

26 20.316 Department of Juvenile Justice.—There is created a
27 Department of Juvenile Justice.

28 (1) SECRETARY OF JUVENILE JUSTICE.—

29 (c) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice shall:

30 1. Ensure that juvenile justice continuum programs and
31 services are implemented according to legislative intent; state
32 and federal laws, rules, and regulations; statewide program
33 standards; and performance objectives by reviewing and
34 monitoring regional and circuit program operations and providing
35 technical assistance to those programs.

36 2. Identify the need for and recommend the funding and
37 implementation of an appropriate mix of programs and services
38 within the juvenile justice continuum, including prevention,
39 diversion, nonresidential and residential commitment programs,
40 training schools, and conditional release programs and services,
41 with an overlay of educational, career and technical education
42 ~~vocational~~, alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health services
43 where appropriate.

44 3. Oversee the establishment of the Florida Scholars
45 Academy pursuant to s. 985.619.

46 ~~4.3.~~ Provide for program research, development, and
47 planning.

48 ~~5.4.~~ Develop staffing and workload standards and
49 coordinate staff development and training.

50 ~~6.5.~~ Develop budget and resource allocation methodologies

51 and strategies.

52 ~~7.6.~~ Establish program policies and rules and ensure that
53 those policies and rules encourage cooperation, collaboration,
54 and information sharing with community partners in the juvenile
55 justice system to the extent authorized by law.

56 ~~8.7.~~ Develop funding sources external to state government.

57 ~~9.8.~~ Obtain, approve, monitor, and coordinate research and
58 program development grants.

59 ~~10.9.~~ Enter into contracts.

60 ~~11.10.~~ Monitor all state-funded programs, grants,
61 appropriations, or activities that are designed to prevent
62 juvenile crime, delinquency, gang membership, or status offense
63 behaviors and all state-funded programs, grants, appropriations,
64 or activities that are designed to prevent a child from becoming
65 a "child in need of services," as defined in chapter 984, in
66 order to effect the goals and policies of the State
67 Comprehensive Plan regarding children and regarding governmental
68 efficiency, and in order to determine:

69 a. The number of youth served by such state-funded
70 programs, grants, appropriations, or activities;

71 b. The number of youth who complete such state-funded
72 programs, grants, appropriations, or activities;

73 c. The number and percentage of youth who are referred for
74 delinquency while participating in such state-funded programs,
75 grants, appropriations, or activities;

76 d. The number and percentage of youth who are referred for
 77 delinquency within 6 months after completing such state-funded
 78 programs, grants, appropriations, or activities.

79 Section 2. Section 985.619, Florida Statutes, is created
 80 to read:

81 985.619 Florida Scholars Academy.-

82 (1)(a) The department shall establish the Florida Scholars
 83 Academy within the department to deliver educational
 84 opportunities for students serving in residential commitment
 85 programs under this chapter.

86 (b) Each residential program site established, authorized,
 87 or designated by the department shall be considered a campus of
 88 the Florida Scholars Academy.

89 (c) Students sentenced to adult facilities under chapter
 90 944 are not eligible to enroll in the Florida Scholars Academy.

91 (2) The mission of the academy is to provide a free and
 92 appropriate high-quality education for eligible students within
 93 the juvenile justice system and to prepare students for gainful
 94 employment as productive citizens upon their reentry into the
 95 community. Educational pathways will include a K-12 education, a
 96 high school equivalency diploma, a career and technical
 97 education credential pursuant to s. 1003.4282(10), and
 98 enrollment in a degree program at a state college or university,
 99 with an emphasis on attaining an industry-recognized credential
 100 of value from the Master Credentials List under s.

101 445.004 (4) (h) .

102 (3) (a) The department shall enter into a contractual
 103 agreement with an education service provider with a proven track
 104 record of success to operate, provide, or supplement full-time
 105 instruction and instructional support services for students to
 106 earn a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma,
 107 enroll in a degree program at a state college or university, and
 108 earn industry-recognized credentials of value from the Master
 109 Credentials List. The contracted education service provider
 110 shall be responsible for the administration of all educational
 111 services to students enrolled in the academy.

112 (b) The secretary shall appoint the superintendent of the
 113 Florida Scholars Academy. The superintendent shall be
 114 responsible for the management and day-to-day operation of the
 115 Florida Scholars Academy.

116 (4) (a) The Florida Scholars Academy shall be governed by a
 117 board of trustees. Board members shall serve a term of 4 years.
 118 The board shall be composed of five members:

- 119 1. The secretary of the department or his or her designee.
- 120 2. Four members appointed by the Governor.

121 (b) The board of trustees shall have the following powers
 122 and duties:

- 123 1. To meet at least 4 times each year, upon the call of
 124 the chair, or at the request of a majority of the membership.
- 125 2. To be responsible for the development of an education

126 delivery system by the Florida Scholars Academy's development
127 that is cost-effective, high-quality, educationally sound, and
128 sustainable.

129 3. To identify appropriate performance measures and
130 standards based on student achievement that reflect the Florida
131 Scholars Academy's statutory mission and priorities, and to
132 implement an accountability system approved by the State Board
133 of Education for the Florida Scholars Academy by the 2024-2025
134 school year that includes an assessment of the academy's
135 effectiveness and efficiency in providing quality services that
136 encourage high student achievement, seamless articulation, and
137 maximum access to career opportunities. For the 2024-2025 school
138 year, the results of the accountability system shall serve as an
139 informative baseline for the academy to work toward improved
140 performance in future years.

141 4. To administer and maintain the educational programs of
142 the Florida Scholars Academy in accordance with law and with the
143 rules established by the department, in consultation with the
144 State Board of Education.

145 5. To determine, with the approval of the secretary or his
146 or her designee, the compensation, including salaries and fringe
147 benefits, and other conditions of employment for academy
148 personnel, in alignment with the Florida Scholars Academy's
149 provider contracts.

150 6. To review the hiring of all Florida Scholars Academy

151 administrative and instructional personnel, who shall be subject
152 to rejection for cause by the secretary or his or her designee
153 and shall be subject to policies established by the board of
154 trustees.

155 7. To provide for the content and custody of student
156 records pursuant to s. 1002.22.

157 8. To maintain the financial records and accounts of the
158 Florida Scholars Academy, which shall be maintained under rules
159 adopted by the State Board of Education for the uniform system
160 of financial records and accounts for the schools of the state.

161 9. To select a chair. Initially, the secretary or his or
162 her designee shall serve as chair.

163 (c) Members of the board of trustees shall serve without
164 compensation but may be reimbursed for per diem and travel
165 expenses pursuant to s. 112.061.

166 (d) The board of trustees shall be a body corporate with
167 all the powers of a body corporate and such authority as is
168 needed for the proper operation and improvement of the Florida
169 Scholars Academy. The board of trustees may adopt rules,
170 policies, and procedures, consistent with law and the rules of
171 the State Board of Education relating to governance, personnel,
172 budget and finance, administration, programs, curriculum and
173 instruction, travel and purchasing, technology, students,
174 contracts and grants, and property as necessary for the optimal
175 and efficient operation of the Florida Scholars Academy.

176 (5) FUNDING.-

177 (a)1. Funding for the operational and instructional
178 services for all students enrolled in the Florida Scholars
179 Academy shall be provided through the General Appropriations
180 Act.

181 2. The Florida Scholars Academy shall receive all federal
182 funds for which it is eligible.

183 (b) The secretary shall prepare and submit a legislative
184 budget request on behalf of the Florida Scholars Academy as part
185 of the department's legislative budget request. The request of
186 funds may be for operation and fixed capital outlay, in
187 accordance with chapter 216.

188 (c) The fiscal year for the Florida Scholars Academy shall
189 be the fiscal year of the state, as defined in s. 216.011(1)(o).

190 (6) The credit of the state may not be pledged on behalf
191 of the Florida Scholars Academy.

192 (7) ANNUAL AUDIT.-

193 (a) The Florida Scholars Academy shall have an annual
194 financial audit of its accounts and records conducted by an
195 independent auditor who is a certified public accountant
196 licensed under chapter 473. The independent auditor shall
197 conduct the audit in accordance with rules adopted by the
198 Auditor General pursuant to s. 11.45 and, upon completion of the
199 audit, shall prepare an audit report in accordance with such
200 rules.

201 (b) The independent auditor shall submit the audit report
 202 to the board of trustees and the Auditor General no later than 9
 203 months after the end of the preceding fiscal year.

204 (c) The board of trustees shall respond to recommendations
 205 included in the audit report or received directly from the
 206 Auditor General with evidence of corrective action within 45
 207 days after receipt of the recommendations.

208 (8) The department may establish rules to implement this
 209 section.

210 Section 3. Subsection (6) is added to section 1000.04,
 211 Florida Statutes, to read:

212 1000.04 Components for the delivery of public education
 213 within the Florida Early Learning-20 education system.—Florida's
 214 Early Learning-20 education system provides for the delivery of
 215 early learning and public education through publicly supported
 216 and controlled K-12 schools, Florida College System
 217 institutions, state universities and other postsecondary
 218 educational institutions, other educational institutions, and
 219 other educational services as provided or authorized by the
 220 Constitution and laws of the state.

221 (6) THE FLORIDA SCHOLARS ACADEMY.—The Florida Scholars
 222 Academy is a component of the delivery of public education
 223 within Florida's Early Learning-20 education system.

224 Section 4. Section 1013.53, Florida Statutes, is amended
 225 to read:

226 1013.53 Cooperative development of educational facilities
 227 in juvenile justice programs.—

228 (1) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall provide early
 229 notice to school districts regarding the siting of new juvenile
 230 justice detention facilities. School districts shall include the
 231 projected number of students in the districts' annual estimates.
 232 School districts must be consulted regarding the types of
 233 students expected to be assigned to detention ~~commitment~~
 234 facilities for education planning and budgeting purposes.

235 (2) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall notify, in
 236 writing, the Department of Education when a request for
 237 proposals is issued for the construction or operation of a
 238 ~~commitment~~ or detention facility anywhere in the state. The
 239 Department of Juvenile Justice shall notify, in writing, the
 240 appropriate school district when a request for proposals is
 241 issued for the construction or operation of a ~~commitment~~ or
 242 detention facility when a county or site is specifically
 243 identified.

244 (3) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall also notify
 245 the district school superintendent within 30 days after:

246 (a) The award of a contract for the construction or
 247 operation of a ~~commitment~~ or detention facility within that
 248 school district.

249 (b) Obtaining a permit to begin construction of a new
 250 detention ~~or commitment~~ facility within that school district.

CS/CS/CS/HB 939

2023

251 Section 5. There is hereby appropriated for the 2023-2024
252 fiscal year from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of
253 Juvenile Justice the recurring sum of \$12,000,000 for the
254 purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act.

255 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.