities and the Department of Education  
3630 for all other institutions.

3631 (5) Subject to available funds, for every dollar  
3632 contributed to an institution by a health care partner, the fund  
3633 shall provide a dollar-to-dollar match to the participating  
3634 institution.

3635 (6) (a) Funds may be used for student scholarships,  
3636 recruitment of additional faculty, equipment, and simulation



420138

3637 centers to advance high-quality nursing education programs  
3638 throughout the state.

3639 (b) Funds may not be used for the construction of new  
3640 buildings.

3641 (7) (a) To participate, an institution must submit a timely  
3642 and completed proposal to the Board of Governors or Department  
3643 of Education, in a format prescribed by the Board of Governors  
3644 or Department of Education, as applicable.

3645 (b) The proposal must identify a health care partner  
3646 located and licensed to operate in the state whose monetary  
3647 contributions will be matched by the fund on a dollar-to-dollar  
3648 basis.

3649 (8) The Board of Governors or Department of Education, as  
3650 applicable, must review and evaluate each completed and timely  
3651 submitted proposal according to the following minimum criteria:

3652 (a) Whether funds committed by the health care partner will  
3653 contribute to an eligible purpose.

3654 (b) How the institution plans to use the funds, including  
3655 how such funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment  
3656 and program completion.

3657 (c) How the health care partner will onboard and retain  
3658 graduates.

3659 (d) How the funds will expand the institution's nursing  
3660 education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce  
3661 demands. If applicable, this shall include advanced education  
3662 nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of  
3663 faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize  
3664 the clinical placement process established in s. 14.36.

3665 (9) (a) Each institution with an approved proposal shall



420138

3666 notify the Board of Governors or Department of Education, as  
3667 applicable, upon receipt of the health care partner provided  
3668 funds identified in the proposal. The Board of Governors or  
3669 Department of Education, as applicable, shall release grant  
3670 funds, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to the amount of funds  
3671 received by the institution.

3672 (b) Annually, by February 1, each institution awarded grant  
3673 funds in the previous fiscal year shall submit a report to the  
3674 Board of Governors or Department of Education, as applicable,  
3675 that demonstrates the expansion as outlined in the proposal and  
3676 the use of funds. At minimum, the report must include, by  
3677 program level, the number of additional nursing education  
3678 students enrolled; if scholarships were awarded using grant  
3679 funds, the number of students who received scholarships and the  
3680 average award amount; and the outcomes of students as reported  
3681 by the Florida Talent Development Council pursuant to s.  
3682 1004.015(6).

3683 (10) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations and the  
3684 State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer the  
3685 fund, establish dates for the submission and review of  
3686 proposals, award funds, and other regulations and rules  
3687 necessary to implement this section.

3688 Section 51. Section 1009.897, Florida Statutes, is created  
3689 to read:

3690 1009.897 Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and  
3691 Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE)  
3692 Fund.—

3693 (1) A Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and  
3694 Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE)





3695 Fund is created to reward performance and excellence among  
3696 public postsecondary nursing education programs.

3697 (2) As used in this section, the term, "institution" means  
3698 a school district career center under s. 1001.44 that offers a  
3699 licensed practical nurse program, a charter technical career  
3700 center under s. 1002.34 that offers a licensed practical nurse  
3701 program, a Florida College System institution, or a state  
3702 university.

3703 (3) Subject to appropriation, each institution shall  
3704 receive an allocation based on the performance of its respective  
3705 nursing education program or programs according to the following  
3706 metrics:

3707 (a) The number of nursing education program completers, by  
3708 program.

3709 (b)1. The first-time National Council of State Boards of  
3710 Nursing Licensing Examination passage rate of the institution's  
3711 nursing education program completers, by program.

3712 2. The allocations shall reward excellence among nursing  
3713 education programs with an average first-time National Council  
3714 of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination passage rate  
3715 above the national average.

3716 (4) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations and  
3717 State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer this  
3718 section.

3719 Section 52. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
3720 1010.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3721 1010.20 Cost accounting and reporting for school  
3722 districts.—

3723 (3) PROGRAM EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS.—



420138

3724 (a) Each district shall expend at least the percent of the  
3725 funds generated by each of the programs listed in this section  
3726 on the aggregate total school costs for such programs:

3727 1. Kindergarten and grades 1, 2, and 3, 90 percent.

3728 2. Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, 80 percent.

3729 3. Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, 80 percent.

3730 4. Programs for exceptional students, on an aggregate  
3731 program basis, 90 percent.

3732 5. Grades 7 through 12 career education programs, on an  
3733 aggregate program basis, 80 percent.

3734 6. Students-at-risk programs, on an aggregate program  
3735 basis, 80 percent.

3736 7. Juvenile justice programs, on an aggregate program  
3737 basis, 95 ~~90~~ percent.

3738 8. Any new program established and funded under s.  
3739 1011.62(1)(c), that is not included under subparagraphs 1.-7.,  
3740 on an aggregate basis as appropriate, 80 percent.

3741 Section 53. Subsection (3) of section 1011.48, Florida  
3742 Statutes, is amended to read:

3743 1011.48 Establishment of educational research centers for  
3744 child development.—

3745 (3) Each center is authorized to charge fees for the care  
3746 and services it provides, subject to the fees authorized by s.  
3747 1009.24(14). ~~Such fees must be approved by the Board of~~  
3748 ~~Governors and may be imposed on a sliding scale based on ability~~  
3749 ~~to pay or any other factors deemed relevant by the board.~~

3750 Section 54. Subsections (11) through (14) of section  
3751 1011.62, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as (10) through (13),  
3752 respectively, subsections (16) through (19) are renumbered as



3753 subsections (14) through (17), respectively, and paragraph (s)  
3754 of subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (4), paragraphs  
3755 (b) and (d) of subsection (6), paragraphs (a) and (b) of  
3756 subsection (7), subsection (8), subsection (10), and present  
3757 subsections (12) and (15) of that section are amended, to read:

3758       1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual  
3759 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
3760 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
3761 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
3762 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
3763 follows:

3764       (1) COMPUTATION OF THE BASIC AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR  
3765 OPERATION.—The following procedure shall be followed in  
3766 determining the annual allocation to each district for  
3767 operation:

3768       (s) *Determination of the basic amount for current*  
3769 *operation.*—The basic amount for current operation to be included  
3770 in the Florida Education Finance Program for kindergarten  
3771 through grade 12 for each district shall be the product of the  
3772 following:

3773       1. The full-time equivalent student membership in each  
3774 program, multiplied by

3775       2. The cost factor for each program, adjusted for the  
3776 maximum as provided by paragraph (c), multiplied by

3777       3. The district cost differential, multiplied by

3778       4.3. The base student allocation.

3779       (4) COMPUTATION OF DISTRICT REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT.—The  
3780 Legislature shall prescribe the aggregate required local effort  
3781 for all school districts collectively as an item in the General



420138

3782 Appropriations Act for each fiscal year. The amount that each  
3783 district shall provide annually toward the cost of the Florida  
3784 Education Finance Program for kindergarten through grade 12  
3785 programs shall be calculated as follows:

3786 (a) *Estimated taxable value calculations.*—

3787 1.a. Not later than 2 working days before July 19, the  
3788 Department of Revenue shall certify to the Commissioner of  
3789 Education its most recent estimate of the taxable value for  
3790 school purposes in each school district and the total for all  
3791 school districts in the state for the current calendar year  
3792 based on the latest available data obtained from the local  
3793 property appraisers. The value certified shall be the taxable  
3794 value for school purposes for that year, and no further  
3795 adjustments shall be made, except those made pursuant to  
3796 paragraphs (c) and (d), or an assessment roll change required by  
3797 final judicial decisions as specified in paragraph (15) (b)  
3798 ~~(17) (b)~~. Not later than July 19, the Commissioner of Education  
3799 shall compute a millage rate, rounded to the next highest one  
3800 one-thousandth of a mill, which, when applied to 96 percent of  
3801 the estimated state total taxable value for school purposes,  
3802 would generate the prescribed aggregate required local effort  
3803 for that year for all districts. The Commissioner of Education  
3804 shall certify to each district school board the millage rate,  
3805 computed as prescribed in this subparagraph, as the minimum  
3806 millage rate necessary to provide the district required local  
3807 effort for that year.

3808 b. The General Appropriations Act shall direct the  
3809 computation of the statewide adjusted aggregate amount for  
3810 required local effort for all school districts collectively from



3811 ad valorem taxes to ensure that no school district's revenue  
3812 from required local effort millage will produce more than 90  
3813 percent of the district's total Florida Education Finance  
3814 Program calculation as calculated and adopted by the  
3815 Legislature, and the adjustment of the required local effort  
3816 millage rate of each district that produces more than 90 percent  
3817 of its total Florida Education Finance Program entitlement to a  
3818 level that will produce only 90 percent of its total Florida  
3819 Education Finance Program entitlement in the July calculation.

3820 2. On the same date as the certification in sub-  
3821 subparagraph 1.a., the Department of Revenue shall certify to  
3822 the Commissioner of Education for each district:

3823 a. Each year for which the property appraiser has certified  
3824 the taxable value pursuant to s. 193.122(2) or (3), if  
3825 applicable, since the prior certification under sub-subparagraph  
3826 1.a.

3827 b. For each year identified in sub-subparagraph a., the  
3828 taxable value certified by the appraiser pursuant to s.  
3829 193.122(2) or (3), if applicable, since the prior certification  
3830 under sub-subparagraph 1.a. This is the certification that  
3831 reflects all final administrative actions of the value  
3832 adjustment board.

3833 (6) CATEGORICAL FUNDS.—

3834 (b) If a district school board finds and declares in a  
3835 resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the school board that  
3836 the funds received for any of the following categorical  
3837 appropriations are urgently needed to maintain school board  
3838 specified academic classroom instruction or improve school  
3839 safety, the school board may consider and approve an amendment



420138

3840 to the school district operating budget transferring the  
3841 identified amount of the categorical funds to the appropriate  
3842 account for expenditure:

3843 1. Funds for student transportation.

3844 2. ~~Funds for evidence-based reading instruction if the~~  
3845 ~~required additional hour of instruction beyond the normal school~~  
3846 ~~day for each day of the entire school year has been provided for~~  
3847 ~~the students in each low-performing elementary school in the~~  
3848 ~~district pursuant to paragraph (8) (a).~~

3849 3. Funds for instructional materials if all instructional  
3850 material purchases necessary to provide updated materials that  
3851 are aligned with applicable state standards and course  
3852 descriptions and that meet statutory requirements of content and  
3853 learning have been completed for that fiscal year, but no sooner  
3854 than March 1. Funds available after March 1 may be used to  
3855 purchase computers and device hardware for student instruction  
3856 that comply with the requirements of s. 1001.20 (4) (a) 1.b.

3857 3.4. Funds for the guaranteed allocation as provided in  
3858 subparagraph (1) (e) 2.

3859 4.5. Funds for the supplemental academic instruction  
3860 allocation as provided in paragraph (1) (f).

3861 ~~6. Funds for the Florida digital classrooms allocation as~~  
3862 ~~provided in subsection (10).~~

3863 5.7. Funds for the federally connected student supplement  
3864 as provided in subsection (10) ~~(11)~~.

3865 6.8. Funds for class size reduction as provided in s.  
3866 1011.685.

3867 ~~(d) If a district school board transfers funds from its~~  
3868 ~~evidence-based reading instruction allocation, the board must~~



420138

3869 ~~also submit to the Department of Education an amendment~~  
3870 ~~describing the changes that the district is making to its~~  
3871 ~~reading plan approved pursuant to paragraph (8)(d).~~

3872 (7) DETERMINATION OF SPARSITY SUPPLEMENT.—

3873 (a) Annually, in an amount to be determined by the  
3874 Legislature through the General Appropriations Act, there shall  
3875 be added to the basic amount for current operation of the FEFP  
3876 qualified districts a sparsity supplement which shall be  
3877 computed as follows:

3878  
3879

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sparsity Factor} = & \quad 1101.8918 & \quad - 0.1101 \\ & \quad 2700 + \text{district} \\ & \quad \text{sparsity} \\ & \quad \text{index} \end{aligned}$$

3880  
3881  
3882  
3883

3884 except that districts with a sparsity index of 1,000 or less  
3885 shall be computed as having a sparsity index of 1,000, and  
3886 districts having a sparsity index of 7,308 and above shall be  
3887 computed as having a sparsity factor of zero. A qualified  
3888 district's full-time equivalent student membership shall equal  
3889 or be less than that prescribed annually by the Legislature in  
3890 the appropriations act. The amount prescribed annually by the  
3891 Legislature shall be no less than 17,000, but no more than  
3892 30,000 ~~24,000~~.

3893 (b) The district sparsity index shall be computed by



420138

3894 dividing the total number of full-time equivalent students in  
3895 all programs in the district by the number of senior high school  
3896 centers in the district, not in excess of three, which centers  
3897 are approved as permanent centers by a survey made by the  
3898 Department of Education. For districts with a full-time  
3899 equivalent student membership of at least 20,000, but no more  
3900 than 30,000 ~~24,000~~, the index shall be computed by dividing the  
3901 total number of full-time equivalent students in all programs by  
3902 the number of permanent senior high school centers in the  
3903 district, not in excess of four.

3904 (8) EVIDENCE-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

3905 (a) The evidence-based reading instruction allocation is  
3906 created to provide comprehensive reading instruction to students  
3907 in prekindergarten ~~kindergarten~~ through grade 12, ~~including~~  
3908 ~~certain students who have completed the Voluntary~~  
3909 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program and who are at risk of being~~  
3910 ~~identified as having a substantial deficiency in early literacy~~  
3911 ~~skills under s. 1008.25(8)(c). Each school district that has one~~  
3912 ~~or more of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on~~  
3913 ~~a 3-year average of the state reading assessment data must use~~  
3914 ~~the school's portion of the allocation to provide an additional~~  
3915 ~~hour per day of intensive reading instruction for the students~~  
3916 ~~in each school. The additional hour may be provided within the~~  
3917 ~~school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a~~  
3918 ~~level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English~~  
3919 ~~Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may~~  
3920 ~~participate in the additional hour of instruction. Exceptional~~  
3921 ~~student education centers may not be included in the 300~~  
3922 ~~schools. The~~





420138

3923           (b) Intensive reading instruction for students who have  
3924 reading deficiencies must ~~delivered in this additional hour~~  
3925 ~~shall include~~ evidence-based reading instruction ~~that has been~~  
3926 proven to accelerate progress of students exhibiting a reading  
3927 deficiency; differentiated instruction based on screening,  
3928 diagnostic, progress monitoring, or student assessment data to  
3929 meet students' specific reading needs; explicit and systematic  
3930 reading strategies to develop phonemic awareness, phonics,  
3931 fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, with more extensive  
3932 opportunities for guided practice, error correction, and  
3933 feedback; and the coordinated integration of civic literacy,  
3934 science, and mathematics-text reading, text discussion, and  
3935 writing in response to reading.

3936           (c) ~~(b)~~ Funds for comprehensive, evidence-based reading  
3937 instruction shall be allocated annually to each school district  
3938 in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each  
3939 eligible school district shall receive the same minimum amount  
3940 as specified in the General Appropriations Act, and any  
3941 remaining funds shall be distributed to eligible school  
3942 districts based on each school district's proportionate share of  
3943 K-12 base funding.

3944           (d) ~~(e)~~ Funds allocated under this subsection must be used  
3945 to provide a system of comprehensive reading instruction to  
3946 students enrolled in the prekindergarten-12 ~~K-12~~ programs and  
3947 certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early  
3948 literacy ~~and completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education~~  
3949 ~~Program pursuant to s. 1008.25(5)(b)~~, which may include the  
3950 following:

3951           1. Additional time ~~An additional hour~~ per day of evidence-



420138

3952 based intensive reading instruction to students, which may be  
3953 delivered during or outside of the regular school day in the 300  
3954 lowest performing elementary schools by teachers and reading  
3955 specialists who have demonstrated effectiveness in teaching  
3956 reading as required in paragraph (a).

3957 2. Kindergarten through grade 12 ~~5~~ evidence-based intensive  
3958 reading interventions ~~provided by reading intervention teachers~~  
3959 ~~during the school day and in the required extra hour for~~  
3960 ~~students identified as having a substantial reading deficiency.~~

3961 3. Highly qualified reading coaches, who must be endorsed  
3962 in reading, to specifically support teachers in making  
3963 instructional decisions based on student data, and improve  
3964 teacher delivery of effective reading instruction, intervention,  
3965 and reading in the content areas based on student need.

3966 4. Professional development ~~for school district teachers in~~  
3967 ~~scientifically researched and evidence-based reading~~  
3968 ~~instruction, including strategies to teach reading in content~~  
3969 ~~areas and with an emphasis on technical and informational text,~~  
3970 to help instructional personnel and certified prekindergarten  
3971 teachers funded in the Florida Education Finance Program school  
3972 district teachers earn a certification, a credential, ~~or~~ an  
3973 endorsement, or an advanced degree in scientifically researched  
3974 and evidence-based reading instruction.

3975 5. Summer reading camps, using only teachers or other  
3976 district personnel who possess a micro-credential as specified  
3977 in s. 1003.485 or are certified or endorsed in reading  
3978 consistent with s. 1008.25(7)(b)3., for all students in  
3979 kindergarten through grade 5 ~~2~~ who demonstrate a reading  
3980 deficiency as determined by district and state assessments.



420138

3981 ~~students in grades 3 through 5 who score at Level 1 on the~~  
3982 ~~statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment, and~~  
3983 ~~certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early~~  
3984 ~~literacy and completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education~~  
3985 ~~Program under s. 1008.25(5)(b).~~

3986         6. Scientifically researched and evidence-based  
3987 supplemental instructional materials as identified by the Just  
3988 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

3989         7. Incentives for instructional personnel and certified  
3990 prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida Education Finance  
3991 Program who possess a reading certification or endorsement or  
3992 micro-credential as specified in s. 1003.485 and provide  
3993 educational support to improve student literacy ~~Evidence-based~~  
3994 ~~intensive reading interventions for students in kindergarten~~  
3995 ~~through grade 12 who have been identified as having a~~  
3996 ~~substantial reading deficiency or who are reading below grade~~  
3997 ~~level as determined by the statewide, standardized English~~  
3998 ~~Language Arts assessment or for certain students who exhibit a~~  
3999 ~~substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed the~~  
4000 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under s.~~  
4001 ~~1008.25(5)(b).~~

4002         8. Tutoring in reading.

4003         (e)1.(d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department  
4004 of Education ~~but before May 1, each school district districts~~  
4005 shall submit a comprehensive reading plan approved by the  
4006 applicable district school board, charter school governing  
4007 board, or lab school board of trustees, for the specific use of  
4008 the evidence-based reading instruction allocation, based upon a  
4009 root-cause analysis. The State Regional Literacy Director may



4010 assist in the development of the plan in the format prescribed  
4011 by the department for review and approval by the Just Read,  
4012 Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan format  
4013 shall be developed with input from school district personnel,  
4014 including teachers and principals, and shall provide for  
4015 intensive reading interventions identified through a root-cause  
4016 analysis of student performance data and reflection tool  
4017 developed by the department to evaluate the effectiveness of  
4018 interventions implemented in the prior year. The department  
4019 shall provide a plan format. A district school board may use the  
4020 format developed by the department or a format developed by the  
4021 district school board.

4022 2. Intensive reading interventions must be delivered by  
4023 instructional personnel who possess the micro-credential as  
4024 provided in s. 1003.485 or are certified or endorsed in reading  
4025 and must incorporate evidence-based strategies identified by the  
4026 Just Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

4027 Instructional personnel who possess a micro-credential as  
4028 specified in s. 1003.485 and are delivering intensive reading  
4029 interventions must be supervised by an individual certified or  
4030 endorsed in reading. For the purposes of this subsection, the  
4031 term "supervision" means the ability to communicate by way of  
4032 telecommunication with or physical presence of the certified or  
4033 endorsed personnel for consultation and direction of the actions  
4034 of the personnel with the micro-credential.

4035 3.2. By July 1 of each year, the department shall release  
4036 to each school district with an approved plan its allocation of  
4037 appropriated funds. If a school district and the Just Read,  
4038 Florida! Office cannot reach agreement on the contents of the



420138

4039 ~~plan, the school district may appeal to the State Board of~~  
4040 ~~Education for resolution. School districts shall be allowed~~  
4041 ~~reasonable flexibility in designing their plans and shall be~~  
4042 ~~encouraged to offer reading intervention through innovative~~  
4043 ~~methods, including career academies. The department shall~~  
4044 ~~withhold funds upon a determination that reading instruction~~  
4045 ~~allocation funds are not being used to implement the approved~~  
4046 ~~plan.~~ The department shall evaluate the implementation of each  
4047 district plan, including conducting site visits and collecting  
4048 specific data on expenditures and reading improvement results.  
4049 By February 1 of each year, the department shall report its  
4050 findings to the Legislature and the State Board of Education,  
4051 including any recommendations for improving implementation of  
4052 evidence-based reading and intervention strategies in  
4053 classrooms.

4054 ~~3. Each school district that has a school designated as one~~  
4055 ~~of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified in~~  
4056 ~~paragraph (a) shall specifically delineate in the comprehensive~~  
4057 ~~reading plan, or in an addendum to the comprehensive reading~~  
4058 ~~plan, the implementation design and reading intervention~~  
4059 ~~strategies that will be used for the required additional hour of~~  
4060 ~~reading instruction. The term "reading intervention" includes~~  
4061 ~~evidence-based strategies frequently used to remediate reading~~  
4062 ~~deficiencies and also includes individual instruction, tutoring,~~  
4063 ~~mentoring, or the use of technology that targets specific~~  
4064 ~~reading skills and abilities.~~

4065  
4066 For purposes of this subsection, the term "evidence-based" means  
4067 demonstrating a statistically significant effect on improving



420138

4068 student outcomes or other relevant outcomes as provided in 20  
4069 U.S.C. s. 8101(21) (A) (i).

4070 ~~(10) FLORIDA DIGITAL CLASSROOMS ALLOCATION.—~~

4071 ~~(a) The Florida digital classrooms allocation is created to~~  
4072 ~~support the efforts of school districts and schools, including~~  
4073 ~~charter schools, to integrate technology in classroom teaching~~  
4074 ~~and learning to ensure students have access to high-quality~~  
4075 ~~electronic and digital instructional materials and resources,~~  
4076 ~~and empower classroom teachers to help their students succeed.~~  
4077 ~~Each school district shall receive a minimum digital classrooms~~  
4078 ~~allocation in the amount provided in the General Appropriations~~  
4079 ~~Act. The remaining balance of the digital classrooms allocation~~  
4080 ~~shall be allocated based on each school district's proportionate~~  
4081 ~~share of the state's total unweighted full-time equivalent~~  
4082 ~~student enrollment.~~

4083 ~~(b) Funds allocated under this subsection must be used for~~  
4084 ~~costs associated with:~~

4085 ~~1. Acquiring and maintaining the items on the eligible~~  
4086 ~~services list authorized by the Universal Service Administrative~~  
4087 ~~Company for the Schools and Libraries Program, more commonly~~  
4088 ~~referred to as the federal E-rate program.~~

4089 ~~2. Acquiring computer and device hardware and associated~~  
4090 ~~operating system software that comply with the requirements of~~  
4091 ~~s. 1001.20(4)(a)1.b.~~

4092 ~~3. Providing professional development, including in-state~~  
4093 ~~conference attendance or online coursework, to enhance the use~~  
4094 ~~of technology for digital instructional strategies.~~

4095 ~~(11)-(12) QUALITY ASSURANCE GUARANTEE.—~~The Legislature may  
4096 annually in the General Appropriations Act determine a



420138

4097 percentage increase in funds per K-12 unweighted FTE as a  
4098 minimum guarantee to each school district. The guarantee shall  
4099 be calculated from prior year base funding per unweighted FTE  
4100 student which shall include the adjusted FTE dollars as provided  
4101 in subsection (15) ~~(17)~~, quality guarantee funds, and actual  
4102 nonvoted discretionary local effort from taxes. From the base  
4103 funding per unweighted FTE, the increase shall be calculated for  
4104 the current year. The current year funds from which the  
4105 guarantee shall be determined shall include the adjusted FTE  
4106 dollars as provided in subsection (15) ~~(17)~~ and potential  
4107 nonvoted discretionary local effort from taxes. A comparison of  
4108 current year funds per unweighted FTE to prior year funds per  
4109 unweighted FTE shall be computed. For those school districts  
4110 which have less than the legislatively assigned percentage  
4111 increase, funds shall be provided to guarantee the assigned  
4112 percentage increase in funds per unweighted FTE student. Should  
4113 appropriated funds be less than the sum of this calculated  
4114 amount for all districts, the commissioner shall prorate each  
4115 district's allocation. This provision shall be implemented to  
4116 the extent specifically funded.

4117 ~~(15) FUNDING COMPRESSION AND HOLD HARMLESS ALLOCATION. The~~  
4118 ~~Legislature may provide an annual funding compression and hold~~  
4119 ~~harmless allocation in the General Appropriations Act. The~~  
4120 ~~allocation is created to provide additional funding to school~~  
4121 ~~districts if the school district's total funds per FTE in the~~  
4122 ~~prior year were less than the statewide average or if the school~~  
4123 ~~district's district cost differential in the current year is~~  
4124 ~~less than the prior year. The total allocation shall be~~  
4125 ~~distributed to eligible school districts as follows:~~



420138

4126 ~~(a) Using the most recent prior year FEFP calculation for~~  
4127 ~~each eligible school district, subtract the total school~~  
4128 ~~district funds per FTE from the state average funds per FTE, not~~  
4129 ~~including any adjustments made pursuant to paragraph (17)(b).~~  
4130 ~~The resulting funds per FTE difference, or a portion thereof, as~~  
4131 ~~designated in the General Appropriations Act, shall then be~~  
4132 ~~multiplied by the school district's total unweighted FTE.~~

4133 ~~(b) Multiply the absolute value of the difference between~~  
4134 ~~the eligible school district's current year district cost~~  
4135 ~~differential and the prior year district cost differential by a~~  
4136 ~~hold harmless factor as designated in the General Appropriations~~  
4137 ~~Act. The result is the district cost differential hold harmless~~  
4138 ~~index. Multiply the index by the eligible school district's~~  
4139 ~~weighted FTE and by the base student allocation as designated in~~  
4140 ~~the General Appropriations Act.~~

4141 ~~(c) For each district, select the greater of the amounts~~  
4142 ~~calculated in paragraphs (a) and (b) and upon summation, if the~~  
4143 ~~total amount is greater than the amount included in the General~~  
4144 ~~Appropriations Act, the allocation shall be prorated to the~~  
4145 ~~appropriation amount based on each participating school~~  
4146 ~~district's share.~~

4147  
4148 ~~This subsection expires July 1, 2022.~~

4149 Section 55. Subsection (5) of section 1011.68, Florida  
4150 Statutes, is amended to read:

4151 1011.68 Funds for student transportation.—The annual  
4152 allocation to each district for transportation to public school  
4153 programs, including charter schools as provided in s.  
4154 1002.33(17)(b), of students in membership in kindergarten





420138

4155 through grade 12 and in migrant and exceptional student programs  
4156 below kindergarten shall be determined as follows:

4157 (5) Funds allocated or apportioned for the payment of  
4158 student transportation services may be used to pay for  
4159 transportation of students to and from school on local general  
4160 purpose transportation systems. Student transportation funds may  
4161 also be used to pay for transportation of students to and from  
4162 school in private passenger cars and boats when ~~the~~  
4163 transportation on a school bus is impractical or when the  
4164 transportation is for isolated students, or students with  
4165 disabilities, or to support parents or carpools, as defined by  
4166 rule. Subject to the rules of the State Board of Education, each  
4167 school district shall determine and report the number of  
4168 assigned students using general purpose transportation private  
4169 passenger cars and boats. The allocation per student must be  
4170 equal to the allocation per student riding a school bus.

4171 Section 56. Subsection (1) of section 1011.71, Florida  
4172 Statutes, is amended to read:

4173 1011.71 District school tax.—

4174 (1) If the district school tax is not provided in the  
4175 General Appropriations Act or the substantive bill implementing  
4176 the General Appropriations Act, each district school board  
4177 desiring to participate in the state allocation of funds for  
4178 current operation as prescribed by s. 1011.62(15) ~~s. 1011.62(17)~~  
4179 shall levy on the taxable value for school purposes of the  
4180 district, exclusive of millage voted under s. 9(b) or s. 12,  
4181 Art. VII of the State Constitution, a millage rate not to exceed  
4182 the amount certified by the commissioner as the minimum millage  
4183 rate necessary to provide the district required local effort for



420138

4184 the current year, pursuant to s. 1011.62(4)(a)1. In addition to  
4185 the required local effort millage levy, each district school  
4186 board may levy a nonvoted current operating discretionary  
4187 millage. The Legislature shall prescribe annually in the  
4188 appropriations act the maximum amount of millage a district may  
4189 levy.

4190 Section 57. Effective upon this act becoming a law,  
4191 paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 1012.22, Florida  
4192 Statutes, is amended to read:

4193 1012.22 Public school personnel; powers and duties of the  
4194 district school board.—The district school board shall:

4195 (1) Designate positions to be filled, prescribe  
4196 qualifications for those positions, and provide for the  
4197 appointment, compensation, promotion, suspension, and dismissal  
4198 of employees as follows, subject to the requirements of this  
4199 chapter:

4200 (c) *Compensation and salary schedules.*—

4201 1. Definitions.—As used in this paragraph:

4202 a. "Adjustment" means an addition to the base salary  
4203 schedule that is not a bonus and becomes part of the employee's  
4204 permanent base salary and shall be considered compensation under  
4205 s. 121.021(22).

4206 b. "Grandfathered salary schedule" means the salary  
4207 schedule or schedules adopted by a district school board before  
4208 July 1, 2014, pursuant to subparagraph 4.

4209 c. "Instructional personnel" means instructional personnel  
4210 as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(a)-(d), excluding substitute  
4211 teachers.

4212 d. "Performance salary schedule" means the salary schedule



420138

4213 or schedules adopted by a district school board pursuant to  
4214 subparagraph 5.

4215 e. "Salary schedule" means the schedule or schedules used  
4216 to provide the base salary for district school board personnel.

4217 f. "School administrator" means a school administrator as  
4218 defined in s. 1012.01(3)(c).

4219 g. "Supplement" means an annual addition to the base salary  
4220 for the term of the negotiated supplement as long as the  
4221 employee continues his or her employment for the purpose of the  
4222 supplement. A supplement does not become part of the employee's  
4223 continuing base salary but shall be considered compensation  
4224 under s. 121.021(22).

4225 2. Cost-of-living adjustment.—A district school board may  
4226 provide a cost-of-living salary adjustment if the adjustment:

4227 a. Does not discriminate among comparable classes of  
4228 employees based upon the salary schedule under which they are  
4229 compensated.

4230 b. Does not exceed 50 percent of the annual adjustment  
4231 provided to instructional personnel rated as effective.

4232 3. Advanced degrees.—A district school board may not use  
4233 advanced degrees in setting a salary schedule for instructional  
4234 personnel or school administrators hired on or after July 1,  
4235 2011, unless the advanced degree is held in the individual's  
4236 area of certification and is only a salary supplement.

4237 4. Grandfathered salary schedule.—

4238 a. The district school board shall adopt a salary schedule  
4239 or salary schedules to be used as the basis for paying all  
4240 school employees hired before July 1, 2014. Instructional  
4241 personnel on annual contract as of July 1, 2014, shall be placed



4242 on the performance salary schedule adopted under subparagraph 5.  
4243 Instructional personnel on continuing contract or professional  
4244 service contract may opt into the performance salary schedule if  
4245 the employee relinquishes such contract and agrees to be  
4246 employed on an annual contract under s. 1012.335. Such an  
4247 employee shall be placed on the performance salary schedule and  
4248 may not return to continuing contract or professional service  
4249 contract status. Any employee who opts into the performance  
4250 salary schedule may not return to the grandfathered salary  
4251 schedule.

4252       b. In determining the grandfathered salary schedule for  
4253 instructional personnel, a district school board must base a  
4254 portion of each employee's compensation upon performance  
4255 demonstrated under s. 1012.34 and shall provide differentiated  
4256 pay for both instructional personnel and school administrators  
4257 based upon district-determined factors, including, but not  
4258 limited to, additional responsibilities, school demographics,  
4259 critical shortage areas, and level of job performance  
4260 difficulties.

4261       5. Performance salary schedule.—By July 1, 2014, the  
4262 district school board shall adopt a performance salary schedule  
4263 that provides annual salary adjustments for instructional  
4264 personnel and school administrators based upon performance  
4265 determined under s. 1012.34. Employees hired on or after July 1,  
4266 2014, or employees who choose to move from the grandfathered  
4267 salary schedule to the performance salary schedule shall be  
4268 compensated pursuant to the performance salary schedule once  
4269 they have received the appropriate performance evaluation for  
4270 this purpose.



420138

4271           a. Base salary.—The base salary shall be established as  
4272 follows:

4273           (I) The base salary for instructional personnel or school  
4274 administrators who opt into the performance salary schedule  
4275 shall be the salary paid in the prior year, including  
4276 adjustments only.

4277           (II) Instructional personnel or school administrators new  
4278 to the district, returning to the district after a break in  
4279 service without an authorized leave of absence, or appointed for  
4280 the first time to a position in the district in the capacity of  
4281 instructional personnel or school administrator shall be placed  
4282 on the performance salary schedule. Beginning July 1, 2021, and  
4283 until such time as the minimum base salary as defined in s.  
4284 1011.62(14) ~~s. 1011.62(16)~~ equals or exceeds \$47,500, the annual  
4285 increase to the minimum base salary shall not be less than 150  
4286 percent of the largest adjustment made to the salary of an  
4287 employee on the grandfathered salary schedule. Thereafter, the  
4288 annual increase to the minimum base salary shall not be less  
4289 than 75 percent of the largest adjustment for an employee on the  
4290 grandfathered salary schedule.

4291           b. Salary adjustments.—Salary adjustments for highly  
4292 effective or effective performance shall be established as  
4293 follows:

4294           (I) The annual salary adjustment under the performance  
4295 salary schedule for an employee rated as highly effective must  
4296 be at least 25 percent greater than the highest annual salary  
4297 adjustment available to an employee of the same classification  
4298 through any other salary schedule adopted by the district.

4299           (II) The annual salary adjustment under the performance



420138

4300 salary schedule for an employee rated as effective must be equal  
4301 to at least 50 percent and no more than 75 percent of the annual  
4302 adjustment provided for a highly effective employee of the same  
4303 classification.

4304 (III) A salary schedule shall not provide an annual salary  
4305 adjustment for an employee who receives a rating other than  
4306 highly effective or effective for the year.

4307 c. Salary supplements.—In addition to the salary  
4308 adjustments, each district school board shall provide for salary  
4309 supplements for activities that must include, but are not  
4310 limited to:

4311 (I) Assignment to a Title I eligible school.

4312 (II) Assignment to a school that earned a grade of "F" or  
4313 three consecutive grades of "D" pursuant to s. 1008.34 such that  
4314 the supplement remains in force for at least 1 year following  
4315 improved performance in that school.

4316 (III) Certification and teaching in critical teacher  
4317 shortage areas. Statewide critical teacher shortage areas shall  
4318 be identified by the State Board of Education under s. 1012.07.  
4319 However, the district school board may identify other areas of  
4320 critical shortage within the school district for purposes of  
4321 this sub-sub-subparagraph and may remove areas identified by the  
4322 state board which do not apply within the school district.

4323 (IV) Assignment of additional academic responsibilities.

4324

4325 If budget constraints in any given year limit a district school  
4326 board's ability to fully fund all adopted salary schedules, the  
4327 performance salary schedule shall not be reduced on the basis of  
4328 total cost or the value of individual awards in a manner that is



420138

4329 proportionally greater than reductions to any other salary  
4330 schedules adopted by the district. Any compensation for  
4331 longevity of service awarded to instructional personnel who are  
4332 on any other salary schedule must be included in calculating the  
4333 salary adjustments required by sub-subparagraph b.

4334 Section 58. Effective January 1, 2023, section 1012.315,  
4335 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4336 1012.315 Screening standards.—A person is ineligible for  
4337 educator certification or employment in any position that  
4338 requires direct contact with students in a district school  
4339 system, a charter school, or a private school that participates  
4340 in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002 if the person  
4341 is on the disqualification list maintained by the department  
4342 pursuant to s. 1001.10(4)(b), is registered as a sex offender as  
4343 described in 42 U.S.C. s. 9858f(c)(1)(C), would be ineligible  
4344 for an exemption under s. 435.07(4)(c), or has been convicted or  
4345 found guilty of, has had adjudication withheld for, or has pled  
4346 guilty or nolo contendere to:

4347 (1) Any felony offense prohibited under any of the  
4348 following statutes:

4349 (a) Section 393.135, relating to sexual misconduct with  
4350 certain developmentally disabled clients and reporting of such  
4351 sexual misconduct.

4352 (b) Section 394.4593, relating to sexual misconduct with  
4353 certain mental health patients and reporting of such sexual  
4354 misconduct.

4355 (c) Section 415.111, relating to adult abuse, neglect, or  
4356 exploitation of aged persons or disabled adults.

4357 (d) Section 782.04, relating to murder.



420138

4358 (e) Section 782.07, relating to manslaughter, aggravated  
4359 manslaughter of an elderly person or disabled adult, aggravated  
4360 manslaughter of a child, or aggravated manslaughter of an  
4361 officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a  
4362 paramedic.

4363 (f) Section 784.021, relating to aggravated assault.

4364 (g) Section 784.045, relating to aggravated battery.

4365 (h) Section 784.075, relating to battery on a detention or  
4366 commitment facility staff member or a juvenile probation  
4367 officer.

4368 (i) Section 787.01, relating to kidnapping.

4369 (j) Section 787.02, relating to false imprisonment.

4370 (k) Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a  
4371 child.

4372 (l) Section 787.04(2), relating to leading, taking,  
4373 enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or  
4374 concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending  
4375 custody proceedings.

4376 (m) Section 787.04(3), relating to leading, taking,  
4377 enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or  
4378 concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending  
4379 dependency proceedings or proceedings concerning alleged abuse  
4380 or neglect of a minor.

4381 (n) Section 790.115(1), relating to exhibiting firearms or  
4382 weapons at a school-sponsored event, on school property, or  
4383 within 1,000 feet of a school.

4384 (o) Section 790.115(2)(b), relating to possessing an  
4385 electric weapon or device, destructive device, or other weapon  
4386 at a school-sponsored event or on school property.





420138

- 4387 (p) Section 794.011, relating to sexual battery.
- 4388 (q) Former s. 794.041, relating to sexual activity with or
- 4389 solicitation of a child by a person in familial or custodial
- 4390 authority.
- 4391 (r) Section 794.05, relating to unlawful sexual activity
- 4392 with certain minors.
- 4393 (s) Section 794.08, relating to female genital mutilation.
- 4394 (t) Chapter 796, relating to prostitution.
- 4395 (u) Chapter 800, relating to lewdness and indecent
- 4396 exposure.
- 4397 (v) Section 800.101, relating to offenses against students
- 4398 by authority figures.
- 4399 (w) Section 806.01, relating to arson.
- 4400 (x) Section 810.14, relating to voyeurism.
- 4401 (y) Section 810.145, relating to video voyeurism.
- 4402 (z) Section 812.014(6), relating to coordinating the
- 4403 commission of theft in excess of \$3,000.
- 4404 (aa) Section 812.0145, relating to theft from persons 65
- 4405 years of age or older.
- 4406 (bb) Section 812.019, relating to dealing in stolen
- 4407 property.
- 4408 (cc) Section 812.13, relating to robbery.
- 4409 (dd) Section 812.131, relating to robbery by sudden
- 4410 snatching.
- 4411 (ee) Section 812.133, relating to carjacking.
- 4412 (ff) Section 812.135, relating to home-invasion robbery.
- 4413 (gg) Section 817.563, relating to fraudulent sale of
- 4414 controlled substances.
- 4415 (hh) Section 825.102, relating to abuse, aggravated abuse,



420138

4416 or neglect of an elderly person or disabled adult.  
4417 (ii) Section 825.103, relating to exploitation of an  
4418 elderly person or disabled adult.  
4419 (jj) Section 825.1025, relating to lewd or lascivious  
4420 offenses committed upon or in the presence of an elderly person  
4421 or disabled person.  
4422 (kk) Section 826.04, relating to incest.  
4423 (ll) Section 827.03, relating to child abuse, aggravated  
4424 child abuse, or neglect of a child.  
4425 (mm) Section 827.04, relating to contributing to the  
4426 delinquency or dependency of a child.  
4427 (nn) Section 827.071, relating to sexual performance by a  
4428 child.  
4429 (oo) Section 843.01, relating to resisting arrest with  
4430 violence.  
4431 (pp) Chapter 847, relating to obscenity.  
4432 (qq) Section 874.05, relating to causing, encouraging,  
4433 soliciting, or recruiting another to join a criminal street  
4434 gang.  
4435 (rr) Chapter 893, relating to drug abuse prevention and  
4436 control, if the offense was a felony of the second degree or  
4437 greater severity.  
4438 (ss) Section 916.1075, relating to sexual misconduct with  
4439 certain forensic clients and reporting of such sexual  
4440 misconduct.  
4441 (tt) Section 944.47, relating to introduction, removal, or  
4442 possession of contraband at a correctional facility.  
4443 (uu) Section 985.701, relating to sexual misconduct in  
4444 juvenile justice programs.



4445 (vv) Section 985.711, relating to introduction, removal, or  
4446 possession of contraband at a juvenile detention facility or  
4447 commitment program.

4448 (2) Any misdemeanor offense prohibited under any of the  
4449 following statutes:

4450 (a) Section 784.03, relating to battery, if the victim of  
4451 the offense was a minor.

4452 (b) Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a  
4453 child.

4454 (3) Any criminal act committed in another state or under  
4455 federal law which, if committed in this state, constitutes an  
4456 offense prohibited under any statute listed in subsection (1) or  
4457 subsection (2).

4458 (4) Any delinquent act committed in this state or any  
4459 delinquent or criminal act committed in another state or under  
4460 federal law which, if committed in this state, qualifies an  
4461 individual for inclusion on the Registered Juvenile Sex Offender  
4462 List under s. 943.0435(1)(h)1.d.

4463 Section 59. Effective January 1, 2023, subsections (2) and  
4464 (3) of section 1012.32, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

4465 1012.32 Qualifications of personnel.—

4466 (2)(a) Instructional and noninstructional personnel who are  
4467 hired or contracted to fill positions that require direct  
4468 contact with students in any district school system or  
4469 university lab school must, upon employment or engagement to  
4470 provide services, undergo background screening as required under  
4471 s. 1012.465 or s. 1012.56, whichever is applicable.

4472 (b)1. Instructional and noninstructional personnel who are  
4473 hired or contracted to fill positions in a charter school other



420138

4474 than a school of hope as defined in s. 1002.333, and members of  
4475 the governing board of such charter school, in compliance with  
4476 s. 1002.33(12)(g), upon employment, engagement of services, or  
4477 appointment, shall undergo background screening as required  
4478 under s. 1012.465 or s. 1012.56, whichever is applicable, ~~by~~  
4479 ~~filing with the district school board for the school district in~~  
4480 ~~which the charter school is located a complete set of~~  
4481 ~~fingerprints taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or an~~  
4482 ~~employee of the school or school district who is trained to take~~  
4483 ~~fingerprints.~~

4484 2. Instructional and noninstructional personnel who are  
4485 hired or contracted to fill positions in a school of hope as  
4486 defined in s. 1002.333, and members of the governing board of  
4487 such school of hope, upon employment, engagement of services, or  
4488 appointment, shall undergo background screening as required  
4489 under s. 1012.465 or s. 1012.56, whichever is applicable ~~file~~  
4490 ~~with the school of hope a complete set of fingerprints taken by~~  
4491 ~~an authorized law enforcement agency, by an employee of the~~  
4492 ~~school of hope or school district who is trained to take~~  
4493 ~~fingerprints, or by any other entity recognized by the~~  
4494 ~~Department of Law Enforcement to take fingerprints.~~

4495 (c) Instructional and noninstructional personnel who are  
4496 hired or contracted to fill positions that require direct  
4497 contact with students in an alternative school that operates  
4498 under contract with a district school system must, upon  
4499 employment or engagement to provide services, undergo background  
4500 screening as required under s. 1012.465 or s. 1012.56, whichever  
4501 is applicable, ~~by filing with the district school board for the~~  
4502 ~~school district to which the alternative school is under~~



420138

4503 ~~contract a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized~~  
4504 ~~law enforcement agency or an employee of the school or school~~  
4505 ~~district who is trained to take fingerprints.~~

4506 (d) Student teachers and persons participating in a field  
4507 experience pursuant to s. 1004.04(5) or s. 1004.85 in any  
4508 district school system, lab school, or charter school must, upon  
4509 engagement to provide services, undergo background screening as  
4510 required under s. 1012.56.

4511  
4512 ~~Required fingerprints must be submitted to the Department of Law~~  
4513 ~~Enforcement for statewide criminal and juvenile records checks~~  
4514 ~~and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for federal criminal~~  
4515 ~~records checks. A person subject to this subsection who is found~~  
4516 ~~ineligible for employment under s. 1012.315, or otherwise found~~  
4517 ~~through background screening to have been convicted of any crime~~  
4518 ~~involving moral turpitude as defined by rule of the State Board~~  
4519 ~~of Education, may ~~shall~~ not be employed, engaged to provide~~  
4520 ~~services, or serve in any position that requires direct contact~~  
4521 ~~with students. Probationary persons subject to this subsection~~  
4522 ~~terminated because of their criminal record have the right to~~  
4523 ~~appeal such decisions. The cost of the background screening may~~  
4524 ~~be borne by the employer ~~district school board, the charter~~~~  
4525 ~~school, the employee, the contractor, or a person subject to~~  
4526 ~~this subsection. A district school board shall reimburse a~~  
4527 ~~charter school the cost of background screening if it does not~~  
4528 ~~notify the charter school of the eligibility of a governing~~  
4529 ~~board member or instructional or noninstructional personnel~~  
4530 ~~within the earlier of 14 days after receipt of the background~~  
4531 ~~screening results from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement~~



420138

4532 ~~or 30 days of submission of fingerprints by the governing board~~  
4533 ~~member or instructional or noninstructional personnel.~~

4534 (3) A background screening required under this section  
4535 shall be conducted in accordance with s. 435.12.

4536 ~~(3)(a) All fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law~~  
4537 ~~Enforcement as required by subsection (2) shall be retained by~~  
4538 ~~the Department of Law Enforcement in a manner provided by rule~~  
4539 ~~and entered in the statewide automated biometric identification~~  
4540 ~~system authorized by s. 943.05(2)(b). Such fingerprints shall~~  
4541 ~~thereafter be available for all purposes and uses authorized for~~  
4542 ~~arrest fingerprints entered in the statewide automated biometric~~  
4543 ~~identification system pursuant to s. 943.051.~~

4544 ~~(b) The Department of Law Enforcement shall search all~~  
4545 ~~arrest fingerprints received under s. 943.051 against the~~  
4546 ~~fingerprints retained in the statewide automated biometric~~  
4547 ~~identification system under paragraph (a). Any arrest record~~  
4548 ~~that is identified with the retained fingerprints of a person~~  
4549 ~~subject to the background screening under this section shall be~~  
4550 ~~reported to the employing or contracting school district or the~~  
4551 ~~school district with which the person is affiliated. Each school~~  
4552 ~~district is required to participate in this search process by~~  
4553 ~~payment of an annual fee to the Department of Law Enforcement~~  
4554 ~~and by informing the Department of Law Enforcement of any change~~  
4555 ~~in the affiliation, employment, or contractual status or place~~  
4556 ~~of affiliation, employment, or contracting of its instructional~~  
4557 ~~and noninstructional personnel whose fingerprints are retained~~  
4558 ~~under paragraph (a). The Department of Law Enforcement shall~~  
4559 ~~adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed~~  
4560 ~~upon each school district for performing these searches and~~



420138

4561 ~~establishing the procedures for the retention of instructional~~  
4562 ~~and noninstructional personnel fingerprints and the~~  
4563 ~~dissemination of search results. The fee may be borne by the~~  
4564 ~~district school board, the contractor, or the person~~  
4565 ~~fingerprinted.~~

4566 ~~(c) Personnel whose fingerprints are not retained by the~~  
4567 ~~Department of Law Enforcement under paragraphs (a) and (b) must~~  
4568 ~~be refingerprinted and rescreened in accordance with subsection~~  
4569 ~~(2) upon reemployment or reengagement to provide services in~~  
4570 ~~order to comply with the requirements of this subsection.~~

4571 Section 60. The changes made to s. 1012.315, Florida  
4572 Statutes, by this act apply to individuals who are screened  
4573 after January 1, 2024.

4574 Section 61. Effective upon this act becoming a law,  
4575 paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1012.34, Florida  
4576 Statutes, is amended to read:

4577 1012.34 Personnel evaluation procedures and criteria.—

4578 (1) EVALUATION SYSTEM APPROVAL AND REPORTING.—

4579 (a) For the purpose of increasing student academic  
4580 performance by improving the quality of instructional,  
4581 administrative, and supervisory services in the public schools  
4582 of the state, the district school superintendent shall establish  
4583 procedures for evaluating the performance of duties and  
4584 responsibilities of all instructional, administrative, and  
4585 supervisory personnel employed by the school district. The  
4586 procedures established by the district school superintendent set  
4587 the standards of service to be offered to the public within the  
4588 meaning of s. 447.209 and are not subject to collective  
4589 bargaining. The district school superintendent shall provide



420138

4590 instructional personnel the opportunity to review their class  
4591 rosters for accuracy and to correct any mistakes. The district  
4592 school superintendent shall report accurate class rosters for  
4593 the purpose of calculating district and statewide student  
4594 performance and annually report the evaluation results of  
4595 instructional personnel and school administrators to the  
4596 Department of Education in addition to the information required  
4597 under subsection (5).

4598 Section 62. Effective January 1, 2023, section 1012.465,  
4599 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4600 1012.465 Background screening requirements for certain  
4601 noninstructional school district employees and contractors.—

4602 (1) Except as provided in s. 1012.467 or s. 1012.468,  
4603 noninstructional school district employees or contractual  
4604 personnel who are permitted access on school grounds when  
4605 students are present, who have direct contact with students or  
4606 who have access to or control of school funds must meet the  
4607 ~~level 2~~ screening requirements of ~~as described in~~ s. 1012.32.  
4608 Contractual personnel shall include any vendor, individual, or  
4609 entity under contract with a school or the school board.

4610 ~~(2) Every 5 years following employment or entry into a~~  
4611 ~~contract in a capacity described in subsection (1), each person~~  
4612 ~~who is so employed or under contract with the school district~~  
4613 ~~must meet level 2 screening requirements as described in s.~~  
4614 ~~1012.32, at which time the school district shall request the~~  
4615 ~~Department of Law Enforcement to forward the fingerprints to the~~  
4616 ~~Federal Bureau of Investigation for the level 2 screening. If,~~  
4617 ~~for any reason following employment or entry into a contract in~~  
4618 ~~a capacity described in subsection (1), the fingerprints of a~~





420138

4619 ~~person who is so employed or under contract with the school~~  
4620 ~~district are not retained by the Department of Law Enforcement~~  
4621 ~~under s. 1012.32(3)(a) and (b), the person must file a complete~~  
4622 ~~set of fingerprints with the district school superintendent of~~  
4623 ~~the employing or contracting school district. Upon submission of~~  
4624 ~~fingerprints for this purpose, the school district shall request~~  
4625 ~~the Department of Law Enforcement to forward the fingerprints to~~  
4626 ~~the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the level 2 screening,~~  
4627 ~~and the fingerprints shall be retained by the Department of Law~~  
4628 ~~Enforcement under s. 1012.32(3)(a) and (b). The cost of the~~  
4629 ~~state and federal criminal history check required by level 2~~  
4630 ~~screening may be borne by the district school board, the~~  
4631 ~~contractor, or the person fingerprinted. Under penalty of~~  
4632 ~~perjury, each person who is employed or under contract in a~~  
4633 ~~capacity described in subsection (1) must agree to inform his or~~  
4634 ~~her employer or the party with whom he or she is under contract~~  
4635 ~~within 48 hours if convicted of any disqualifying offense while~~  
4636 ~~he or she is employed or under contract in that capacity.~~

4637 (3) If it is found that a person who is employed or under  
4638 contract in a capacity described in subsection (1) does not meet  
4639 the screening level 2 requirements, the person shall be  
4640 immediately suspended from working in that capacity and shall  
4641 remain suspended until final resolution of any appeals.

4642 Section 63. Effective January 1, 2023, subsections (2)  
4643 through (7) of section 1012.467, Florida Statutes, are amended  
4644 to read:

4645 1012.467 Noninstructional contractors who are permitted  
4646 access to school grounds when students are present; background  
4647 screening requirements.-



420138

4648           (2) (a) A fingerprint-based criminal history check shall be  
4649 performed on each noninstructional contractor who is permitted  
4650 access to school grounds when students are present, whose  
4651 performance of the contract with the school or school board is  
4652 not anticipated to result in direct contact with students, and  
4653 for whom any unanticipated contact would be infrequent and  
4654 incidental using the process described in s. 1012.32(3).  
4655 ~~Criminal history checks shall be performed at least once every 5~~  
4656 ~~years. For the initial criminal history check, each~~  
4657 ~~noninstructional contractor who is subject to the criminal~~  
4658 ~~history check shall file with the Department of Law Enforcement~~  
4659 ~~a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized law~~  
4660 ~~enforcement agency or an employee of a school district, a public~~  
4661 ~~school, or a private company who is trained to take~~  
4662 ~~fingerprints. The fingerprints shall be electronically submitted~~  
4663 ~~for state processing to the Department of Law Enforcement, which~~  
4664 ~~shall in turn submit the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of~~  
4665 ~~Investigation for national processing. The results of each~~  
4666 criminal history check shall be reported to the school district  
4667 in which the individual is seeking access and entered into the  
4668 shared system described in subsection (7). The school district  
4669 shall screen the results using the disqualifying offenses in  
4670 paragraph (b) ~~(g)~~. The cost of the criminal history check may be  
4671 borne by the district school board, the school, or the  
4672 contractor. ~~A fee that is charged by a district school board for~~  
4673 ~~such checks may not exceed 30 percent of the total amount~~  
4674 ~~charged by the Department of Law Enforcement and the Federal~~  
4675 ~~Bureau of Investigation.~~  
4676           ~~(b) As authorized by law, the Department of Law Enforcement~~



420138

4677 ~~shall retain the fingerprints submitted by the school districts~~  
4678 ~~pursuant to this subsection to the Department of Law Enforcement~~  
4679 ~~for a criminal history background screening in a manner provided~~  
4680 ~~by rule and enter the fingerprints in the statewide automated~~  
4681 ~~biometric identification system authorized by s. 943.05(2)(b).~~  
4682 ~~The fingerprints shall thereafter be available for all purposes~~  
4683 ~~and uses authorized for arrest fingerprints entered into the~~  
4684 ~~statewide automated biometric identification system under s.~~  
4685 ~~943.051.~~

4686 ~~(c) As authorized by law, the Department of Law Enforcement~~  
4687 ~~shall search all arrest fingerprints received under s. 943.051~~  
4688 ~~against the fingerprints retained in the statewide automated~~  
4689 ~~biometric identification system under paragraph (b).~~

4690 ~~(d) School districts may participate in the search process~~  
4691 ~~described in this subsection by paying an annual fee to the~~  
4692 ~~Department of Law Enforcement.~~

4693 ~~(e) A fingerprint retained pursuant to this subsection~~  
4694 ~~shall be purged from the automated biometric identification~~  
4695 ~~system 5 years following the date the fingerprint was initially~~  
4696 ~~submitted. The Department of Law Enforcement shall set the~~  
4697 ~~amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon each participating~~  
4698 ~~agency for performing these searches and establishing the~~  
4699 ~~procedures for retaining fingerprints and disseminating search~~  
4700 ~~results. The fee may be borne as provided by law. Fees may be~~  
4701 ~~waived or reduced by the executive director of the Department of~~  
4702 ~~Law Enforcement for good cause shown.~~

4703 ~~(f) A noninstructional contractor who is subject to a~~  
4704 ~~criminal history check under this section shall inform a school~~  
4705 ~~district that he or she has completed a criminal history check~~



420138

4706 ~~in another school district within the last 5 years. The school~~  
4707 ~~district shall verify the results of the contractor's criminal~~  
4708 ~~history check using the shared system described in subsection~~  
4709 ~~(7). The school district may not charge the contractor a fee for~~  
4710 ~~verifying the results of his or her criminal history check.~~

4711 (b) ~~(g)~~ A noninstructional contractor for whom a criminal  
4712 history check is required under this section may not have been  
4713 convicted of any of the following offenses designated in the  
4714 Florida Statutes, any similar offense in another jurisdiction,  
4715 or any similar offense committed in this state which has been  
4716 redesignated from a former provision of the Florida Statutes to  
4717 one of the following offenses:

4718 1. Any offense listed in s. 943.0435(1)(h)1., relating to  
4719 the registration of an individual as a sexual offender.

4720 2. Section 393.135, relating to sexual misconduct with  
4721 certain developmentally disabled clients and the reporting of  
4722 such sexual misconduct.

4723 3. Section 394.4593, relating to sexual misconduct with  
4724 certain mental health patients and the reporting of such sexual  
4725 misconduct.

4726 4. Section 775.30, relating to terrorism.

4727 5. Section 782.04, relating to murder.

4728 6. Section 787.01, relating to kidnapping.

4729 7. Any offense under chapter 800, relating to lewdness and  
4730 indecent exposure.

4731 8. Section 826.04, relating to incest.

4732 9. Section 827.03, relating to child abuse, aggravated  
4733 child abuse, or neglect of a child.

4734 (3) If it is found that a noninstructional contractor has



420138

4735 been convicted of any of the offenses listed in paragraph (2) (b)  
4736 ~~(2) (g)~~, the individual shall be immediately suspended from  
4737 having access to school grounds and shall remain suspended  
4738 unless and until the conviction is set aside in any  
4739 postconviction proceeding.

4740 (4) A noninstructional contractor who has been convicted of  
4741 any of the offenses listed in paragraph (2) (b) ~~(2) (g)~~ may not be  
4742 permitted on school grounds when students are present unless the  
4743 contractor has received a full pardon or has had his or her  
4744 civil rights restored. A noninstructional contractor who is  
4745 present on school grounds in violation of this subsection  
4746 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in  
4747 s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

4748 (5) If a school district has reasonable cause to believe  
4749 that grounds exist for the denial of a contractor's access to  
4750 school grounds when students are present, it shall notify the  
4751 contractor in writing, stating the specific record that  
4752 indicates noncompliance with the standards set forth in this  
4753 section. It is the responsibility of the affected contractor to  
4754 contest his or her denial. The only basis for contesting the  
4755 denial is proof of mistaken identity or that an offense from  
4756 another jurisdiction is not disqualifying under paragraph (2) (b)  
4757 ~~(2) (g)~~.

4758 (6) Each contractor who is subject to the requirements of  
4759 this section shall agree to inform his or her employer or the  
4760 party to whom he or she is under contract and the school  
4761 district within 48 hours if he or she is arrested for any of the  
4762 disqualifying offenses in paragraph (2) (b) ~~(2) (g)~~. A contractor  
4763 who willfully fails to comply with this subsection commits a



420138

4764 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082  
4765 or s. 775.083. If the employer of a contractor or the party to  
4766 whom the contractor is under contract knows the contractor has  
4767 been arrested for any of the disqualifying offenses in paragraph  
4768 (2) (b) ~~(2) (g)~~ and authorizes the contractor to be present on  
4769 school grounds when students are present, such employer or such  
4770 party commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as  
4771 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

4772 (7) (a) The Department of Law Enforcement shall implement a  
4773 system that allows for the results of a criminal history check  
4774 provided to a school district to be shared with other school  
4775 districts through a secure Internet website or other secure  
4776 electronic means. School districts must accept reciprocity of  
4777 level 2 screenings for Florida High School Athletic Association  
4778 officials.

4779 (b) An employee of a school district, a charter school, a  
4780 lab school, a charter lab school, or the Florida School for the  
4781 Deaf and the Blind who requests or shares criminal history  
4782 information under this section is immune from civil or criminal  
4783 liability for any good faith conduct that occurs during the  
4784 performance of and within the scope of responsibilities related  
4785 to the record check.

4786 (c) This subsection is repealed July 31, 2026.

4787 Section 64. Effective January 1, 2023, present paragraph  
4788 (c) of subsection (10) of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, is  
4789 redesignated as paragraph (d), and paragraph (b) of that  
4790 subsection is amended, to read:

4791 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

4792 (10) BACKGROUND SCREENING REQUIRED, INITIALLY AND



420138

4793 PERIODICALLY.—

4794       (b) To maintain the safety and well-being of children and  
4795 the integrity of the system of public education, a person may  
4796 not be certified ~~receive a certificate~~ under this chapter to  
4797 have the responsibility for the safety and well-being of  
4798 children until the person's screening under s. 1012.32 is  
4799 completed and the results have been submitted to the Department  
4800 of Education or to the person's employer ~~district school~~  
4801 ~~superintendent of the school district that employs the person.~~  
4802 Every 5 years after obtaining initial certification, each person  
4803 who is required to be certified under this chapter must be  
4804 rescreened in accordance with s. 1012.32, at which time the  
4805 employer ~~school district~~ shall request the Department of Law  
4806 Enforcement to forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of  
4807 Investigation for federal criminal records checks pursuant to s.  
4808 435.12.

4809       (c) If, for any reason after obtaining initial  
4810 certification, the fingerprints of a person who is required to  
4811 be certified under this chapter are not retained by the  
4812 Department of Law Enforcement under s. 1012.32(3) ~~s.~~  
4813 ~~1012.32(3)(a) and (b),~~ the person must file a complete set of  
4814 fingerprints with the employer ~~district school superintendent of~~  
4815 ~~the employing school district.~~ Upon submission of fingerprints  
4816 for this purpose, the employer ~~school district~~ shall request the  
4817 Department of Law Enforcement to forward the fingerprints to the  
4818 Federal Bureau of Investigation for federal criminal records  
4819 checks, and the fingerprints shall be retained by the Department  
4820 of Law Enforcement under s. 1012.32(3) ~~s. 1012.32(3)(a) and (b).~~  
4821 The cost of the state and federal criminal history checks



420138

4822 required by paragraph (a) and this paragraph may be borne by the  
4823 employer ~~district school board~~ or the employee. Under penalty of  
4824 perjury, each person who is certified under this chapter must  
4825 agree to inform his or her employer within 48 hours if convicted  
4826 of any disqualifying offense while he or she is employed in a  
4827 position for which such certification is required.

4828 Section 65. The changes made to ss. 1012.32 and 1012.56,  
4829 Florida Statutes, by this act must be implemented by January 1,  
4830 2024, or by a later date determined by the Agency for Health  
4831 Care Administration.

4832 Section 66. Subsection (4) of section 1012.584, Florida  
4833 Statutes, is amended to read:

4834 1012.584 Continuing education and inservice training for  
4835 youth mental health awareness and assistance.—

4836 (4) Each school district shall notify all school personnel  
4837 who have received training pursuant to this section of mental  
4838 health services that are available in the school district, and  
4839 the individual to contact if a student needs services. The term  
4840 “mental health services” includes, but is not limited to,  
4841 community mental health services, health care providers, and  
4842 services provided under ss. 1006.04 and 1011.62(13) ~~1011.62(14)~~.

4843 Section 67. Section 1003.4204, Florida Statutes, is created  
4844 to read:

4845 1003.4204 Safer, Smarter Schools Program.—As authorized by  
4846 and consistent with funding appropriated in the General  
4847 Appropriations Act, the Safer, Smarter Schools Program is  
4848 created to implement the revised Health Education standards  
4849 established pursuant to s. 1003.42(2). The program shall provide  
4850 students and educators with a comprehensive personal safety





420138

4851 curriculum that helps students attain the protective principles  
4852 to remain safe from abuse and exploitation.

4853 Section 68. Subsection (4) of section 1013.40, Florida  
4854 Statutes, is amended to read:

4855 1013.40 Planning and construction of Florida College System  
4856 institution facilities; property acquisition.—

4857 (4) The campus of a Florida College System institution  
4858 within a municipality designated as an area of critical state  
4859 concern, as defined in s. 380.05, and having a comprehensive  
4860 plan and land development regulations containing a building  
4861 permit allocation system that limits annual growth, may  
4862 construct dormitories for up to 340 ~~300~~ beds for Florida College  
4863 System institution students, and an additional 25 beds for  
4864 employees, educators, and first responders. Such dormitories are  
4865 exempt from the building permit allocation system and may be  
4866 constructed up to 60 ~~45~~ feet in height if the dormitories are  
4867 otherwise consistent with the comprehensive plan, the Florida  
4868 College System institution has a hurricane evacuation plan that  
4869 requires all dormitory occupants to be evacuated 48 hours in  
4870 advance of tropical force winds, and transportation is provided  
4871 for dormitory occupants during an evacuation. State funds and  
4872 tuition and fee revenues may not be used for construction, debt  
4873 service payments, maintenance, or operation of such dormitories.  
4874 Additional dormitory beds constructed after July 1, 2016, may  
4875 not be financed through the issuance of bonds by the Florida  
4876 College System institution; however, bonds may be issued by  
4877 nonpublic entities as part of a public-private partnership  
4878 between the college and a nonpublic entity.

4879 Section 69. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this



420138

4880 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon  
4881 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,  
4882 2022.

4883

4884 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

4885 And the title is amended as follows:

4886 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
4887 and insert:

4888

A bill to be entitled

4889

An act relating to education; amending s. 435.02,

4890

F.S.; revising the definition of the term "specified

4891

agency"; amending s. 435.12, F.S.; requiring certain

4892

employees to submit to rescreening on a specified

4893

schedule; amending s. 464.0195, F.S.; revising the

4894

goals of the Florida Center for Nursing; amending s.

4895

800.101, F.S.; providing criminal penalties for

4896

certain actions relating to specified reports;

4897

amending ss. 943.0585 and 943.059, F.S.; prohibiting

4898

certain persons from denying criminal history records

4899

that have been expunged or sealed; amending s.

4900

1001.51, F.S.; requiring certain records and reports

4901

to include certain determinations relating to

4902

withholding certain information from a parent;

4903

requiring such determinations to be annually reviewed

4904

and redetermined; amending s. 1001.92, F.S.; revising

4905

a certain performance-based metric for state

4906

university performance funding; providing that a state

4907

university is ineligible to receive performance

4908

funding under certain circumstances; designating who



420138

4909 may provide a substantiated finding; amending s.  
4910 1002.31, F.S.; deleting obsolete language; revising  
4911 the requirements for school district and charter  
4912 school capacity determinations; providing requirements  
4913 for the determination of capacity for certain virtual  
4914 schools; revising requirements for a certain district  
4915 school board process required for controlled open  
4916 enrollment; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; providing for a  
4917 standard virtual charter contract and standard virtual  
4918 charter renewal contract; revising charter  
4919 requirements; requiring virtual charter schools to  
4920 comply with specified provisions; amending s.  
4921 1002.394, F.S.; revising Department of Education  
4922 duties under the Family Empowerment Scholarship  
4923 Program; revising requirements for a specified  
4924 calculation; revising the scholarship amount for  
4925 students enrolled in certain public schools or lab  
4926 schools; revising terminology; revising the number of  
4927 scholarships that may be awarded through the program;  
4928 amending s. 1002.395, F.S.; revising duties of the  
4929 department under the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship  
4930 Program; authorizing administrative expenses to  
4931 include certain contracts and strategies relating to  
4932 the transportation of students; revising the  
4933 scholarship amount for students enrolled in certain  
4934 public schools or lab schools; amending s. 1002.40,  
4935 F.S.; revising department duties under the Hope  
4936 Scholarship Program; amending s. 1002.411, F.S.;  
4937 renaming the "reading scholarship accounts" as the



4938 "New Worlds Reading Scholarship Accounts"; revising  
4939 student eligibility requirements for reading  
4940 scholarship accounts; providing that a school district  
4941 may not prohibit instructional personnel from  
4942 providing services during specified time periods;  
4943 amending s. 1002.421, F.S.; revising background  
4944 screening requirements for certain private schools;  
4945 amending s. 1002.45, F.S.; revising and providing  
4946 definitions; authorizing students who reside in the  
4947 school district, rather than students enrolled in the  
4948 school district, to participate in school district  
4949 virtual instruction programs; deleting the purpose of  
4950 specified programs; requiring each virtual instruction  
4951 program, rather than full-time programs, to operate  
4952 under its own Master School Identification Number;  
4953 authorizing certain service organizations to execute  
4954 specified contractual arrangements; revising school  
4955 district responsibilities; requiring the State Board  
4956 of Education to approve certain virtual instruction  
4957 program providers; revising the requirements for  
4958 approval of a virtual instruction program provider;  
4959 providing additional requirements for school district  
4960 contracts with approved virtual instruction program  
4961 providers; revising the requirements for calculating  
4962 student funding for students enrolled in certain  
4963 virtual education programs; requiring approved virtual  
4964 instruction program providers to receive a district  
4965 grade; providing requirements for such grade; revising  
4966 requirements for the automatic termination of an



4967 approved virtual instruction provider's contract;  
4968 requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules  
4969 for a specified standard contract; amending s.  
4970 1002.455, F.S.; revising the virtual instruction  
4971 options available to certain students; requiring  
4972 school districts enrolling certain students in virtual  
4973 education programs to comply with specified enrollment  
4974 requirements; amending s. 1002.81, F.S.; conforming a  
4975 cross-reference; amending s. 1002.82, F.S.; requiring  
4976 the department to establish procedures for the annual  
4977 calculation of the prevailing market rate and the  
4978 collection of certain data; conforming cross-  
4979 references; amending s. 1002.84, F.S.; establishing  
4980 the distribution methodology that early learning  
4981 coalitions must use to distribute school readiness  
4982 program funds to eligible providers; providing  
4983 requirements for early learning coalitions; amending  
4984 s. 1002.85, F.S.; revising the requirements for the  
4985 school readiness program plan submitted to the  
4986 department by early learning coalitions; amending s.  
4987 1002.87, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending  
4988 s. 1002.89, F.S.; providing for the determination of  
4989 school readiness program funding for early learning  
4990 coalitions; providing requirements for such funding  
4991 calculations; making technical changes; amending s.  
4992 1002.895, F.S.; providing for the determination of the  
4993 market rate schedule for the school readiness program;  
4994 requiring the department to establish procedures for  
4995 the annual collection of specified data; requiring the



420138

4996 department to provide certain data to the Early  
4997 Learning Programs Estimating Conference; creating s.  
4998 1002.90, F.S.; requiring the principals of the  
4999 conference to annually develop official cost-of-care  
5000 information; providing requirements for conference  
5001 principals; requiring the department to provide  
5002 conference principals with specified data; requiring  
5003 the conference to annually provide the official cost-  
5004 of-care information to the Legislature by a specified  
5005 date; amending s. 1002.92, F.S.; requiring certain  
5006 child care facilities to annually provide specified  
5007 data to the statewide child care and resource and  
5008 referral network; amending s. 1002.995, F.S.;  
5009 requiring the department to provide incentives to  
5010 certain early learning personnel and instructors,  
5011 subject to appropriation; amending s. 1003.485, F.S.;  
5012 defining the term "micro-credential"; providing the  
5013 purpose and contents of the of the New Worlds Reading  
5014 Initiative; revising the responsibilities of the  
5015 administrator of the initiative; requiring that  
5016 students be provided with specified options upon  
5017 enrollment; conforming cross-references; amending s.  
5018 1003.498, F.S.; providing requirements for funding for  
5019 certain virtual courses; amending s. 1003.52, F.S.;  
5020 revising requirements for the funding of certain  
5021 students in juvenile justice education programs;  
5022 amending s. 1003.621, F.S.; conforming a cross-  
5023 reference; amending s. 1004.015, F.S.; revising Board  
5024 of Governors and State Board of Education duties in



5025 support of the Florida Talent Development Council;  
5026 amending s. 1004.04, F.S.; revising teacher  
5027 preparation program core curricula requirements;  
5028 revising criteria for continued program approval;  
5029 authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt  
5030 rules that include certain criteria and authorize  
5031 continued program approval; requiring that the rules  
5032 establish certain continued program approval criteria;  
5033 revising specified requirements relating to field  
5034 experiences; creating s. 1004.6496, F.S.; authorizing  
5035 the University of Florida Board of Trustees to use  
5036 specified funds to establish the Hamilton Center for  
5037 Classical and Civic Education within the university;  
5038 providing the purpose for the center; establishing  
5039 goals for the center; amending s. 1004.85, F.S.;  
5040 revising teacher preparation program core curricula  
5041 requirements; requiring certain program candidates to  
5042 complete a minimum period of field experience, as  
5043 determined by the State Board of Education; revising  
5044 criteria for continued program approval; authorizing  
5045 the State Board of Education to adopt rules that  
5046 include certain criteria and authorize continued  
5047 program approval; requiring the State Board of  
5048 Education to adopt rules that establish certain  
5049 continued program approval criteria; amending s.  
5050 1006.12, F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending  
5051 s. 1006.22, F.S.; revising the requirements for the  
5052 use of motor vehicles other than school buses for the  
5053 transportation of students; amending s. 1006.27, F.S.;



420138

5054 creating the Driving Choice Grant Program within the  
5055 department for specified purposes relating to the  
5056 transportation of certain students; providing  
5057 requirements for the program; requiring the department  
5058 to publish on its website an interim and final report  
5059 by specified dates; providing requirements for such  
5060 reports; amending s. 1006.73, F.S.; requiring the  
5061 Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network to  
5062 provide specified support for certain open education  
5063 resources; establishing the Student Open Access  
5064 Resource Repository and the Student Open Access  
5065 Resource Grant Program; defining the term "open access  
5066 resource"; requiring the chancellors of the State  
5067 University System and the Florida College System to  
5068 collaborate and take the lead in identifying and  
5069 developing processes to coordinate and support the  
5070 adaptation or development of open educational  
5071 resources; requiring the network to support the  
5072 adaptation or development of open educational  
5073 resources teams; providing requirements for such teams  
5074 and the network; providing requirements for the  
5075 Student Open Access Resources Repository; authorizing  
5076 the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network to  
5077 award certain grants, subject to appropriation;  
5078 providing requirements for the administration of and  
5079 participation in the Student Open Access Resource  
5080 Grant Program; requiring Florida College Systems and  
5081 state universities to post courses that utilize open  
5082 education resources and have zero textbook costs on





5083 their course registration systems and websites within  
5084 a specified timeframe; providing requirements for  
5085 posting such courses; authorizing a certain Zero  
5086 Textbook Cost Indicator to be used for such purpose;  
5087 revising reporting requirements for the host entity of  
5088 the network; requiring the Board of Governors and the  
5089 department to include certain funding increases in  
5090 their annual legislative budget requests; amending s.  
5091 1007.271, F.S.; requiring instructional materials to  
5092 be made available to all dual enrollment students free  
5093 of charge; creating s. 1007.36, F.S.; creating the  
5094 Inclusive Transition and Employment Management Program  
5095 within the department; providing the purpose of the  
5096 program; amending s. 1008.33, F.S.; making technical  
5097 changes; requiring a school district to take specified  
5098 actions for a school that earns an initial school  
5099 grade of "D"; revising the options available to a  
5100 school district that must implement a turnaround plan  
5101 for a school; authorizing a school district to submit  
5102 a turnaround plan for a school that has earned an  
5103 initial school grade of "D"; revising the options  
5104 available to a school district with a school that  
5105 implemented a turnaround plan and did not improve its  
5106 school grade; amending s. 1008.34, F.S.; requiring the  
5107 State Board of Education to annually review the  
5108 percentage of schools earning certain school grades  
5109 and determine if the school grading scale must be  
5110 adjusted; providing requirements for such adjustments;  
5111 requiring the state board to provide specified



5112 information to the public; requiring the department to  
5113 annually, for certain years, collect certain data  
5114 relating to statewide and district-required  
5115 assessments and coordinated screening and progress  
5116 monitoring; providing reporting requirements relating  
5117 to the collection of such data; amending s. 1009.26,  
5118 F.S.; deleting obsolete language; requiring the Board  
5119 of Governors to establish two Programs of Strategic  
5120 Emphasis in a specified category; amending s. 1009.30,  
5121 F.S.; revising the criteria for reimbursement of  
5122 eligible postsecondary institutions for tuition and  
5123 related instructional materials costs for dual  
5124 enrollment courses; revising participating institution  
5125 reporting requirements under the program; requiring  
5126 the department to reimburse each participating  
5127 institution within a specified timeframe; amending s.  
5128 1009.89, F.S.; requiring eligible institutions in the  
5129 William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student  
5130 Education Grant Program to post certain information on  
5131 their websites; amending s. 1009.895, F.S.; revising  
5132 the definition of the term "institution"; deleting the  
5133 eligibility requirement that students complete the  
5134 Free Application for Federal Student Aid; authorizing  
5135 institutions to cover certain costs for students in  
5136 the program; creating s. 1009.896, F.S.; providing a  
5137 short title; providing legislative intent;  
5138 establishing the Linking Industry to Nursing Education  
5139 (LINE) Fund for specified purposes; providing  
5140 definitions; requiring the fund to be administered by



420138

5141 the Board of Governors and the department; providing  
5142 for the matching of specified funds, subject to  
5143 available funds, for institutions with an approved  
5144 proposal; providing requirements for the use of  
5145 program funds, proposal requirements, for the review  
5146 of such proposal, and for participation in the  
5147 program; providing annual reporting requirements;  
5148 requiring the Board of Governors to adopt specified  
5149 regulations and the State Board of Education to adopt  
5150 specified rules; creating s. 1009.897, F.S.; creating  
5151 a Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and  
5152 Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education  
5153 (PIPELINE) Fund for specified purposes; defining the  
5154 term "institution"; providing for allocations of  
5155 performance-based funding to institutions, subject to  
5156 appropriation; providing metrics for the award of such  
5157 funding; requiring the Board of Governors to adopt  
5158 regulations and the State Board of Education to adopt  
5159 rules; amending s. 1010.20, F.S.; revising the  
5160 percentage of certain funds school districts must  
5161 spend on juvenile justice programs; amending s.  
5162 1011.48, F.S.; revising requirements for certain fees  
5163 charged by an educational research center for child  
5164 development; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising the  
5165 calculation for the basic amount for current operation  
5166 for kindergarten through grade 12; authorizing certain  
5167 funds to be used to purchase certain computers and  
5168 device hardware; revising full-time equivalent student  
5169 membership amounts for purposes related to the



420138

5170 sparsity supplement under the Florida Education  
5171 Finance Program; providing that the evidence-based  
5172 reading instruction allocation may be used to provide  
5173 certain instruction to prekindergarten students;  
5174 providing priority for expenditures to certain  
5175 students; revising authorized expenditures; requiring  
5176 that school district comprehensive reading plans be  
5177 based on a root-cause analysis; establishing  
5178 requirements for the analysis; revising requirements  
5179 for instructional personnel who provide intensive  
5180 reading interventions; deleting the comprehensive  
5181 reading plan approval process; conforming provisions  
5182 to changes made by the act; deleting the Florida  
5183 digital classrooms allocation; deleting the funding  
5184 compression and hold harmless allocation; amending s.  
5185 1011.68, F.S.; revising the requirements for specified  
5186 student transportation funds to be used to pay for  
5187 transportation in specified vehicles; amending s.  
5188 1011.71, F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending  
5189 s. 1012.22, F.S.; conforming cross-references;  
5190 requiring certain compensation to be included in  
5191 calculating certain salary adjustments; amending s.  
5192 1012.315, F.S.; revising screening standards for  
5193 specified individuals; providing applicability;  
5194 amending s. 1012.32, F.S.; revising the procedure for  
5195 background screenings; deleting the right to appeal  
5196 certain terminations; revising provisions specifying  
5197 financial responsibility and reimbursement for  
5198 background screenings; providing applicability;



420138

5199 amending s. 1012.34, F.S.; providing that certain  
5200 procedures relating to a school district's  
5201 instructional, administrative, and supervisory  
5202 personnel set the standards of service to be offered  
5203 to the public and are not subject to collective  
5204 bargaining; amending s. 1012.465, F.S.; conforming  
5205 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.  
5206 1012.467, F.S.; repealing certain reciprocity  
5207 provisions on a specified date; amending s. 1012.56,  
5208 F.S.; prohibiting certain persons from having  
5209 specified responsibilities before the results of a  
5210 background screening are available; conforming  
5211 provisions to changes made by the act; requiring  
5212 certain provisions to be implemented by a certain  
5213 date; amending s. 1012.584, F.S.; conforming cross-  
5214 references; creating s. 1003.4204, F.S.; establishing  
5215 the Safer, Smarter Schools program in statute;  
5216 amending s. 1013.40, F.S.; modifying planning and  
5217 construction requirements for Florida College System  
5218 Institution facilities; providing effective dates.