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1
 2 An act relating to education; amending s. 1002.321,
 3 F.S.; providing for the award of grants to school
 4 districts to implement artificial intelligence in
 5 support of students and teachers; providing
 6 requirements for the use of such artificial
 7 intelligence; amending s. 1002.411, F.S.; expanding
 8 eligibility for New Worlds Scholarship Accounts to
 9 certain students enrolled in the Voluntary
 10 Prekindergarten Education Program; revising program
 11 eligibility criteria; revising eligible expenses for
 12 students who have an account; requiring parents to use
 13 a specified system to make direct purchases if such
 14 system is available; providing that certain
 15 organizations are administrators for purposes of
 16 establishing scholarship accounts; revising school
 17 district and private prekindergarten provider
 18 notification requirements; revising requirements for
 19 the Department of Education to release scholarship
 20 funds; authorizing certain organizations to develop a
 21 system for the direct purchase of qualifying
 22 expenditures; deleting provisions relating to fund
 23 transfers and certain payment methods; deleting a
 24 requirement for quarterly payments of scholarships;
 25 amending s. 1003.01, F.S.; conforming a cross-

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26 reference; amending s. 1003.485, F.S.; providing that
 27 the University of Florida Lastinger Center for
 28 Learning is the administrator for the New Worlds
 29 Reading Initiative; revising definitions; deleting a
 30 requirement that the department designate an
 31 administrator for the initiative; requiring the
 32 department to provide specified data to the
 33 administrator within specified timeframe; requiring
 34 the administrator to include certain information in a
 35 specified annual report; revising eligibility criteria
 36 for the initiative; deleting obsolete language;
 37 amending s. 1003.499, F.S.; conforming a cross-
 38 reference; creating s. 1004.646, F.S.; creating the
 39 Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of
 40 Florida; providing duties and responsibilities of the
 41 center; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; making technical
 42 changes; requiring progress monitoring results to be
 43 provided to prekindergarten instructors within a
 44 specified timeframe; creating s. 1008.366, F.S.;
 45 providing for the future repeal of s. 1004.646, F.S.;
 46 creating s. 1004.561, F.S.; creating the Lastinger
 47 Center for Learning at the University of Florida;
 48 providing duties and responsibilities of the center;
 49 providing an appropriation; creating s. 1008.366,
 50 F.S.; creating the New Worlds Tutoring Program to

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51 provide specified academic support for students;
 52 providing the purpose of the program; requiring the
 53 administrator of the program to annually provide a
 54 report to the Legislature and the Commissioner of
 55 Education by a specified date; providing an effective
 56 date.

57
 58 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

59
 60 Section 1. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 1002.321,
 61 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5) and (6),
 62 respectively, and subsection (3) of that section is amended to
 63 read:

64 1002.321 Digital learning.—

65 (3) CUSTOMIZED AND ACCELERATED LEARNING.—Artificial
 66 intelligence provides opportunities to customize and accelerate
 67 learning for students and reduce teacher workload. A school
 68 district may receive grant funds for subscription fees and
 69 professional learning to support and accelerate learning for
 70 students in grades 6 through 12 during the school day. Grant
 71 recipients must select an artificial intelligence platform that:

72 (a) Uses large language models based on GPT-4, its
 73 equivalent, or a successor, and is on a closed system.

74 (b) Provides professional learning to teachers.

75 (c) Provides one-on-one tutoring aligned to the Benchmarks

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76 | for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for reading
 77 | and mathematics.

78 | (d) Provides standards-aligned lesson plans and provides
 79 | insights on student progress.

80 | (e) Provides district and school-level reporting and
 81 | parental access to artificial intelligence interactions.

82 | (4) VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION.—A school district must establish
 83 | multiple opportunities for student participation in part-time
 84 | and full-time kindergarten through grade 12 virtual instruction.
 85 | Options include, but are not limited to:

86 | (a) School district operated part-time or full-time
 87 | virtual instruction programs under s. 1002.45(1)(b) for
 88 | kindergarten through grade 12 students enrolled in the school
 89 | district. A full-time program shall operate under its own Master
 90 | School Identification Number.

91 | (b) Florida Virtual School instructional services
 92 | authorized under s. 1002.37.

93 | (c) Blended learning instruction provided by charter
 94 | schools authorized under s. 1002.33.

95 | (d) Virtual charter school instruction authorized under s.
 96 | 1002.33.

97 | (e) Courses delivered in the traditional school setting by
 98 | personnel providing direct instruction through virtual
 99 | instruction or through blended learning courses consisting of
 100 | both traditional classroom and online instructional techniques

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101 pursuant to s. 1003.498.

102 (f) Virtual courses offered in the course code directory
 103 to students within the school district or to students in other
 104 school districts throughout the state pursuant to s. 1003.498.

105 Section 2. Subsection (2), paragraph (a) of subsection
 106 (3), subsections (4) and (6), and paragraphs (c) and (e) through
 107 (h) of subsection (7) of section 1002.411, Florida Statutes, are
 108 amended to read:

109 1002.411 New Worlds Scholarship Accounts.—

110 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—Contingent upon available funds, and on a
 111 first-come, first-served basis, each student who is enrolled in
 112 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
 113 1002.53 or a Florida public school in kindergarten through grade
 114 5 is eligible for a scholarship account if the student:

115 (a) Exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy
 116 skills based upon the results of the most recent progress
 117 monitoring administered pursuant to s. 1008.25(9), has a
 118 substantial reading deficiency or exhibits characteristics of
 119 dyslexia as identified under s. 1008.25(5) (a) , or scored below a
 120 Level 3 on the most recent statewide, standardized English
 121 Language Arts (ELA) assessment ~~in the prior school year~~. An
 122 eligible student who is classified as an English Language
 123 Learner and is enrolled in a program or receiving services that
 124 are specifically designed to meet the instructional needs of
 125 English Language Learner students shall receive priority.

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126 (b) Exhibits a substantial deficiency in early mathematics
 127 skills based upon the results of the most recent progress
 128 monitoring administered pursuant to s. 1008.25(9), has a
 129 substantial deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of
 130 dyscalculia as identified under s. 1008.25(6)(a) l, or scored
 131 below a Level 3 on the most recent statewide, standardized
 132 Mathematics assessment ~~in the prior school year.~~

133 (3) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR
 134 PARTICIPATION.—

135 (a) For an eligible student to receive a scholarship
 136 account, the student's parent must:

137 1. Submit an application to an eligible nonprofit
 138 scholarship-funding organization by the deadline established by
 139 such organization; and

140 2. If available, utilize the administrator's system to
 141 make direct purchases ~~Submit eligible expenses to the eligible~~
 142 ~~nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for reimbursement of~~
 143 qualifying expenditures, which may include:

144 a. Instructional materials.

145 b. Curriculum. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term
 146 "curriculum" means a complete course of study for a particular
 147 content area or grade level, including any required supplemental
 148 materials and associated online instruction.

149 c. Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services
 150 provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's

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151 certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who holds a
 152 baccalaureate or graduate degree in the subject area, a person
 153 who holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s.
 154 1012.57, ~~or~~ a person who has demonstrated a mastery of subject
 155 area knowledge pursuant to s. 1012.56(5), a person who holds a
 156 micro-credential under s. 1003.485, or, for a prekindergarten
 157 student, a person who holds a credential under s.
 158 1002.55(3)(c)1. or an educational credential under s.
 159 1002.55(4)(a) or (b).

160 d. Fees for summer education programs designed to improve
 161 reading, literacy, or mathematics skills.

162 e. Fees for after-school education programs designed to
 163 improve reading, literacy, or mathematics skills.

164
 165 A provider of any services receiving payments pursuant to this
 166 subparagraph may not share any moneys from the scholarship with,
 167 or provide a refund or rebate of any moneys from such
 168 scholarship to, the parent or participating student in any
 169 manner. A parent, student, or provider of any services may not
 170 bill an insurance company, Medicaid, or any other agency for the
 171 same services that are paid for using scholarship funds.

172 (4) ADMINISTRATOR ADMINISTRATION.—An eligible nonprofit
 173 scholarship-funding organization as defined in s. 1002.395(2)
 174 shall be the administrator and ~~participating in the Florida Tax~~
 175 ~~Credit Scholarship Program established by s. 1002.395~~ may

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176 establish scholarship accounts for eligible students in
 177 accordance with the requirements of eligible nonprofit
 178 scholarship-funding organizations under this chapter.

179 (6) SCHOOL DISTRICT AND PRIVATE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER
 180 OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.—

181 (a) Each ~~By September 30,~~ the school district and private
 182 prekindergarten provider shall notify the parent of each
 183 eligible student of the process to request and receive a
 184 scholarship, subject to available funds, when providing results
 185 from the standardized coordinated screening and progress
 186 monitoring pursuant to s. 1008.25(9)(c).

187 (b) A school district may not prohibit instructional
 188 personnel from providing services pursuant to this section on
 189 the instructional personnel's school campus outside regular work
 190 hours, subject to school district policies for safety and
 191 security operations to protect students, instructional
 192 personnel, and educational facilities.

193 (7) ACCOUNT FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

194 (c) Upon ~~notification from the eligible nonprofit~~
 195 ~~scholarship-funding organization that~~ a student being ~~has been~~
 196 determined eligible for a scholarship, the department shall,
 197 within 45 days, release the student's scholarship funds to such
 198 organization to be deposited into the student's account.

199 (e) The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
 200 organization may develop a system that permits eligible students

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201 to use program funds to make direct purchases of qualifying
202 expenditures for payment of scholarship funds by funds transfer,
203 ~~including, but not limited to, debit cards, electronic payment~~
204 ~~cards, or any other means of payment that the department deems~~
205 ~~to be commercially viable or cost-effective. A student's~~
206 ~~scholarship award may not be reduced for debit card or~~
207 ~~electronic payment fees.~~ Commodities or services related to the
208 development of such a system shall be procured by competitive
209 solicitation unless they are purchased from a state term
210 contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

211 ~~(f) Payment of the scholarship shall be made by the~~
212 ~~eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization no less~~
213 ~~frequently than on a quarterly basis.~~

214 (f)~~(g)~~ Moneys received pursuant to this section do not
215 constitute taxable income to the qualified student or his or her
216 parent.

217 (g)~~(h)~~ A student's scholarship account must be closed and
218 any remaining funds shall revert to the state after:

219 1. Denial or revocation of scholarship eligibility by the
220 commissioner for fraud or abuse, including, but not limited to,
221 the student or student's parent accepting any payment, refund,
222 or rebate, in any manner, from a provider of any services
223 received pursuant to subsection (3); or

224 2. Three consecutive fiscal years in which an account has
225 been inactive.

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226 Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 1003.01, Florida
 227 Statutes, is amended to read:
 228 1003.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:
 229 (5) "Core-curricula courses" means:
 230 (a) Courses in language arts/reading, mathematics, social
 231 studies, and science in prekindergarten through grade 3,
 232 excluding extracurricular courses pursuant to subsection (11);
 233 (b) Courses in grades 4 through 8 in subjects that are
 234 measured by state assessment at any grade level and courses
 235 required for middle school promotion, excluding extracurricular
 236 courses pursuant to subsection (11);
 237 (c) Courses in grades 9 through 12 in subjects that are
 238 measured by state assessment at any grade level and courses that
 239 are specifically identified by name in statute as required for
 240 high school graduation and that are not measured by state
 241 assessment, excluding extracurricular courses pursuant to
 242 subsection (11);
 243 (d) Exceptional student education courses; and
 244 (e) English for Speakers of Other Languages courses.
 245
 246 The term is limited in meaning and used for the sole purpose of
 247 designating classes that are subject to the maximum class size
 248 requirements established in s. 1, Art. IX of the State
 249 Constitution. This term does not include courses offered under
 250 ss. 1002.321(4)(e) ~~1002.321(3)(e)~~, 1002.33(7)(a)2.c., 1002.37,

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251 1002.45, and 1003.499.

252 Section 4. Section 1003.485, Florida Statutes, is amended
253 to read:

254 1003.485 The New Worlds Reading Initiative.—

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

256 (a) "Administrator" means the a state University of
257 Florida Lastinger Center for Learning ~~registered with the~~
258 ~~department under s. 1002.395(15)(i) and designated to administer~~
259 ~~the initiative under paragraph (3)(a).~~

260 (b) "Annual tax credit amount" means, for any state fiscal
261 year, the sum of the amount of tax credits approved under
262 paragraph (5)(b), including tax credits to be taken under s.
263 211.0252, s. 212.1833, s. 220.1876, s. 561.1212, or s.
264 624.51056, which are approved for taxpayers whose taxable years
265 begin on or after January 1 of the calendar year preceding the
266 start of the applicable state fiscal year.

267 (c) "Department" means the Department of Education.

268 (d) "Division" means the Division of Alcoholic Beverages
269 and Tobacco of the Department of Business and Professional
270 Regulation.

271 (e) "Eligible contribution" means a monetary contribution
272 from a taxpayer, subject to the restrictions provided in this
273 section, to the administrator.

274 (f) "Initiative" means the New Worlds Reading Initiative.

275 (g) "Micro-credential" means evidence-based professional

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276 | learning development activities grounded in the science of
 277 | reading which are competency-based, personalized, and on-demand.
 278 | Educators must demonstrate their competence via evidence
 279 | submitted and reviewed by trained evaluators.

280 | (2) NEW WORLDS READING INITIATIVE; PURPOSE.—The purpose of
 281 | the New Worlds Reading Initiative established under the
 282 | department is to instill a love of reading by providing high-
 283 | quality, free books to students in prekindergarten through grade
 284 | 5 who are reading below grade level and to improve the literacy
 285 | skills of students in prekindergarten through grade 12. The New
 286 | Worlds Reading Initiative shall consist of:

287 | (a) The program established under this section to provide
 288 | high-quality, free books to students.

289 | (b) The New Worlds Scholarship Program under s. 1002.411.

290 | (c) The New Worlds Scholar program under s. 1008.365,
 291 | which rewards high school students who instill a love of reading
 292 | and improve the literacy skills of students in kindergarten
 293 | through grade 3.

294 | (d) The New Worlds micro-credential program established
 295 | under this section which emphasizes strong core instruction and
 296 | a tiered model of reading interventions for struggling readers.

297 | (3) DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.—The department shall:

298 | ~~(a) Designate an administrator to implement the initiative~~
 299 | ~~and to receive funding as provided in this section. The~~
 300 | ~~administrator must have an academic innovation institution with~~

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301 ~~extensive experience in:~~

302 ~~1. Conducting academic research in early literacy~~
 303 ~~instruction.~~

304 ~~2. Implementing online delivery of early learning and~~
 305 ~~literacy training for educators nationally.~~

306 ~~3. Developing online support materials that assist parents~~
 307 ~~and caregivers in developing early literacy skills.~~

308 ~~4. Conducting fundraising and public awareness campaigns~~
 309 ~~to support the development and growth of evidence-based~~
 310 ~~educational initiatives that support learning at home and in~~
 311 ~~schools.~~

312 (a)~~(b)~~ Publish information about the initiative and tax
 313 credits under subsection (5) on its website, including the
 314 process for a taxpayer to select the administrator as the
 315 recipient of funding through a tax credit.

316 (b)~~(c)~~ ~~Beginning September 30, 2022,~~ and Annually
 317 ~~thereafter,~~ report on its website the number of students
 318 participating in the initiative in each school district,
 319 information from the annual financial report under paragraph
 320 (4)(j), and the academic achievement and learning gains, as
 321 applicable, of participating students based on data provided by
 322 school districts as permitted under s. 1002.22. The department
 323 shall establish a date by which the administrator and each
 324 school district must annually provide the data necessary to
 325 complete the report.

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326 (c) Provide the administrator with progress monitoring
 327 data for eligible prekindergarten through grade 12 students
 328 within 30 days after the close of each progress monitoring
 329 period.

330 (4) ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The administrator
 331 shall:

332 (a) Develop, in consultation with the Just Read, Florida!
 333 Office under s. 1001.215, a selection of high-quality books
 334 encompassing diverse subjects and genres for each grade level to
 335 be mailed to students in the initiative.

336 (b) Distribute books at no cost to students as provided in
 337 paragraph (6)(c) either directly or through an agreement with a
 338 book distribution company.

339 (c) Assist local implementation of the initiative by
 340 providing marketing materials to school districts and any
 341 partnering nonprofit organizations to assist with public
 342 awareness campaigns and other activities designed to increase
 343 family engagement and instill a love of reading in students.

344 (d) Maintain a clearinghouse for information on national,
 345 state, and local nonprofit organizations that support efforts to
 346 improve literacy and provide books to children.

347 (e) Develop, for parents of students in the initiative,
 348 resources and training materials that engage families in reading
 349 and support the reading achievement of their students. The
 350 administrator shall periodically send to parents hyperlinks to

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351 | these resources and materials, including video modules, via text
 352 | message and e-mail.

353 | (f) Provide professional learning development and
 354 | resources to teachers that correlate with the books provided
 355 | through the initiative.

356 | (g) Develop, in consultation with the Just Read, Florida!
 357 | Office under s. 1001.215, an online repository of digital
 358 | science of reading materials and science of reading
 359 | instructional resources that is accessible to public school
 360 | teachers, school leaders, parents, and educator preparation
 361 | programs and associated faculty.

362 | (h) Develop a micro-credential that requires teachers to
 363 | demonstrate competency to:

364 | 1. Diagnose literacy difficulties and determine the
 365 | appropriate range of literacy interventions based upon the age
 366 | and literacy deficiency of the student;

367 | 2. Use evidence-based instructional and intervention
 368 | practices grounded in the science of reading, including
 369 | strategies identified by the Just Read, Florida! Office pursuant
 370 | to s. 1001.215(7); and

371 | 3. Effectively use progress monitoring and intervention
 372 | materials.

373 | (i) Administer the early literacy micro-credential program
 374 | established under this section, which must include components on
 375 | content, student learning, pedagogy, and professional learning

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376 ~~development~~ and must build on a strong foundation of
377 scientifically researched and evidence-based reading
378 instructional and intervention programs that incorporate
379 explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching
380 phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text
381 comprehension and incorporate decodable or phonetic text
382 instructional strategies, as identified by the Just Read,
383 Florida! Office, pursuant to s. 1001.215(7).

384 1. At a minimum, the micro-credential curriculum must be
385 designed specifically for instructional personnel in
386 prekindergarten through grade 3 based upon the strategies and
387 techniques identified in s. 1002.59 and address foundational
388 literacy skills of students in grades 4 through 12.

389 2. The micro-credential must be competency based and
390 designed for eligible instructional personnel to complete the
391 credentialing process in no more than 60 hours, in an online
392 format. The micro-credential may be delivered in an in-person
393 format. Eligible instructional personnel may receive the micro-
394 credential once competency is demonstrated even if it is before
395 ~~prior to~~ the completion of 60 hours.

396 3. The micro-credential must be available by December 31,
397 2022, at no cost, to instructional personnel as defined in s.
398 1012.01(2); prekindergarten instructors as specified in ss.
399 1002.55, 1002.61, and 1002.63; and child care personnel as
400 defined in ss. 402.302(3) and 1002.88(1)(e).

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401 (j) Annually submit to the department an annual financial
 402 report that includes, at a minimum, the amount of eligible
 403 contributions received by the administrator; the amount spent on
 404 each activity required by this subsection, including
 405 administrative expenses; the number of micro-credentials and
 406 reading endorsements earned; and the number of students and
 407 households served under each component of the initiative, by
 408 school district, including the means by which additional
 409 literacy support was provided to students.

410 (k) Maintain separate accounts for operating funds and
 411 funds for the purchase and delivery of books.

412 (l) Expend eligible contributions received only for the
 413 purchase and delivery of books and to implement the requirements
 414 of this section, as well as for administrative expenses not to
 415 exceed 2 percent of total eligible contributions.

416 Notwithstanding s. 1002.395(6)(l)2., the administrator may carry
 417 forward up to 25 percent of eligible contributions made before
 418 January 1 of each state fiscal year and 100 percent of eligible
 419 contributions made on or after January 1 of each state fiscal
 420 year to the following state fiscal year for purposes authorized
 421 by this subsection. Any eligible contributions in excess of the
 422 allowable carry forward not used to provide additional books
 423 throughout the year to eligible students shall revert to the
 424 state treasury.

425 (m) Upon receipt of a contribution, provide the taxpayer

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426 that made the contribution with a certificate of contribution. A
427 certificate of contribution must include the taxpayer's name
428 and, if available, its federal employer identification number;
429 the amount contributed; the date of contribution; and the name
430 of the administrator.

431 (6) ELIGIBILITY; NOTIFICATION; SCHOOL DISTRICT
432 OBLIGATIONS.—

433 (a) A student in prekindergarten through grade 5 must be
434 provided books through the initiative if the student is not yet
435 reading on grade level, has a substantial reading deficiency
436 identified under s. 1008.25(5)(a) ~~or (b)~~, has a substantial
437 deficiency in early literacy skills based upon the results of
438 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring under s.
439 1008.25(9), or scored below a Level 3 on the most recent
440 ~~preceding year's~~ statewide, standardized English Language Arts
441 assessment under s. 1008.22.

442 (b) Each school district shall notify the parent of a
443 student who meets the criteria under paragraph (a) that the
444 student is eligible to receive books at no cost through the New
445 Worlds Reading Initiative and provide the parent with the
446 application form developed by the administrator, which must
447 allow for the selection of specific book topics or genres for
448 the student.

449 (c) Once an eligible student is identified, the school
450 district shall coordinate with the administrator to initiate

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451 book delivery on a monthly basis during the school year, which
452 must begin no later than October and continue through at least
453 June. ~~However, for the 2021-2022 school year only, delivery may~~
454 ~~begin no later than December 31, 2021, provided that no fewer~~
455 ~~than 9 books are delivered to each student before book~~
456 ~~deliveries begin for the 2022-2023 school year.~~

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

460 (e) A student's eligibility for the initiative continues
461 until promotion to grade 6 or until the student's parent opts
462 out of the initiative.

463 (f) Each school district shall participate in the
464 initiative by partnering with local nonprofit organizations,
465 raising awareness of the initiative using marketing materials
466 developed by the administrator, coordinating book delivery, and
467 identifying students and notifying parents pursuant to this
468 subsection.

469 (g) Each school district shall coordinate with each
470 charter school it sponsors for purposes of identifying eligible
471 students, notifying parents, coordinating book delivery,
472 providing the opportunity to annually select book topics and
473 genres, and raising awareness of the initiative as provided by
474 this section.

475 (h) School districts and partnering nonprofit

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476 organizations shall raise awareness of the initiative, including
 477 information on eligibility and video training modules under
 478 paragraph (4)(e), through, at least, the following:

479 1. The student handbook and the read-at-home plan under s.
 480 1008.25(5)(d).

481 2. A parent or curriculum night or separate initiative
 482 awareness event at each elementary school.

483 3. Partnering with the county library to host awareness
 484 events, which should coincide with other initiatives such as
 485 library card drives, family library nights, summer access
 486 events, and other family engagement programming.

487 (i) Each school district shall establish a data sharing
 488 agreement with the initiative's administrator which allows for a
 489 streamlined student verification and enrollment process.

490 (7) ADMINISTRATION; RULES.—

491 (a) The Department of Revenue, the division, and the
 492 Department of Education may develop a cooperative agreement to
 493 assist in the administration of this section, as needed.

494 (b) The Department of Revenue may adopt rules necessary to
 495 administer this section and ss. 211.0252, 212.1833, 220.1876,
 496 561.1212, and 624.51056, including rules establishing
 497 application forms, procedures governing the approval of tax
 498 credits and carryforward tax credits under subsection (5), and
 499 procedures to be followed by taxpayers when claiming approved
 500 tax credits on their returns.

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501 (c) The division may adopt rules necessary to administer
 502 its responsibilities under this section and s. 561.1212.

503 (d) The Department of Education may adopt rules necessary
 504 to administer this section.

505 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of s. 213.053 to the
 506 contrary, sharing information with the division related to this
 507 tax credit is considered the conduct of the Department of
 508 Revenue's official duties as contemplated in s. 213.053 (8) (c),
 509 and the Department of Revenue and the division are specifically
 510 authorized to share information as needed to administer this
 511 section.

512 Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 1003.499, Florida
 513 Statutes, is amended to read:

514 1003.499 Florida Approved Courses and Tests (FACT)
 515 Initiative.—

516 (2) FLORIDA APPROVED COURSES.—The Department of Education
 517 shall annually publish online a list of providers approved to
 518 offer Florida approved courses which shall be listed in the
 519 online catalog pursuant to s. 1002.321(6) ~~s. 1002.321(5)~~.

520 (a) As used in this section, the term "Florida approved
 521 courses" means online courses provided by individuals which
 522 include, but are not limited to, massive open online courses or
 523 remedial education associated with the courses that are measured
 524 pursuant to s. 1008.22. Massive open online courses may be
 525 authorized in the following subject areas: Algebra I, biology,

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526 geometry, and civics. Courses may be applied toward requirements
 527 for promotion or graduation in whole, in subparts, or in a
 528 combination of whole and subparts. A student may not be required
 529 to repeat subparts that are satisfactorily completed.

530 (b) A Florida approved course must be annually identified,
 531 approved, published, and shared for consideration by interested
 532 students and school districts. The Commissioner of Education
 533 shall approve each Florida approved course for application in K-
 534 12 public schools in accordance with rules of the State Board of
 535 Education.

536 Section 6. Section 1004.646, Florida Statutes, is created
 537 to read:

538 1004.646 University of Florida Lastinger Center For
 539 Learning.—There is created at the University of Florida, the
 540 Lastinger Center for Learning. The center shall:

541 (1) Develop and administer programs to improve student
 542 achievement outcomes in early learning, literacy, and
 543 mathematics.

544 (2) Provide professional learning for educators to improve
 545 the quality of instruction in early learning, literacy, and
 546 mathematics. Professional learning shall include the development
 547 of micro-credentials that require educators to demonstrate
 548 competency. Micro-credentials must be provided at low or no cost
 549 and be personalized, and may be provided online or in person.

550 (3) Provide technical assistance and support to school

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551 districts and schools in improving student achievement.

552 (4) Conduct and publish research on teaching and learning
 553 in early learning, literacy, and mathematics as well as
 554 professional learning for educators.

555 (5) This section is repealed effective July 1, 2024.

556 Section 7. Section 1004.561, Florida Statutes, is created
 557 to read:

558 1004.561 University of Florida Lastinger Center For
 559 Learning.—There is created at the University of Florida, the
 560 Lastinger Center for Learning. The center shall:

561 (1) Develop and administer programs to improve student
 562 achievement outcomes in early learning, literacy, and
 563 mathematics.

564 (2) Provide professional learning for educators to improve
 565 the quality of instruction in early learning, literacy, and
 566 mathematics. Professional learning shall include the development
 567 of micro-credentials that require educators to demonstrate
 568 competency. Micro-credentials must be provided at low or no cost
 569 and be personalized, and may be provided online or in person.

570 (3) Provide technical assistance and support to school
 571 districts and schools in improving student achievement.

572 (4) Conduct and publish research on teaching and learning
 573 in early learning, literacy, and mathematics as well as
 574 professional learning for educators.

575 (5) Administer the New Worlds Tutoring Program that

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576 supports school districts and schools in improving student
 577 achievement in reading and mathematics pursuant to s. 1008.366.

578 (6) (a) Collaborate with school districts on the
 579 implementation of s. 1002.321(3) and award grant funds to
 580 eligible recipients.

581 (b) The sum of \$2 million in recurring funds from the
 582 General Revenue Fund are appropriated to the University of
 583 Florida Lastinger Center for Learning for the grants awarded
 584 pursuant to this subsection.

585 Section 8. Paragraph (d) of subsection (5), paragraph (c)
 586 of subsection (6), and paragraph (c) of subsection (9) of
 587 section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

588 1008.25 Public school student progression; student
 589 support; coordinated screening and progress monitoring;
 590 reporting requirements.—

591 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

592 (d) The parent of any student who exhibits a substantial
 593 deficiency in reading, as described in paragraph (a), must be
 594 notified in writing of the following:

595 1. That his or her child has been identified as having a
 596 substantial deficiency in reading, including a description and
 597 explanation, in terms understandable to the parent, of the exact
 598 nature of the student's difficulty in learning and lack of
 599 achievement in reading.

600 2. A description of the current services that are provided

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601 to the child.

602 3. A description of the proposed intensive interventions
603 and supports that will be provided to the child that are
604 designed to remediate the identified area of reading deficiency.

605 4. That if the child's reading deficiency is not
606 remediated by the end of grade 3, the child must be retained
607 unless he or she is exempt from mandatory retention for good
608 cause.

609 5. Strategies, including multisensory strategies and
610 programming, through a read-at-home plan the parent can use in
611 helping his or her child succeed in reading. The read-at-home
612 plan must provide access to the resources identified in
613 paragraph (e) ~~(f)~~.

614 6. That the statewide, standardized English Language Arts
615 assessment is not the sole determiner of promotion and that
616 additional evaluations, portfolio reviews, and assessments are
617 available to the child to assist parents and the school district
618 in knowing when a child is reading at or above grade level and
619 ready for grade promotion.

620 7. The district's specific criteria and policies for a
621 portfolio as provided in subparagraph (7)(b)4. and the evidence
622 required for a student to demonstrate mastery of Florida's
623 academic standards for English Language Arts. A school must
624 immediately begin collecting evidence for a portfolio when a
625 student in grade 3 is identified as being at risk of retention

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626 or upon the request of the parent, whichever occurs first.

627 8. The district's specific criteria and policies for
 628 midyear promotion. Midyear promotion means promotion of a
 629 retained student at any time during the year of retention once
 630 the student has demonstrated ability to read at grade level.

631 9. Information about the student's eligibility for the New
 632 Worlds Reading Initiative under s. 1003.485 and the New Worlds
 633 Scholarship Accounts under s. 1002.411 and information on parent
 634 training modules and other reading engagement resources
 635 available through the initiative.

636
 637 After initial notification, the school shall apprise the parent
 638 at least monthly of the student's progress in response to the
 639 intensive interventions and supports. Such communications must
 640 be in writing and must explain any additional interventions or
 641 supports that will be implemented to accelerate the student's
 642 progress if the interventions and supports already being
 643 implemented have not resulted in improvement.

644 (6) MATHEMATICS DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

645 (c) The parent of a student who exhibits a substantial
 646 deficiency in mathematics, as described in paragraph (a), must
 647 be notified in writing of the following:

648 1. That his or her child has been identified as having a
 649 substantial deficiency in mathematics, including a description
 650 and explanation, in terms understandable to the parent, of the

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651 exact nature of the student's difficulty in learning and lack of
652 achievement in mathematics.

653 2. A description of the current services that are provided
654 to the child.

655 3. A description of the proposed intensive interventions
656 and supports that will be provided to the child that are
657 designed to remediate the identified area of mathematics
658 deficiency.

659 4. Strategies, including multisensory strategies and
660 programming, through a home-based plan the parent can use in
661 helping his or her child succeed in mathematics. The home-based
662 plan must provide access to the resources identified in
663 paragraph (d) ~~(e)~~.

664
665 After the initial notification, the school shall apprise the
666 parent at least monthly of the student's progress in response to
667 the intensive interventions and supports. Such communications
668 must be in writing and must explain any additional interventions
669 or supports that will be implemented to accelerate the student's
670 progress if the interventions and supports already being
671 implemented have not resulted in improvement.

672 (9) COORDINATED SCREENING AND PROGRESS MONITORING SYSTEM.—

673 (c) To facilitate timely interventions and supports
674 pursuant to subsection (4), the system must provide results from
675 the first two administrations of the progress monitoring to a

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676 student's teacher or prekindergarten instructor within 1 week
677 and to the student's parent within 2 weeks after ~~of~~ the
678 administration of the progress monitoring. Delivery of results
679 from the comprehensive, end-of-year progress monitoring ELA
680 assessment for grades 3 through 10 and Mathematics assessment
681 for grades 3 through 8 must be in accordance with s.
682 1008.22 (7) (h).

683 1. A student's results from the coordinated screening and
684 progress monitoring system must be recorded in a written, easy-
685 to-comprehend individual student report. Each school district
686 shall provide a parent secure access to his or her child's
687 individual student reports through a web-based portal as part of
688 its student information system. Each early learning coalition
689 shall provide parents the individual student report in a format
690 determined by state board rule.

691 2. In addition to the information under subparagraph
692 (a)5., the report must also include parent resources that
693 explain the purpose of progress monitoring, assist the parent in
694 interpreting progress monitoring results, and support informed
695 parent involvement. Parent resources may include personalized
696 video formats.

697 3. The department shall annually update school districts
698 and early learning coalitions on new system features and
699 functionality and collaboratively identify with school districts
700 and early learning coalitions strategies for meaningfully

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701 reporting to parents results from the coordinated screening and
 702 progress monitoring system. The department shall develop ways to
 703 increase the utilization, by instructional staff and parents, of
 704 student assessment data and resources.

705 4. An individual student report must be provided in a
 706 printed format upon a parent's request.

707 Section 9. Section 1008.366, Florida Statutes, is created
 708 to read:

709 1008.366 The New Worlds Tutoring Program.—

710 (1) The New Worlds Tutoring Program is created to support
 711 school districts and schools in improving student achievement in
 712 reading and mathematics by:

713 (a) Providing best practice science of reading guidelines
 714 for districts in consultation with the Just Read, Florida!
 715 Office.

716 (b) Providing best practice guidelines for mathematics
 717 tutoring in alignment with Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent
 718 Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for mathematics.

719 (c) Establishing minimum standards that each school
 720 district must meet to participate in the program. The minimum
 721 standards must address:

- 722 1. Appropriate group sizes for tutoring sessions.
- 723 2. The frequency and duration of tutoring sessions.
- 724 3. Minimum staffing qualifications for tutors.
- 725 4. The use of ongoing, informal and formal assessments to

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726 target instructional interventions.

727 5. Prioritization strategies for tutoring students.

728 (d) Providing access during the school day to additional
729 literacy or mathematics support through evidence-based automated
730 literacy tutoring software that provides each student with real-
731 time interventions that are based in science of reading
732 principles or mathematics instructional best practices and
733 individually tailored to the needs and ability of each student.
734 Access shall be provided to students in kindergarten through
735 grade 5 enrolled in a public school who have a substantial
736 deficiency in reading or mathematics in accordance with s.
737 1008.25. The term "evidence-based" has the same meaning as in s.
738 1003.4201(6).

739 (e) Awarding grants to school districts that may be used
740 for stipends for in-person tutoring during the school day,
741 before and after school, or during a summer program. In-person
742 tutoring may be provided to, at a minimum, kindergarten through
743 grade 5 students enrolled in a public school who have a
744 substantial deficiency in reading or mathematics in accordance
745 with s. 1008.25. To identify eligible students, the department
746 shall provide the administrator with mathematics and reading
747 progress monitoring data for eligible kindergarten through grade
748 12 students within 30 days after the close of each progress
749 monitoring period.

750 (f) Providing technical assistance and professional

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751 learning to school districts, including:

752 1. Advising district staff on tutoring program design and
 753 intervention selection upon request.

754 2. Assisting districts in reviewing tutoring programs,
 755 professional learning programs, curriculum, and resources to
 756 ensure that they adhere to the science of reading or best
 757 practices in mathematics.

758 3. Providing professional learning to district staff to
 759 build their knowledge and skills around the science of reading
 760 or best practices in mathematics.

761 (2) Annually, by July 1, the administrator of the New
 762 Worlds Tutoring Program shall provide to the President of the
 763 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
 764 Commissioner of Education a report summarizing school district
 765 use of program funds and student academic outcomes as a result
 766 of the additional literacy or mathematics support provided under
 767 this section.

768 Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.