1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to exceptional students and video 3 cameras in public schools; amending s. 1003.57, F.S.; 4 requiring district school boards to include specified 5 procedures in the exceptional student education 6 policies and procedures; providing that changes to the 7 schedules and assigned classrooms of specified 8 exceptional students may only be made in accordance 9 with specified State Board of Education rules; 10 requiring the state board to adopt rules to administer 11 specified provisions; amending s. 1003.574, F.S.; 12 deleting references to the Video Cameras in Public 13 School Classrooms Pilot Program; deleting an obsolete definition of the term "school district"; requiring, 14 15 rather than authorizing, the state board to adopt 16 rules for specified provisions; providing an effective 17 date. 18 19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 20 21 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 22 1003.57, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 23 1003.57 Exceptional students instruction. -24 (1)25 (b) Each district school board shall provide for an

Page 1 of 11

appropriate program of special instruction, facilities, and services for exceptional students as prescribed by the State Board of Education as acceptable. Each district program must:

- 1.a. Provide the necessary professional services for diagnosis and evaluation of exceptional students. At least once every 3 years, the district school board must submit to the department its proposed procedures for the provision of special instruction and services for exceptional students. Each district school board shall include the staffing and scheduling procedures for exceptional student education centers, special day schools, or separate classes in the exceptional student education policies and procedures. The exceptional student education policies and procedures must include the following:
- (I) Procedures to notify parents of teacher assignments within the first 10 school days of the school year or upon student's entry to the school.
- (II) Procedures to notify parents of any changes in teacher assignments before the change in a teacher assignment occurs if such change is not due to a temporary or incidental teacher absence.
- (III) Procedures to notify parents of any permanent changes in physical classroom assignments before the change in a classroom assignment occurs.
- (IV) Procedures to quarterly maintain records of the student to staff ratio data for exceptional student education

Page 2 of 11

centers, special day schools, or separate classes, including the funding levels generated for each student's services in these settings. The records shall be available to the department upon request or as part of monitoring processes.

- b. For students in exceptional student education centers, special day schools, or separate classes, a student's schedule may only be changed and a student's class may only be dissolved or combined with other such classes in accordance with the conditions set forth in State Board of Education rule.
- c. The State Board shall adopt rules to implement this subparagraph.
- 2. Provide the special instruction, classes, and services, either within the district school system, in cooperation with other district school systems, or through contractual arrangements with approved private schools or community facilities that meet standards established by the commissioner.
- 3. Annually provide information describing the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and all other programs and methods of instruction available to the parent of a sensory-impaired student.
- 4. Provide instruction to homebound or hospitalized students in accordance with this section and rules adopted by the state board, which must establish, at a minimum, the following:
  - a. Criteria for the eligibility of K-12 homebound or

Page 3 of 11

hospitalized students for specially designed instruction.

- b. Procedures for determining student eligibility.
- c. A list of appropriate methods for providing instruction to homebound or hospitalized students.
- d. Requirements for providing instructional services for a homebound or hospitalized student once the student is determined to be eligible. Eligible students receiving treatment in a children's specialty hospital licensed under part I of chapter 395 must be provided educational instruction from the school district in which the hospital is located until the school district in which the hospital is located enters into an agreement with the school district in which the student resides. The department shall develop a standard agreement for use by school districts to provide seamless educational instruction to students who transition between school districts while receiving treatment in the children's specialty hospital.

No later than August 15, 2016, each school district in which a children's specialty hospital licensed under part I of chapter 395 is located shall enter into an agreement with the hospital which establishes a process by which the hospital must notify the school district of students who may be eligible for instruction consistent with this subparagraph and the timelines for determining student eligibility and providing educational instruction to eligible students.

Page 4 of 11

Section 2. Section 1003.574, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.574 Video cameras in public school classrooms; pilot program.—Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the Video Cameras in Public School Classrooms Pilot Program is created for a period of 3 school years.

- (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Incident" means an event, a circumstance, an act, or an omission that results in the abuse or neglect of a student by:
  - 1. An employee of a public school or school district; or
  - 2. Another student.

- (b) "School district" means the Broward County Public Schools.
- (b)(e) "Self-contained classroom" means a classroom at a public school in which a majority of the students in regular attendance are provided special education services and are assigned to one or more such classrooms for at least 50 percent of the instructional day.
- (2)(a) A school district shall provide a video camera to any school with a self-contained classroom upon the written request of a parent of a student in the classroom.
- (b) Within 30 days after receipt of the request from a parent, a video camera shall be operational in each self-contained classroom in which the parent's student is in regular

Page 5 of 11

attendance for the remainder of the school year, unless the parent withdraws his or her request in writing.

- (3) If the student who is the subject of the initial request is no longer in attendance in the classroom and a school discontinues operation of a video camera during a school year, no later than the 5th school day before the date the operation of the video camera is discontinued, the school must notify the parents of each student in regular attendance in the classroom that operation of the video camera will cease unless the continued use of the camera is requested by a parent. No later than the 10th school day before the end of each school year, the school must notify the parents of each student in regular attendance in the classroom that operation of the video camera will not continue during the following school year unless a written request is submitted by a parent for the next school year.
- (4)(a) A video camera placed in a self-contained classroom must be capable of all of the following:
- 1. Monitoring all areas of the self-contained classroom, including, without limitation, any room attached to the self-contained classroom which is used for other purposes.
- 2. Recording audio from all areas of the self-contained classroom, including, without limitation, any room attached to the self-contained classroom which is used for other purposes.
  - (b) A video camera placed in a self-contained classroom

Page 6 of 11

may not monitor a restroom or any other area in the selfcontained classroom where a student changes his or her clothes, except for the entryway, exitway, or hallway outside a restroom or other area where a student changes his or her clothes because of the layout of the self-contained classroom.

- (c) A video camera placed in a self-contained classroom is not required to be in operation when students are not present in the self-contained classroom.
- (d) If there is an interruption in the operation of the video camera for any reason, an explanation must be submitted in writing to the school principal and the district school board which explains the reason for and duration of the interruption. The written explanation must be maintained at the district school board office for at least 1 year.
- (5) Before a school initially places a video camera in a self-contained classroom pursuant to this section, the school shall provide written notice of the placement of such video camera to all of the following:
- (a) The parent of each student who is assigned to the self-contained classroom.
- (b) Each student who is assigned to the self-contained classroom.
  - (c) The school district.

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(d) Each school employee who is assigned to work with one or more students in the self-contained classroom.

Page 7 of 11

(6) A school shall:

- (a) Retain video recorded from a video camera placed pursuant to this section for at least 3 months after the date the video was recorded, after which the recording shall be deleted or otherwise made unretrievable; or
- (b) Retain the recording until the conclusion of any investigation or any administrative or legal proceedings that result from the recording have been completed, including, without limitation, the exhaustion of all appeals.
  - (7) A school or school district may not:
- (a) Allow regular, continuous, or continual monitoring of video recorded under this section; or
- (b) Use video recorded under this section for teacher evaluations or any purpose other than for ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of students receiving special education services in a self-contained classroom.
- (8) The principal of the school is the custodian of a video camera operated pursuant to this section, all recordings generated by that video camera, and access to such recordings.
- (a) The release or viewing of any video recording under this section must comply with s. 1002.22.
  - (b) A school or school district shall:
- 1. Conceal the identity of any student who appears in a video recording, but is not involved in the alleged incident documented by the video recording, which the school allows to be

Page 8 of 11

viewed under subsection (9), including, without limitation, blurring the face of the uninvolved student.

- 2. Protect the confidentiality of all student records contained in a video recording in accordance with s. 1002.22.
- (9)(a) Within 7 days after receiving a request to view a video recording, a school or school district shall allow the following individuals to view a video recording made under this section:
- 1. A school or school district employee who is involved in an alleged incident that is documented by the video recording as part of the investigative process;
- 2. A parent of a student who is involved in an alleged incident that is documented by the video recording and has been reported to the school or school district;
- 3. A school or school district employee as part of an investigation into an alleged incident that is documented by the video recording and has been reported to the school or school district;
- 4. A law enforcement officer as part of an investigation into an alleged incident that is documented by the video recording and has been reported to the law enforcement agency; or
- 5. The Department of Children and Families as part of a child abuse or neglect investigation.
  - (b) A person who requests to view a recording shall make

Page 9 of 11

himself or herself available for viewing the recording within 30 days after being notified by the school or school district that the person's request has been granted.

- (c) A person who views the recording and suspects that child abuse has occurred must report the suspected child abuse to the Department of Children and Families.
- (10)(a) Any individual may appeal to the State Board of Education an action by a school or school district which the individual alleges to be in violation of this section.
- (b) The state board shall grant a hearing on an appeal under this subsection within 45 days after receiving the appeal.
- (11) A school or school district does not violate subsection (8) if a contractor or other employee of the school or school district incidentally views a video recording made under this section in connection with the performance of his or her duties related to either of the following:
- (a) The installation, operation, or maintenance of video equipment; or
  - (b) The retention of video recordings.
  - (12) This section does not:

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- (a) Limit the access of the parent of a student, under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, or any other law, to a video recording regarding his or her student.
  - (b) Waive any immunity from liability of a school district

Page 10 of 11

251 or an employee of a school district.

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- (c) Create any liability for a cause of action against a school or school district or an employee of a school or school district carrying out the duties and responsibilities required by this section.
- (d) Apply to self-contained classrooms in which the only students receiving special education services are those who have been deemed gifted.
- (13) The department shall collect information relating to the installation and maintenance of video cameras under this section.
- (14) The State Board of Education  $\underline{\text{shall}}$   $\underline{\text{may}}$  adopt rules to implement this section.
- Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Page 11 of 11