

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to education; amending s. 212.055,  
3       F.S.; requiring that certain surtax revenues which are  
4       shared with school districts must also be shared with  
5       charter schools on a proportionate basis in accordance  
6       with certain provisions; providing applicability;  
7       amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; requiring a charter school  
8       sponsor to use a standard monitoring tool to monitor  
9       and review a charter school; requiring school  
10      districts to provide charter schools with specified  
11      information relating to public school funding by a  
12      specified date annually; requiring school districts to  
13      provide a summary report of specified revenues to the  
14      Department of Education and post such report on their  
15      websites by a specified date annually; amending s.  
16      1002.333, F.S.; defining the term "sponsoring entity";  
17      providing that a hope operator must submit a notice of  
18      intent to open a school of hope to the sponsoring  
19      entity, rather than the school district; requiring the  
20      sponsoring entity, rather than the school district, to  
21      enter into a performance-based agreement with a hope  
22      operator; requiring a school of hope to provide the  
23      sponsoring entity, rather than the school district,  
24      with a financial statement summary sheet; providing  
25      that specified provisions relating to performance-

26        based agreements and disputes apply to sponsoring  
27        entities, rather than district school boards and  
28        school districts; amending s. 1002.394, F.S.;  
29        conforming a provision to changes made by the act;  
30        amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; deleting provisions  
31        providing for the award of a certificate of completion  
32        to certain students; conforming provisions to changes  
33        made by the act; amending s. 1003.433, F.S.;  
34        conforming a provision to changes made by the act;  
35        amending s. 1007.263, F.S.; revising the student  
36        eligibility criteria for enrollment in certificate  
37        career education programs; providing an effective  
38        date.

39  
40        Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

41  
42        Section 1. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (2) of  
43        section 212.055, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

44        212.055 Discretionary sales surtaxes; legislative intent;  
45        authorization and use of proceeds.—It is the legislative intent  
46        that any authorization for imposition of a discretionary sales  
47        surtax shall be published in the Florida Statutes as a  
48        subsection of this section, irrespective of the duration of the  
49        levy. Each enactment shall specify the types of counties  
50        authorized to levy; the rate or rates which may be imposed; the

51 maximum length of time the surtax may be imposed, if any; the  
52 procedure which must be followed to secure voter approval, if  
53 required; the purpose for which the proceeds may be expended;  
54 and such other requirements as the Legislature may provide.  
55 Taxable transactions and administrative procedures shall be as  
56 provided in s. 212.054.

57 (2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE SURTAX.—

58 (c) Pursuant to s. 212.054(4), the proceeds of the surtax  
59 levied under this subsection shall be distributed to the county  
60 and the municipalities within such county in which the surtax  
61 was collected, according to:

62 1. An interlocal agreement between the county governing  
63 authority and the governing bodies of the municipalities  
64 representing a majority of the county's municipal population,  
65 which agreement may include a school district with the consent  
66 of the county governing authority and the governing bodies of  
67 the municipalities representing a majority of the county's  
68 municipal population; or

69 2. If there is no interlocal agreement, according to the  
70 formula provided in s. 218.62.

71  
72 Any change in the distribution formula must take effect on the  
73 first day of any month that begins at least 60 days after  
74 written notification of that change has been made to the  
75 department. Any interlocal agreement that includes a school

76 district must require the surtax revenues allocated to the  
77 school district to be shared with eligible charter schools, as  
78 determined pursuant to s. 1013.62(1), based on the charter  
79 school's proportionate share of the total school district  
80 enrollment, subject to the requirements of, and for purposes  
81 provided in, subparagraph (d)4.

82 (d) The proceeds of the surtax authorized by this  
83 subsection and any accrued interest shall be expended by the  
84 school district, within the county and municipalities within the  
85 county, or, in the case of a negotiated joint county agreement,  
86 within another county, to finance, plan, and construct  
87 infrastructure; to acquire any interest in land for public  
88 recreation, conservation, or protection of natural resources or  
89 to prevent or satisfy private property rights claims resulting  
90 from limitations imposed by the designation of an area of  
91 critical state concern; to provide loans, grants, or rebates to  
92 residential or commercial property owners who make energy  
93 efficiency improvements to their residential or commercial  
94 property, if a local government ordinance authorizing such use  
95 is approved by referendum; or to finance the closure of county-  
96 owned or municipally owned solid waste landfills that have been  
97 closed or are required to be closed by order of the Department  
98 of Environmental Protection. Any use of the proceeds or interest  
99 for purposes of landfill closure before July 1, 1993, is  
100 ratified. The proceeds and any interest may not be used for the

operational expenses of infrastructure, except that a county that has a population of fewer than 75,000 and that is required to close a landfill may use the proceeds or interest for long-term maintenance costs associated with landfill closure. Counties, as defined in s. 125.011, and charter counties may, in addition, use the proceeds or interest to retire or service indebtedness incurred for bonds issued before July 1, 1987, for infrastructure purposes, and for bonds subsequently issued to refund such bonds. Any use of the proceeds or interest for purposes of retiring or servicing indebtedness incurred for refunding bonds before July 1, 1999, is ratified.

1. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "infrastructure" means:

a. Any fixed capital expenditure or fixed capital outlay associated with the construction, reconstruction, or improvement of public facilities that have a life expectancy of 5 or more years, any related land acquisition, land improvement, design, and engineering costs, and all other professional and related costs required to bring the public facilities into service. For purposes of this sub-subparagraph, the term "public facilities" means facilities as defined in s. 163.3164(41), s. 163.3221(13), or s. 189.012(5), and includes facilities that are necessary to carry out governmental purposes, including, but not limited to, fire stations, general governmental office buildings, and animal shelters, regardless of whether the facilities are owned by the

126 local taxing authority or another governmental entity.

127       b. A fire department vehicle, an emergency medical service  
128 vehicle, a sheriff's office vehicle, a police department  
129 vehicle, or any other vehicle, and the equipment necessary to  
130 outfit the vehicle for its official use or equipment that has a  
131 life expectancy of at least 5 years.

132       c. Any expenditure for the construction, lease, or  
133 maintenance of, or provision of utilities or security for,  
134 facilities, as defined in s. 29.008.

135       d. Any fixed capital expenditure or fixed capital outlay  
136 associated with the improvement of private facilities that have  
137 a life expectancy of 5 or more years and that the owner agrees  
138 to make available for use on a temporary basis as needed by a  
139 local government as a public emergency shelter or a staging area  
140 for emergency response equipment during an emergency officially  
141 declared by the state or by the local government under s.  
142 252.38. Such improvements are limited to those necessary to  
143 comply with current standards for public emergency evacuation  
144 shelters. The owner must enter into a written contract with the  
145 local government providing the improvement funding to make the  
146 private facility available to the public for purposes of  
147 emergency shelter at no cost to the local government for a  
148 minimum of 10 years after completion of the improvement, with  
149 the provision that the obligation will transfer to any  
150 subsequent owner until the end of the minimum period.

151 e. Any land acquisition expenditure for a residential  
152 housing project in which at least 30 percent of the units are  
153 affordable to individuals or families whose total annual  
154 household income does not exceed 120 percent of the area median  
155 income adjusted for household size, if the land is owned by a  
156 local government or by a special district that enters into a  
157 written agreement with the local government to provide such  
158 housing. The local government or special district may enter into  
159 a ground lease with a public or private person or entity for  
160 nominal or other consideration for the construction of the  
161 residential housing project on land acquired pursuant to this  
162 sub-subparagraph.

163 f. Instructional technology used solely in a school  
164 district's classrooms. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the  
165 term "instructional technology" means an interactive device that  
166 assists a teacher in instructing a class or a group of students  
167 and includes the necessary hardware and software to operate the  
168 interactive device. The term also includes support systems in  
169 which an interactive device may mount and is not required to be  
170 affixed to the facilities.

171 2. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "energy  
172 efficiency improvement" means any energy conservation and  
173 efficiency improvement that reduces consumption through  
174 conservation or a more efficient use of electricity, natural  
175 gas, propane, or other forms of energy on the property,

176 including, but not limited to, air sealing; installation of  
177 insulation; installation of energy-efficient heating, cooling,  
178 or ventilation systems; installation of solar panels; building  
179 modifications to increase the use of daylight or shade;  
180 replacement of windows; installation of energy controls or  
181 energy recovery systems; installation of electric vehicle  
182 charging equipment; installation of systems for natural gas fuel  
183 as defined in s. 206.9951; and installation of efficient  
184 lighting equipment.

185 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection,  
186 a local government infrastructure surtax imposed or extended  
187 after July 1, 1998, may allocate up to 15 percent of the surtax  
188 proceeds for deposit into a trust fund within the county's  
189 accounts created for the purpose of funding economic development  
190 projects having a general public purpose of improving local  
191 economies, including the funding of operational costs and  
192 incentives related to economic development. The ballot statement  
193 must indicate the intention to make an allocation under the  
194 authority of this subparagraph.

195 4. Surtax revenues which are shared with eligible charter  
196 schools pursuant to paragraph (c) shall be allocated among such  
197 schools based on each school's proportionate share of total  
198 school district capital outlay full-time equivalent enrollment  
199 as adopted by the education estimating conference established in  
200 s. 216.136. Surtax revenues must be expended by the charter



201 school in a manner consistent with the allowable uses provided  
202 in s. 1013.62(4). All revenues and expenditures shall be  
203 accounted for in a charter school's monthly or quarterly  
204 financial statement pursuant to s. 1002.33(9). If a school's  
205 charter is not renewed or is terminated and the school is  
206 dissolved under the provisions of law under which the school was  
207 organized, any unencumbered funds received under this paragraph  
208 shall revert to the sponsor.

209       Section 2. The amendment made by this act to s.  
210 212.055(2), Florida Statutes, which amends the allowable uses of  
211 the local government infrastructure surtax, applies to levies  
212 authorized by vote of the electors on or after July 1, 2025.

213       Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section  
214 1002.33, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (i) is  
215 added to subsection (17) of that section, to read:

216       1002.33 Charter schools.—

217       (5) SPONSOR; DUTIES.—

218       (b) *Sponsor duties*.—

219       1.a. The sponsor shall monitor and review the charter  
220 school, using the standard monitoring tool, in its progress  
221 toward the goals established in the charter.

222       b. The sponsor shall monitor the revenues and expenditures  
223 of the charter school and perform the duties provided in s.  
224 1002.345.

225       c. The sponsor may approve a charter for a charter school

226 before the applicant has identified space, equipment, or  
227 personnel, if the applicant indicates approval is necessary for  
228 it to raise working funds.

229       d. The sponsor may not apply its policies to a charter  
230 school unless mutually agreed to by both the sponsor and the  
231 charter school. If the sponsor subsequently amends any agreed-  
232 upon sponsor policy, the version of the policy in effect at the  
233 time of the execution of the charter, or any subsequent  
234 modification thereof, shall remain in effect and the sponsor may  
235 not hold the charter school responsible for any provision of a  
236 newly revised policy until the revised policy is mutually agreed  
237 upon.

238       e. The sponsor shall ensure that the charter is innovative  
239 and consistent with the state education goals established by s.  
240 1000.03(5).

241       f. The sponsor shall ensure that the charter school  
242 participates in the state's education accountability system. If  
243 a charter school falls short of performance measures included in  
244 the approved charter, the sponsor shall report such shortcomings  
245 to the Department of Education.

246       g. The sponsor is not liable for civil damages under state  
247 law for personal injury, property damage, or death resulting  
248 from an act or omission of an officer, employee, agent, or  
249 governing body of the charter school.

250       h. The sponsor is not liable for civil damages under state

law for any employment actions taken by an officer, employee, agent, or governing body of the charter school.

i. The sponsor's duties to monitor the charter school do not constitute the basis for a private cause of action.

j. The sponsor may not impose additional reporting requirements on a charter school as long as the charter school has not been identified as having a deteriorating financial condition or financial emergency pursuant to s. 1002.345.

k. The sponsor shall submit an annual report to the Department of Education in a web-based format to be determined by the department.

(I) The report shall include the following information:

(A) The number of applications received during the school year and up to August 1 and each applicant's contact information.

(B) The date each application was approved, denied, or withdrawn.

(C) The date each final contract was executed.

(II) Annually, by November 1, the sponsor shall submit to the department the information for the applications submitted the previous year.

(III) The department shall compile an annual report, by sponsor, and post the report on its website by January 15 of each year.

2. Immunity for the sponsor of a charter school under

276 subparagraph 1. applies only with respect to acts or omissions  
277 not under the sponsor's direct authority as described in this  
278 section.

279 3. This paragraph does not waive a sponsor's sovereign  
280 immunity.

281 4. A Florida College System institution may work with the  
282 school district or school districts in its designated service  
283 area to develop charter schools that offer secondary education.  
284 These charter schools must include an option for students to  
285 receive an associate degree upon high school graduation. If a  
286 Florida College System institution operates an approved teacher  
287 preparation program under s. 1004.04 or s. 1004.85, the  
288 institution may operate charter schools that serve students in  
289 kindergarten through grade 12 in any school district within the  
290 service area of the institution. District school boards shall  
291 cooperate with and assist the Florida College System institution  
292 on the charter application. Florida College System institution  
293 applications for charter schools are not subject to the time  
294 deadlines outlined in subsection (6) and may be approved by the  
295 district school board at any time during the year. Florida  
296 College System institutions may not report FTE for any students  
297 participating under this subparagraph who receive FTE funding  
298 through the Florida Education Finance Program.

299 5. For purposes of assisting the development of a charter  
300 school, a school district may enter into nonexclusive interlocal

301 agreements with federal and state agencies, counties,  
302 municipalities, and other governmental entities that operate  
303 within the geographical borders of the school district to act on  
304 behalf of such governmental entities in the inspection,  
305 issuance, and other necessary activities for all necessary  
306 permits, licenses, and other permissions that a charter school  
307 needs in order for development, construction, or operation. A  
308 charter school may use, but may not be required to use, a school  
309 district for these services. The interlocal agreement must  
310 include, but need not be limited to, the identification of fees  
311 that charter schools will be charged for such services. The fees  
312 must consist of the governmental entity's fees plus a fee for  
313 the school district to recover no more than actual costs for  
314 providing such services. These services and fees are not  
315 included within the services to be provided pursuant to  
316 subsection (20). Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an  
317 interlocal agreement or ordinance that imposes a greater  
318 regulatory burden on charter schools than school districts or  
319 that prohibits or limits the creation of a charter school is  
320 void and unenforceable. An interlocal agreement entered into by  
321 a school district for the development of only its own schools,  
322 including provisions relating to the extension of  
323 infrastructure, may be used by charter schools.

324 6. The board of trustees of a sponsoring state university  
325 or Florida College System institution under paragraph (a) is the

326 local educational agency for all charter schools it sponsors for  
327 purposes of receiving federal funds and accepts full  
328 responsibility for all local educational agency requirements and  
329 the schools for which it will perform local educational agency  
330 responsibilities. A student enrolled in a charter school that is  
331 sponsored by a state university or Florida College System  
332 institution may not be included in the calculation of the school  
333 district's grade under s. 1008.34(5) for the school district in  
334 which he or she resides.

335 (17) FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a charter school,  
336 regardless of the sponsorship, shall be funded based upon the  
337 applicable program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c), the same as  
338 students enrolled in other public schools in a school district.  
339 Funding for a charter lab school shall be as provided in s.  
340 1002.32.

341 (i)1. By July 1 of each year, school districts shall  
342 provide charter schools the following information pertaining to  
343 shared revenues generated by a discretionary half-cent sales  
344 surtax, voted district school operating millage, and nonvoted  
345 district school capital improvement millage:

346 a. The estimated total revenue to be received from each  
347 tax.

348 b. The estimated per-student allocation to charter schools  
349 from each tax and the methodology used to determine the  
350 estimate.

351 c. The estimated timeframe within which the charter school  
352 will receive funds from each tax.

353 d. A detailed explanation for each revenue transmission at  
354 the time funds are transferred.

355 2. By March 31 of each year, each school district shall  
356 provide to the department a summary report, by charter school,  
357 of distributed revenues, by revenue source, and shall post the  
358 report on its website.

359 Section 4. Subsection (4), paragraphs (k), (l), and (m) of  
360 subsection (5), paragraphs (a) and (h) of subsection (6), and  
361 paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (11) of section 1002.333,  
362 Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (e) is added to  
363 subsection (1) of that section, to read:

364 1002.333 Persistently low-performing schools.—

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

366 (e) "Sponsoring entity" has the same meaning as in s.  
367 1002.33(5), provided that a state university and Florida College  
368 System institution has been approved by the Department of  
369 Education and has solicited applications and accepted a notice  
370 of intent for a school of hope.

371 (4) ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS OF HOPE.—A hope operator  
372 seeking to open a school of hope must submit a notice of intent  
373 to the sponsoring entity to operate a school of hope in a ~~the~~  
374 ~~school~~ district in which a persistently low-performing school  
375 has been identified by the State Board of Education pursuant to

subsection (10) or in which a Florida Opportunity Zone is located.

(a) The notice of intent must include:

1. An academic focus and plan.
2. A financial plan.
3. Goals and objectives for increasing student achievement for the students from low-income families.
4. A completed or planned community outreach plan.
5. The organizational history of success in working with students with similar demographics.
6. The grade levels to be served and enrollment projections.
7. The proposed location or geographic area proposed for the school consistent with the requirements of sub-subparagraphs (1)(d)1.a. and b.
8. A staffing plan.

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of s. 1002.33, a sponsoring entity ~~school district~~ shall enter into a performance-based agreement with a hope operator to open schools to serve students from persistently low-performing schools and students residing in a Florida Opportunity Zone.

(5) PERFORMANCE-BASED AGREEMENT.—The following shall comprise the entirety of the performance-based agreement:

(k) A requirement that any arrangement entered into to borrow or otherwise secure funds for the school of hope from a



401 source other than the state or a sponsoring entity ~~school~~  
402 ~~district~~ shall indemnify the state and the sponsoring entity  
403 ~~school-district~~ from any and all liability, including, but not  
404 limited to, financial responsibility for the payment of the  
405 principal or interest.

406 (1) A provision that any loans, bonds, or other financial  
407 agreements are not obligations of the state or the sponsoring  
408 entity ~~school-district~~ but are obligations of the school of hope  
409 and are payable solely from the sources of funds pledged by such  
410 agreement.

411 (m) A prohibition on the pledge of credit or taxing power  
412 of the state or the sponsoring entity ~~school-district~~.

413 (6) STATUTORY AUTHORITY.—

414 (a) A school of hope or a nonprofit entity that operates  
415 more than one school of hope through a performance-based  
416 agreement with a sponsoring entity ~~school-district~~ may be  
417 designated as a local education agency by the department, if  
418 requested, for the purposes of receiving federal funds and, in  
419 doing so, accepts the full responsibility for all local  
420 education agency requirements and the schools for which it will  
421 perform local education agency responsibilities.

422 1. A nonprofit entity designated as a local education  
423 agency may report its students to the department in accordance  
424 with the definitions in s. 1011.61 and pursuant to the  
425 department's procedures and timelines.

426           2. Students enrolled in a school established by a hope  
427 operator designated as a local educational agency are not  
428 eligible students for purposes of calculating the district grade  
429 pursuant to s. 1008.34(5).

430           (h)1. A school of hope shall provide the sponsoring entity  
431 ~~school district~~ with a concise, uniform, quarterly financial  
432 statement summary sheet that contains a balance sheet and a  
433 statement of revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance.  
434 The balance sheet and the statement of revenue, expenditures,  
435 and changes in fund balance shall be in the governmental fund  
436 format prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards  
437 Board. Additionally, a school of hope shall comply with the  
438 annual audit requirement for charter schools in s. 218.39.

439           2. A school of hope is in compliance with subparagraph 1.  
440 if it is operated by a nonprofit entity designated as a local  
441 education agency and if the nonprofit submits to the sponsoring  
442 entity ~~each school district in which it operates a school of~~  
443 ~~hope~~:

444           a. A concise, uniform, quarterly financial statement  
445 summary sheet that contains a balance sheet summarizing the  
446 revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the  
447 entity and for its schools of hope ~~within the school district~~.

448           b. An annual financial audit of the nonprofit which  
449 includes all schools of hope it operates within this state and  
450 which complies with s. 218.39 regarding audits of a school

451 board.

452 (11) STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—  
453 Pursuant to Art. IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes  
454 the duty of the State Board of Education to supervise the public  
455 school system, the State Board of Education shall:

456 (b) Adopt a standard notice of intent and performance-  
457 based agreement that must be used by hope operators and  
458 sponsoring entities ~~district school boards~~ to eliminate  
459 regulatory and bureaucratic barriers that delay access to high  
460 quality schools for students in persistently low-performing  
461 schools and students residing in Florida Opportunity Zones.

462 (c) Resolve disputes between a hope operator and a  
463 sponsoring entity ~~school district~~ arising from a performance-  
464 based agreement or a contract between a charter operator and a  
465 school district under the requirements of s. 1008.33. The  
466 Commissioner of Education shall appoint a special magistrate who  
467 is a member of The Florida Bar in good standing and who has at  
468 least 5 years' experience in administrative law. The special  
469 magistrate shall hold hearings to determine facts relating to  
470 the dispute and to render a recommended decision for resolution  
471 to the State Board of Education. The recommendation may not  
472 alter in any way the provisions of the performance-based  
473 agreement under subsection (5). The special magistrate may  
474 administer oaths and issue subpoenas on behalf of the parties to  
475 the dispute or on his or her own behalf. Within 15 calendar days

476 after the close of the final hearing, the special magistrate  
477 shall transmit a recommended decision to the State Board of  
478 Education and to the representatives of both parties by  
479 registered mail, return receipt requested. The State Board of  
480 Education must approve or reject the recommended decision at its  
481 next regularly scheduled meeting that is more than 7 calendar  
482 days and no more than 30 days after the date the recommended  
483 decision is transmitted. The decision by the State Board of  
484 Education is a final agency action that may be appealed to the  
485 District Court of Appeal, First District in accordance with s.  
486 120.68. A charter school may recover attorney fees and costs if  
487 the State Board of Education determines that the sponsoring  
488 entity ~~school-district~~ unlawfully implemented or otherwise  
489 impeded implementation of the performance-based agreement  
490 pursuant to this paragraph.

491 Section 5. Subsection (16) of section 1002.394, Florida  
492 Statutes, is amended to read:

493 1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

494 (16) TRANSITION-TO-WORK PROGRAM.—A student with a  
495 disability who is determined eligible pursuant to paragraph  
496 (3)(b) who is at least 17 years, but not older than 22 years of  
497 age and who has not received a high school diploma ~~or~~  
498 ~~certificate of completion~~ is eligible for enrollment in his or  
499 her participating private school's transition-to-work program. A  
500 transition-to-work program shall consist of academic

501 instruction, work skills training, and a volunteer or paid work  
502 experience.

503 (a) To offer a transition-to-work program, a participating  
504 private school must:

505 1. Develop a transition-to-work program plan, which must  
506 include a written description of the academic instruction and  
507 work skills training students will receive and the goals for  
508 students in the program.

509 2. Submit the transition-to-work program plan to the  
510 Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice and consider  
511 any guidance provided by the department pursuant to paragraph  
512 (8)(d) relating to the plan.

513 3. Develop a personalized transition-to-work program plan  
514 for each student enrolled in the program. The student's parent,  
515 the student, and the school principal must sign the personalized  
516 plan. The personalized plan must be submitted to the Office of  
517 Independent Education and Parental Choice upon request by the  
518 office.

519 4. Provide a release of liability form that must be signed  
520 by the student's parent, the student, and a representative of  
521 the business offering the volunteer or paid work experience.

522 5. Assign a case manager or job coach to visit the  
523 student's job site on a weekly basis to observe the student and,  
524 if necessary, provide support and guidance to the student.

525 6. Provide to the parent and student a quarterly report

526 that documents and explains the student's progress and  
527 performance in the program.

528 7. Maintain accurate attendance and performance records  
529 for the student.

530 (b) A student enrolled in a transition-to-work program  
531 must, at a minimum:

532 1. Receive 15 instructional hours at the participating  
533 private school's physical facility, which must include academic  
534 instruction and work skills training.

535 2. Participate in 10 hours of work at the student's  
536 volunteer or paid work experience.

537 (c) To participate in a transition-to-work program, a  
538 business must:

539 1. Maintain an accurate record of the student's  
540 performance and hours worked and provide the information to the  
541 participating private school.

542 2. Comply with all state and federal child labor laws.

543 Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) and paragraphs  
544 (a) and (d) of subsection (8) of section 1003.4282, Florida  
545 Statutes, are amended to read:

546 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school  
547 diploma.—

548 (5) AWARD OF A STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.—

549 (c) A student who earns the required 24 credits, or the  
550 required 18 credits under s. 1002.3105(5), but fails to pass the

551 assessments required under s. 1008.22(3) or achieve a 2.0 GPA  
552 ~~shall be awarded a certificate of completion in a form~~  
553 ~~prescribed by the State Board of Education. However, a student~~  
554 ~~who is otherwise entitled to a certificate of completion~~ may  
555 elect to remain in high school either as a full-time student or  
556 a part-time student for up to 1 additional year and receive  
557 special instruction designed to remedy his or her identified  
558 deficiencies.

559 (8) STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—Beginning with students  
560 entering grade 9 in the 2014-2015 school year, this subsection  
561 applies to a student with a disability.

562 (a) A parent of the student with a disability shall, in  
563 collaboration with the individual education plan (IEP) team  
564 during the transition planning process pursuant to s. 1003.5716,  
565 declare an intent for the student to graduate from high school  
566 with ~~either~~ a standard high school diploma ~~or a certificate of~~  
567 ~~completion. A student with a disability who does not satisfy the~~  
568 ~~standard high school diploma requirements pursuant to this~~  
569 ~~section shall be awarded a certificate of completion.~~

570 (d) A student with a disability who ~~receives a certificate~~  
571 ~~of completion and~~ has an individual education plan that  
572 prescribes special education, transition planning, transition  
573 services, or related services through 21 years of age may  
574 continue to receive the specified instruction and services.  
575

576 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules under ss.  
577 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this subsection, including  
578 rules that establish the minimum requirements for students  
579 described in this subsection to earn a standard high school  
580 diploma. The State Board of Education shall adopt emergency  
581 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54.

582 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
583 1003.433, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

584 1003.433 Learning opportunities for out-of-state and out-  
585 of-country transfer students and students needing additional  
586 instruction to meet high school graduation requirements.—

587 (2) Students who earn the required 24 credits for the  
588 standard high school diploma except for passage of any must-pass  
589 assessment under s. 1003.4282 or s. 1008.22 or an alternate  
590 assessment by the end of grade 12 must be provided the following  
591 learning opportunities:

592 (b) ~~Upon receipt of a certificate of completion,~~ Be  
593 allowed to take the College Placement Test and be admitted to  
594 developmental education or credit courses at a Florida College  
595 System institution, as appropriate.

596 Section 8. Subsection (4) of section 1007.263, Florida  
597 Statutes, is amended to read:

598 1007.263 Florida College System institutions; admissions  
599 of students.—Each Florida College System institution board of  
600 trustees is authorized to adopt rules governing admissions of



students subject to this section and rules of the State Board of Education. These rules shall include the following:

(4) A student who has earned the required 24 credits under s. 1003.4282, or the required 18 credits under s. 1002.3105(5), for the standard high school diploma, except for passage of any must-pass assessment under s. 1003.4282 or s. 1008.22 or an alternate assessment by the end of grade 12, ~~been awarded a certificate of completion under s. 1003.4282~~ is eligible to enroll in certificate career education programs.

Each board of trustees shall establish policies that notify students about developmental education options for improving their communication or computation skills that are essential to performing college-level work, including tutoring, extended time in gateway courses, free online courses, adult basic education, adult secondary education, or private provider instruction.

Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.