

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; providing a short title;
3 creating s. 20.70, F.S.; providing residency
4 requirements for members of certain public
5 postsecondary boards and the Board of Governors;
6 providing that specified offices are deemed vacant
7 under certain circumstances; amending s. 112.3144,
8 F.S.; requiring certain members of the Board of
9 Governors to comply with specified financial
10 disclosure requirements beginning on a date certain;
11 amending s. 1001.01, F.S.; revising term limits for
12 members and the chair of the State Board of Education;
13 amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; revising provisions
14 relating to the use of K-12 educational facilities;
15 requiring district school boards to approve specified
16 proposals at publicly noticed meetings; revising the
17 requirements for the early warning system for certain
18 students; amending s. 1001.43, F.S.; authorizing
19 district school boards to use specified real property
20 for the development of certain affordable housing or
21 educational villages; providing requirements for such
22 housing and villages; requiring counties and
23 municipalities to authorize affordable multifamily and
24 mixed-use residential developments that meet specified
25 requirements; providing that certain school district

26 real property is exempt from specified requirements;
27 requiring district school boards to conduct a certain
28 number of public meetings when considering certain
29 proposals; amending s. 1001.451, F.S.; revising the
30 services required to be provided by regional
31 consortium service organizations when such services
32 are found to be necessary and appropriate by such
33 organizations' boards of directors; revising the
34 allocation that certain regional consortium service
35 organizations are eligible to receive from the General
36 Appropriations Act; requiring each regional consortium
37 service organization to submit an annual report to the
38 Department of Education; requiring that unexpended
39 amounts in certain funds be carried forward; requiring
40 each regional consortium service organization to
41 provide quarterly financial reports to member
42 districts; requiring member districts to designate a
43 district to serve as a fiscal agent for certain
44 purposes; providing for compensation of the fiscal
45 agent district; requiring regional consortium service
46 organizations to retain all funds received from grants
47 or contracted services to cover indirect or
48 administrative costs associated with the provision of
49 such services; requiring the regional consortium
50 service organization board of directors to determine

51 products and services provided by the organization;
52 requiring a regional consortium service organization
53 board of directors to recommend the establishment of
54 positions and appointments to a fiscal agent district;
55 requiring that personnel be employed under specified
56 personnel policies; authorizing the regional
57 consortium service organization board of directors to
58 recommend a salary schedule for personnel; authorizing
59 regional consortium service organizations to purchase
60 or lease property and facilities essential to their
61 operations; providing for the distribution of revenue
62 if a regional consortium service organization is
63 dissolved; removing a provision requiring applications
64 for incentive grants; authorizing regional consortium
65 service organization boards of directors to contract
66 to provide services to nonmember districts; requiring
67 that a fund balance be established for specified
68 purposes; removing a requirement for the use of
69 certain funds; authorizing a regional consortium
70 service organization to administer a specified
71 program; creating s. 1001.4511, F.S.; creating the
72 Regional Consortia Service Organization Supplemental
73 Services Program; providing the purpose of the
74 program; authorizing funds to be used for specified
75 purposes; requiring each regional consortium service

76 organization to report the distribution of funds
77 annually to the Legislature; providing for the
78 carryforward of funds; amending s. 1001.61, F.S.;
79 providing term limits for members and the chairs of
80 the Florida College System institution boards of
81 trustees; authorizing trustees to serve until the
82 appointment of a successor; amending s. 1001.64, F.S.;
83 providing that certain actions relating to the
84 president of a Florida College System institution are
85 not subject to approval by the State Board of
86 Education; requiring presidential search committees
87 for the appointment of such president; providing
88 requirements for the committees; requiring such
89 president be recommended by the committee; authorizing
90 a presidential contract to be renewed for a specified
91 period; amending s. 1001.70, F.S.; providing term
92 limits for appointed members of the Board of
93 Governors; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.; requiring the
94 Board of Governors to review the admission criteria of
95 state universities; requiring state university program
96 admission criteria to be posted on state university
97 websites; requiring that the president of a state
98 university be appointed by the university board of
99 trustees; requiring presidential search committees for
100 the appointment of such president; providing

requirements for the committees; requiring such president be recommended by the committee; authorizing a presidential contract to be renewed for a specified period; revising the requirements for certain state university capital outlay projects to be included on a specified list; amending s. 1001.71, F.S.; providing term limits for appointed members of university boards of trustees; removing obsolete language and a certain consideration for appointed members; authorizing appointed members to serve until a successor is appointed; amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; revising the requirements for parental notification of student reading and mathematics deficiencies; amending s. 1002.333, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "persistently low-performing school"; authorizing certain entities to directly report their students to the Department of Education; removing specified requirements for schools of hope using school district facilities; revising the evidence a school district may provide to the department for specified purposes; providing requirements for schools of hope to use school district educational facilities; authorizing schools of hope to use certain facilities or co-locate with other public schools in certain facilities; requiring certain students to be included in specified

126 school district calculations; requiring specified
127 services to be provided to schools of hope at no cost;
128 providing school district requirements; removing the
129 definition of the term "underused, vacant, or surplus
130 facility"; providing requirements for disputes
131 relating to certain mutual management agreements;
132 amending s. 1002.411, F.S.; requiring school district
133 and private prekindergarten providers to provide
134 parents with information about students' eligibility
135 for the New Worlds Reading Initiative; amending s.
136 1003.33, F.S.; requiring student report cards to
137 include specified information relating to school
138 grades and student English Language Arts and
139 mathematics performance; amending s. 1003.4201, F.S.;
140 requiring school districts to provide resources and
141 information to parents of certain students; amending
142 s. 1003.485, F.S.; requiring the administrator of the
143 New Worlds Reading Initiative to develop a specified
144 book collection and competitive incentive program to
145 provide classroom libraries at specified schools;
146 amending s. 1004.085, F.S.; providing definitions;
147 revising requirements for information included in
148 specified lists relating to textbooks and
149 instructional materials; requiring the current syllabi
150 for specified courses to be posted as a hyperlink in a

specified system and include specified information;
amending s. 1004.098, F.S.; requiring state university
and Florida College System institution boards of
trustees to adopt a presidential succession plan for
specified purposes; providing requirements for the
plan and persons included in such plan; providing
requirements for the appointment or selection of an
interim president; prohibiting specified persons from
discussing with specified persons under certain
circumstances certain information or persons relating
to the appointment of a president; deleting a public
records and meetings exemption relating to applicants
for president of a state university or Florida College
System institution; amending s. 1004.89, F.S.;
revising the duties of the Institute for Freedom in
the Americas; removing provisions relating to a
direct-support organization for the institute;
amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; prohibiting a Florida
College System institution or state university from
imposing certain graduation requirements; amending s.
1008.25, F.S.; revising the grade-level criteria for
specified provisions relating to students with
specified substantial academic deficiencies; providing
that certain Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
Program students are eligible for specified support;

176 providing that specified interventions must be
177 provided to all students with substantial reading
178 deficiencies; amending s. 1008.34, F.S.; revising the
179 percentage of points used to designate school grades
180 for specified school years; revising the requirements
181 for school report cards; requiring a certain school
182 grade designation to be included on school report
183 cards; removing provisions relating to the transition
184 of school grades and obsolete language; creating s.
185 1009.635, F.S.; establishing the Rural Incentive for
186 Professional Educators Program within the department;
187 requiring the program to provide financial assistance
188 for the repayment of student loans to eligible
189 participants who establish permanent residency and
190 employment in rural communities; providing that
191 eligible participants may receive up to a certain
192 amount in total student loan repayment assistance over
193 a certain timeframe; requiring the department to
194 verify certain information of participants in the
195 program before it disburses awards; providing that the
196 program is administered through the Office of Student
197 Financial Assistance within the department; requiring
198 the department to develop procedures and monitor
199 compliance; requiring the State Board of Education to
200 adopt rules by a certain date; amending s. 1013.62,

F.S.; revising the calculation methodology to determine the amount of revenue that a school district must distribute to each eligible charter school; amending s. 1013.64, F.S.; revising conditions under which a school district may receive funding on an approved construction project; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. The amendments made by this act to ss. 1003.33 and 1008.34, Florida Statutes, may be cited as the "Schools Committed to Outstanding Results and Excellence (SCORE) Act."

Section 2. Section 20.70, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

20.70 Residency requirements.—Notwithstanding any other law:

(1) Effective January 6, 2027, each member of a state university board of trustees must be a United States citizen and either a resident of this state or a graduate of the state university, the administration of which is overseen by such board of trustees. If any member of a board of trustees does not meet the requirements of this subsection, such person's office is automatically deemed vacant.

(2) Effective January 6, 2027, each member of the Board of

Governors must be a United States citizen and either a resident of this state or a graduate of a state university, as defined in s. 1000.21. If any member of the Board of Governors does not meet the requirements of this subsection, such person's office is automatically deemed vacant.

Section 3. Paragraph (f) is added to subsection (1) of section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, to read:

112.3144 Full and public disclosure of financial interests.—

(1)

(f) Beginning January 1, 2026, each citizen member of the Board of Governors of the State University System must comply with the financial disclosure requirements of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution and this section.

Section 4. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 1001.01, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1001.01 State Board of Education; generally.—

(1) The State Board of Education is established as a body corporate. The state board shall be a citizen board consisting of seven members who are residents of the state appointed by the Governor to staggered 4-year terms, subject to confirmation by the Senate. Members of the state board shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement of travel and per diem expenses in accordance with s. 112.061. Members may only serve two ~~be reappointed by the Governor for additional~~

terms ~~not to exceed 8 years of consecutive service.~~

(2) The State Board of Education shall select a chair and a vice chair from its appointed members. The chair shall serve a single 2-year term and ~~may be reselected for one additional consecutive term.~~

Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and paragraph (b) of subsection (18) of section 1001.42, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below:

(4) ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OPERATION OF SCHOOLS.—Adopt and provide for the execution of plans for the establishment, organization, and operation of the schools of the district, including, but not limited to, the following:

(b) Elimination of school centers and consolidation of schools.—Provide for the elimination of school centers, and the consolidation of schools, and the use of any portion of a K-12 educational facility for a purpose other than K-12 education. Any proposal to eliminate a school center, consolidate schools, or use any portion of a K-12 educational facility for a purpose other than K-12 education must be approved by the district school board at a publicly noticed meeting.

(18) IMPLEMENT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—Maintain a system of school improvement and education

276 accountability as provided by statute and State Board of
277 Education rule. This system of school improvement and education
278 accountability shall be consistent with, and implemented
279 through, the district's continuing system of planning and
280 budgeting required by this section and ss. 1008.385, 1010.01,
281 and 1011.01. This system of school improvement and education
282 accountability shall comply with the provisions of ss. 1008.33,
283 1008.34, 1008.345, and 1008.385 and include the following:

284 (b) Early warning system.—

285 1. A school that serves any students in kindergarten
286 through grade 8 shall implement an early warning system to
287 identify students in such grades who need additional support to
288 improve academic performance and stay engaged in school. The
289 early warning system must include the following early warning
290 indicators:

291 a. Attendance below 90 percent, regardless of whether
292 absence is excused or a result of out-of-school suspension.

293 b. One or more suspensions, whether in school or out of
294 school.

295 c. Course failure in English Language Arts or mathematics
296 during any grading period.

297 d. A Level 1 score on the statewide, standardized
298 assessments in English Language Arts or mathematics.

299 e. For students in kindergarten through grade 8 ~~3~~, a
300 substantial reading deficiency under s. 1008.25(5) (a) or, ~~for~~

~~students in kindergarten through grade 4,~~ a substantial
mathematics deficiency under s. 1008.25(6)(a).

A school district may identify additional early warning
indicators for use in a school's early warning system. The
system must include data on the number of students identified by
the system as exhibiting two or more early warning indicators,
the number of students by grade level who exhibit each early
warning indicator, and a description of all intervention
strategies employed by the school to improve the academic
performance of students identified by the early warning system.

2. A school-based team responsible for implementing the
requirements of this paragraph shall monitor the data from the
early warning system. The team may include a school
psychologist. When a student exhibits two or more early warning
indicators, the team, in consultation with the student's parent,
shall determine appropriate intervention strategies for the
student unless the student is already being served by an
intervention program at the direction of a school-based,
multidisciplinary team. Data and information relating to a
student's early warning indicators must be used to inform any
intervention strategies provided to the student.

**Section 6. Subsection (12) of section 1001.43, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:**

1001.43 Supplemental powers and duties of district school

board.—The district school board may exercise the following supplemental powers and duties as authorized by this code or State Board of Education rule.

(12) AFFORDABLE HOUSING.—

(a) A district school board may use real property portions ~~of school sites~~ purchased within the guidelines of the State Requirements for Educational Facilities for the development of, ~~land deemed not usable for educational purposes because of location or other factors, or land declared as surplus by the board to provide sites for~~ affordable housing for teachers and other district personnel and, ~~in areas of critical state concern, for other~~ essential services personnel as defined by local affordable housing eligibility requirements or an educational village that consists of a K-12 educational facility, associated amenities that support the educational mission, and affordable housing for essential services personnel, independently or in conjunction with other agencies as described in subsection (5).

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, local ordinance, or regulation to the contrary, including any local moratorium established after March 29, 2023, a county or municipality must authorize multifamily and mixed-use residential as allowable uses on any parcel owned and authorized by the district school board in any area zoned for commercial, industrial, or mixed use if all of the residential units in a proposed multifamily or

351 mixed-use residential development are rental units that, for a
352 period of at least 30 years, are affordable as defined in s.
353 420.0004.

354 (c) Real property used for an educational village pursuant
355 to this subsection is exempt from the requirements of s.
356 1013.15.

357 (d) The district school board shall consider any proposal
358 for affordable housing that includes reassigning students or
359 closing a K-12 educational facility at a minimum of three public
360 meetings.

361 **Section 7. Subsections (1), (2), and (5) of section**
362 **1001.451, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (6) is**
363 **added to that section, to read:**

364 1001.451 Regional consortium service organizations.—In
365 order to provide a full range of programs to larger numbers of
366 students, minimize duplication of services, and encourage the
367 development of new programs and services:

368 (1) School districts with 20,000 or fewer unweighted full-
369 time equivalent students, developmental research (laboratory)
370 schools established pursuant to s. 1002.32, and the Florida
371 School for the Deaf and the Blind may enter into cooperative
372 agreements to form a regional consortium service organization.
373 Each regional consortium service organization shall provide any
374 of, at a minimum, three of the following services determined
375 necessary and appropriate by the board of directors:

376 (a) Exceptional student education;
377 (b) Safe schools support ~~teacher education centers;~~
378 ~~environmental education;~~
379 (c) State and federal grant procurement and coordination;
380 (d) Data services processing; ~~health~~
381 (e) Insurance services;
382 (f) Risk management ~~insurance;~~
383 (g) Professional learning;
384 (h) College, career, and workforce development;
385 (i) Business and operational services ~~staff development;~~
386 (j) Purchasing; or
387 (k) Planning and accountability.

388 (2)(a) Each regional consortium service organization that
389 consists of four or more school districts is eligible to
390 receive, through the Department of Education, subject to the
391 funds provided in the General Appropriations Act, an allocation
392 ~~incentive grant~~ of \$150,000 ~~\$50,000~~ per school district and
393 eligible member to be used for the delivery of services within
394 ~~the~~ participating school districts. The determination of
395 services and use of such funds must ~~shall~~ be established by the
396 board of directors of the regional consortium service
397 organization. The funds must ~~shall~~ be distributed to each
398 regional consortium service organization no later than 30 days
399 following the release of the funds to the department. Each
400 regional consortium service organization shall submit an annual

401 report to the department regarding the use of funds for
402 consortia services. Unexpended amounts in any fund in a
403 consortium's current year operating budget must be carried
404 forward and included as the balance forward for that fund in the
405 approved operating budget for the following year. Each regional
406 consortium service organization shall provide quarterly
407 financial reports to member districts.

408 (b) Member districts shall designate a district that will
409 serve as a fiscal agent for contractual and reporting purposes.
410 Such fiscal agent district is entitled to reasonable
411 compensation for accounting and other services performed. The
412 regional consortium service organization shall retain all funds
413 received from grants or contracted services to cover indirect or
414 administrative costs associated with the provision of such
415 services. The regional consortium service organization board of
416 directors shall determine the products and services to be
417 provided by the consortium; however, in all contractual matters,
418 the school board of the fiscal agent district shall act on
419 proposed actions of the regional consortium service
420 organization.

421 (c) The regional consortium service organization board of
422 directors shall recommend establishment of positions and
423 individuals for appointment to the fiscal agent district.
424 Personnel must be employed under the personnel policies of the
425 fiscal agent district and are deemed to be public employees of

426 the fiscal agent district. The regional consortium service
427 organization board of directors may recommend a salary schedule
428 and job descriptions specific to its personnel.

429 (d) The regional consortium service organization may
430 purchase or lease property and facilities essential for its
431 operations and is responsible for their maintenance and
432 associated overhead costs.

433 (e) If a regional consortium service organization is
434 dissolved, any revenue from the sale of assets must be
435 distributed among the member districts as determined by the
436 board of directors ~~Application for incentive grants shall be~~
437 ~~made to the Commissioner of Education by July 30 of each year~~
438 ~~for distribution to qualifying regional consortium service~~
439 ~~organizations by January 1 of the fiscal year.~~

440 (5) The board of directors of a regional consortium
441 service organization may use various means to generate revenue
442 in support of its activities, including, but not limited to,
443 contracting for services to nonmember districts. The board of
444 directors may acquire, enjoy, use, and dispose of patents,
445 copyrights, and trademarks and any licenses and associated ~~other~~
446 rights or interests ~~thereunder or therein~~. Ownership of all such
447 patents, copyrights, trademarks, licenses, and associated rights
448 or interests ~~thereunder or therein~~ shall vest in the state, with
449 the board of directors having full right of use and full right
450 to retain associated ~~the revenues derived therefrom~~. Any funds

451 realized from contracted services, patents, copyrights,
452 trademarks, or licenses are ~~shall be~~ considered internal funds
453 as provided in s. 1011.07. A fund balance must be established
454 for maintaining or expanding services, facilities maintenance,
455 terminal pay, and other liabilities ~~Such funds shall be used to~~
456 ~~support the organization's marketing and research and~~
457 ~~development activities in order to improve and increase services~~
458 ~~to its member districts.~~

459 (6) A regional consortium service organization is
460 authorized to administer the Regional Consortia Service
461 Organization Supplemental Services Program under s. 1001.4511.

462 **Section 8. Section 1001.4511, Florida Statutes, is created**
463 **to read:**

464 1001.4511 Regional Consortia Service Organization
465 Supplemental Services Program.—

466 (1) There is created the Regional Consortia Service
467 Organization Supplemental Services Program to increase the
468 ability of regional consortium service organizations under s.
469 1001.451 to provide programs and services to consortia members
470 through cooperative agreements. Program funds may be used to
471 supplement member needs related to transportation; district
472 finance personnel services; property insurance, including
473 property insurance obtained from any source; cybersecurity
474 support; school safety; college, career, and workforce
475 development; academic support; and behavior support within

476 exceptional student education services.

477 (2) Each regional consortium service organization shall
478 annually report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker
479 of the House of Representatives the distribution of funds,
480 including members awarded and services provided.

481 (3) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351,
482 funds allocated for this purpose which are not disbursed by June
483 30 of the fiscal year in which the funds are allocated may be
484 carried forward for up to 5 years after the effective date of
485 the original appropriation.

486 **Section 9. Subsections (2) and (4) of section 1001.61,**
487 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

488 1001.61 Florida College System institution boards of
489 trustees; membership.—

490 (2) Trustees shall be appointed by the Governor to
491 staggered 4-year terms, subject to confirmation by the Senate in
492 regular session. A trustee may continue to serve until a
493 successor is appointed. Trustees may be reappointed by the
494 Governor for one additional term, not to exceed 8 consecutive
495 years of service.

496 (4) At its first regular meeting after July 1 of each
497 year, each Florida College System institution board of trustees
498 shall organize by electing a chair, whose duty as such is to
499 preside at all meetings of the board, to call special meetings
500 thereof, and to attest to actions of the board, and a vice

chair, whose duty as such is to act as chair during the absence or disability of the elected chair. It is the further duty of the chair of each board of trustees to notify the Governor, in writing, whenever a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year, which absences may be grounds for removal. The chair shall serve a single 2-year term.

Section 10. Subsection (19) of section 1001.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.64 Florida College System institution boards of trustees; powers and duties.—

(19) Each board of trustees shall appoint, suspend, or remove the president of the Florida College System institution. Such appointments, reappointments, suspensions, and extensions of a president, including associated contracts, are not subject to approval or confirmation by the State Board of Education. In appointing a permanent president, the chair of the institution board of trustees shall appoint a presidential search committee. The presidential search committee shall consist of at least two members of the board of trustees and may include persons from the institution's faculty, the student body, the institution's foundation board, the institution's financing corporation board, if applicable, alumni, donors, and members from the community the institution serves. However, none of the persons appointed to serve on the presidential search committee may hold positions

526 that report directly to the president. The Commissioner of
527 Education or a member of the State Board of Education may not
528 serve on a presidential search committee. The permanent
529 president appointed by the institution board of trustees must be
530 recommended by the presidential search committee ~~The board of~~
531 ~~trustees may appoint a search committee.~~ The board of trustees
532 shall conduct annual evaluations of the president in accordance
533 with rules of the State Board of Education and submit such
534 evaluations to the State Board of Education for review. The
535 evaluation must address the achievement of the performance goals
536 established by the accountability process implemented pursuant
537 to s. 1008.45. A presidential contract may be renewed for a term
538 exceeding 1 year, but not exceeding the term of the original
539 contract.

540 **Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 1001.70, Florida**
541 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

542 1001.70 Board of Governors of the State University
543 System.—

544 (1) Pursuant to s. 7(d), Art. IX of the State
545 Constitution, the Board of Governors is established as a body
546 corporate comprised of 17 members as follows: 14 citizen members
547 appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate;
548 the Commissioner of Education; the chair of the advisory council
549 of faculty senates or the equivalent; and the president of the
550 Florida student association or the equivalent. The appointed

members may only ~~shall~~ serve a single ~~staggered~~ 7-year term terms. In order to achieve staggered terms, beginning July 1, 2003, of the initial appointments, ~~4 members shall serve 2-year terms, 5 members shall serve 3-year terms, and 5 members shall serve 7-year terms.~~

Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5), paragraph (a) of subsection (6), and paragraph (c) of subsection (12) of section 1001.706, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

(5) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(a)1. The Legislature intends that the Board of Governors shall align the missions of each constituent university with the academic success of its students; the existing and emerging economic development needs of the state; the national reputation of its faculty and its academic and research programs; the quantity of externally generated research, patents, and licenses; and the strategic and accountability plans required in paragraphs (b) and (c). The Board of Governors shall periodically review the mission of each constituent university and make updates or revisions as needed. Upon completion of a review of the mission, the board shall review existing academic programs, including admission criteria, for alignment with the mission. The board shall include in its review a directive to each constituent university regarding its programs for any curriculum or admission criteria that violates s. 1000.05 or

that is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities. The mission alignment and strategic plan must consider peer institutions at the constituent universities. The mission alignment and strategic plan must acknowledge that universities that have a national and international impact have the greatest capacity to promote the state's economic development through: new discoveries, patents, licenses, and technologies that generate state businesses of global importance; research achievements through external grants and contracts that are comparable to nationally recognized and ranked universities; the creation of a resource rich academic environment that attracts high-technology business and venture capital to the state; and this generation's finest minds focusing on solving the state's economic, social, environmental, and legal problems in the areas of life sciences, water, sustainability, energy, and health care. A nationally recognized and ranked university that has a global perspective and impact must be afforded the opportunity to enable and protect the university's competitiveness on the global stage in fair competition with other institutions of other states in the highest Carnegie Classification.

2. To assist the Board of Governors in its review of admission criteria, each constituent university shall post

601 program admission criteria on its website.

602 (6) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO PERSONNEL.—

603 (a) The Board of Governors, or the board's designee, shall
604 establish the personnel program for all employees of a state
605 university. The board of trustees of a state university shall
606 select and reappoint the university president. In appointing a
607 permanent president, the chair of the university board of
608 trustees shall appoint a presidential search committee. The
609 presidential search committee shall consist of 15 members
610 consisting of at least three members of the board of trustees
611 and may include persons from the university's faculty, the
612 student body, the university's foundation board, the
613 university's financing corporation board, if applicable, alumni,
614 donors, and members from the community in which the university
615 serves. However, none of the persons appointed to serve on the
616 presidential search committee may hold positions that report
617 directly to the president. The Chancellor of the State
618 University System or a member of the Board of Governors may not
619 serve on the presidential search committee. The permanent
620 president selected by the board of trustees must have been
621 recommended by the presidential search committee. A presidential
622 contract may be renewed for a term exceeding 1 year, but not
623 exceeding the term of the original contract. The Board of
624 Governors shall confirm the presidential selection and
625 reappointment by a university board of trustees as a means of

acknowledging that system cooperation is expected.

(12) PUBLIC EDUCATION CAPITAL OUTLAY.—The Board of Governors shall submit the prioritized list as required by s. 1013.64(4). Projects considered for prioritization shall be chosen from a preliminary selection group which shall include the list of projects maintained pursuant to paragraph (d) and the top two priorities of each state university.

(c) A new construction, remodeling, or renovation project that has not received an appropriation in a previous year shall not be considered for inclusion on the prioritized list required by s. 1013.64(4), unless:

1. A plan is provided to reserve funds in an escrow account, ~~specific to the project,~~ into which shall be deposited each year an amount of funds equal to 1 percent of the total value of the building for future maintenance;

2. There exists sufficient capacity within the cash and bonding estimate of funds by the Revenue Estimating Conference to accommodate the project within the 3-year Public Education Capital Outlay funding cycle; and

3. The project has been recommended pursuant to s. 1013.31.

Section 13. Subsection (1) of section 1001.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.71 University boards of trustees; membership.—

(1) Pursuant to s. 7(c), Art. IX of the State

651 Constitution, each local constituent university shall be
652 administered by a university board of trustees comprised of 13
653 members as follows: 6 citizen members appointed by the Governor
654 subject to confirmation by the Senate; 5 citizen members
655 appointed by the Board of Governors subject to confirmation by
656 the Senate; the chair of the faculty senate or the equivalent;
657 and the president of the student body of the university. The
658 appointed members shall serve staggered 5-year terms. Appointed
659 members may be reappointed for one additional term, not to
660 exceed 10 years of consecutive service. ~~In order to achieve~~
661 ~~staggered terms, beginning July 1, 2003, of the initial~~
662 ~~appointments by the Governor, 2 members shall serve 2-year~~
663 ~~terms, 3 members shall serve 3-year terms, and 1 member shall~~
664 ~~serve a 5-year term and of the initial appointments by the Board~~
665 ~~of Governors, 2 members shall serve 2-year terms, 2 members~~
666 ~~shall serve 3-year terms, and 1 member shall serve a 5-year~~
667 ~~term. There shall be no state residency requirement for~~
668 ~~university board members, but~~ The Governor and the Board of
669 Governors shall consider ~~diversity and~~ regional representation
670 when appointing members. An appointed board member may continue
671 to serve until a successor is appointed. ~~Beginning July 2, 2020,~~
672 For purposes of this subsection, regional representation shall
673 include the chair of a campus board established pursuant to s.
674 1004.341.

675 **Section 14. Subsection (11) of section 1002.20, Florida**

Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public school students must receive accurate and timely information regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory rights including, but not limited to, the following:

(11) STUDENTS WITH READING AND MATHEMATICS DEFICIENCIES.—The parent of any K-8 ~~K-3~~ student who exhibits a substantial reading deficiency, ~~or the characteristics of dyslexia pursuant to s. 1008.25(5), or any K-4 student who exhibits~~ a substantial deficiency in mathematics, or the characteristics of dyscalculia pursuant to s. 1008.25(6) shall be immediately notified of the student's deficiency and consulted in the development of a plan, as described in s. 1008.25(4)(b).

Section 15. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (6), paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (7), and paragraph (c) of subsection (11) of section 1002.333, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.333 Persistently low-performing schools.—

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

(c) "Persistently low-performing school" means a school that falls into one of the following categories:

1. Has earned three grades lower than a "C," pursuant to s. 1008.34, in at least 3 of the previous 5 years that the

701 school received a grade and has not earned a grade of "B" or
702 higher in the most recent 2 school years;~~—and~~

703 2. A school that Was closed pursuant to s. 1008.33(4)
704 within 2 years after the submission of a notice of intent; or

705 3. Is in the bottom 10 percent of schools statewide for
706 student performance on the grade 3 statewide, standardized
707 English Language Arts assessment or the grade 4 statewide,
708 standardized mathematics assessment in at least 2 of the
709 previous 3 years.

710 (6) STATUTORY AUTHORITY.—

711 (a) A school of hope or a nonprofit entity that operates
712 more than one school of hope through a performance-based
713 agreement with a school district may be designated as a local
714 education agency by the department, if requested, for the
715 purposes of receiving federal funds and, in doing so, accepts
716 the full responsibility for all local education agency
717 requirements and the schools for which it will perform local
718 education agency responsibilities.

719 1. A nonprofit entity designated as a local education
720 agency may directly report its students to the department in
721 accordance with the definitions in s. 1011.61 and pursuant to
722 the department's procedures and timelines.

723 2. Students enrolled in a school established by a hope
724 operator designated as a local educational agency are not
725 eligible students for purposes of calculating the district grade

726 pursuant to s. 1008.34(5).

727 (7) FACILITIES.—

728 (a) A school of hope shall use facilities that comply with
729 the Florida Building Code, except for the State Requirements for
730 Educational Facilities. ~~A school of hope that uses school~~
731 ~~district facilities must comply with the State Requirements for~~
732 ~~Educational Facilities only if the school district and the hope~~
733 ~~operator have entered into a mutual management plan for the~~
734 ~~reasonable maintenance of such facilities. The mutual management~~
735 ~~plan shall contain a provision by which the district school~~
736 ~~board agrees to maintain the school facilities in the same~~
737 ~~manner as its other public schools within the district. The~~
738 local governing authority may ~~shall~~ not adopt or impose any
739 local building requirements or site-development restrictions,
740 such as parking and site-size criteria, student enrollment, and
741 occupant load, that are addressed by and more stringent than
742 those found in the State Requirements for Educational Facilities
743 of the Florida Building Code. A local governing authority must
744 treat schools of hope equitably in comparison to similar
745 requirements, restrictions, and site planning processes imposed
746 upon public schools. The agency having jurisdiction for
747 inspection of a facility and issuance of a certificate of
748 occupancy or use shall be the local municipality or, if in an
749 unincorporated area, the county governing authority. If an
750 official or employee of the local governing authority refuses to

751 comply with this paragraph, the aggrieved school or entity has
752 an immediate right to bring an action in circuit court to
753 enforce its rights by injunction. An aggrieved party that
754 receives injunctive relief may be awarded reasonable attorney
755 fees and court costs.

756 (d) No later than January 1, the department shall annually
757 provide to school districts a list of all underused, vacant, or
758 surplus facilities owned or operated by the school district as
759 reported in the Florida Inventory of School Houses. A school
760 district may provide evidence to the department that a facility
761 includes prekindergarten students that are not reported for
762 funding in the Florida Education Finance Program or that the
763 list contains errors or omissions within 30 days after receipt
764 of the list. By each April 1, the department shall update and
765 publish a final list of all underused, vacant, or surplus
766 facilities owned or operated by each school district, based upon
767 updated information provided by each school district. A hope
768 operator establishing a school of hope may submit to a school
769 district a notice of intent to use, and the school district must
770 execute an agreement authorizing the use of, an educational
771 facility identified in this paragraph ~~at no cost or at a~~
772 ~~mutually agreeable cost not to exceed \$600 per student.~~ A hope
773 operator using a facility pursuant to this paragraph may not
774 sell or dispose of such facility without the written permission
775 of the school district. A school of hope has the right to use a

776 vacant or surplus facility or co-locate with another public
777 school in any facility that has a utilization rate of less than
778 50 percent or a surplus of at least 500 student stations if the
779 total occupancy of the facility does not exceed its capacity.
780 Students enrolled in the school of hope shall be included in the
781 school district's total capital outlay full-time equivalent
782 membership for purposes of s. 1013.62 and for calculating the
783 Public Education Capital Outlay maintenance funds or any other
784 maintenance funds for the facility. The use, operation, and
785 maintenance of such facility must be provided at no cost to the
786 school of hope pursuant to a mutual management agreement
787 developed by the State Board of Education. To avoid unnecessary
788 duplication, the school of hope shall receive noninstructional
789 services from the school district on a pro rata basis based on
790 the number of students enrolled ~~For purposes of this paragraph,~~
791 ~~the term "underused, vacant, or surplus facility" means an~~
792 ~~entire facility or portion thereof which is not fully used or is~~
793 ~~used irregularly or intermittently by the school district for~~
794 ~~instructional or program use.~~

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

799 (c) Resolve disputes between a hope operator and a school
800 district arising from a performance-based agreement, a mutual

801 management agreement, or a contract between a charter operator
802 and a school district under the requirements of s. 1008.33. The
803 Commissioner of Education shall appoint a special magistrate who
804 is a member of The Florida Bar in good standing and who has at
805 least 5 years' experience in administrative law. The special
806 magistrate shall hold hearings to determine facts relating to
807 the dispute and to render a recommended decision for resolution
808 to the State Board of Education. The recommendation may not
809 alter in any way the provisions of the performance-based
810 agreement under subsection (5). The special magistrate may
811 administer oaths and issue subpoenas on behalf of the parties to
812 the dispute or on his or her own behalf. Within 15 calendar days
813 after the close of the final hearing, the special magistrate
814 shall transmit a recommended decision to the State Board of
815 Education and to the representatives of both parties by
816 registered mail, return receipt requested. The State Board of
817 Education must approve or reject the recommended decision at its
818 next regularly scheduled meeting that is more than 7 calendar
819 days and no more than 30 days after the date the recommended
820 decision is transmitted. The decision by the State Board of
821 Education is a final agency action that may be appealed to the
822 District Court of Appeal, First District in accordance with s.
823 120.68. A charter school may recover attorney fees and costs if
824 the State Board of Education determines that the school district
825 unlawfully implemented or otherwise impeded implementation of

the performance-based agreement pursuant to this paragraph.

Section 16. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 1002.411, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.411 New Worlds Scholarship Accounts.—

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

(a) Each school district and private prekindergarten provider shall notify the parent of each eligible student of the process to request and receive a scholarship, subject to available funds, and information about the student's eligibility for the New Worlds Reading Initiative under s. 1003.485 when providing results from the standardized coordinated screening and progress monitoring pursuant to s. 1008.25(9)(c).

Section 17. Subsection (1) of section 1003.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.33 Report cards; end-of-the-year status.—

(1) Each district school board shall establish and publish policies requiring the content and regular issuance of student report cards for all elementary school, middle school, and high school students. To increase the transparency of student performance and assist in the transition to school grades and district grades calculated based on the grading scale in s. 1008.34(3)(c), each student's report card shall include the school's grade and the percentage of students at the school performing at or above grade level in English Language Arts and

the percentage of students at the school performing at or above
grade level in mathematics. These report cards must clearly
depict and grade:

(a) The student's academic performance in each class or
course, which in grades 1 through 12 must be based upon
examinations as well as written papers, class participation, and
other academic performance criteria, and must include the
student's performance or nonperformance at his or her grade
level.

(b) The student's conduct and behavior.

(c) The student's attendance, including absences and
tardiness.

District school boards shall not allow schools to exempt
students from academic performance requirements based on
practices or policies designed to encourage student attendance.
A student's attendance record may not be used in whole or in
part to provide an exemption from any academic performance
requirement.

**Section 18. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
1003.4201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1003.4201 Comprehensive system of reading instruction.—
Each school district must implement a system of comprehensive
reading instruction for students enrolled in prekindergarten

875 through grade 12 and certain students who exhibit a substantial
876 deficiency in early literacy.

877 (2)(a) Components of the reading instruction plan may
878 include the following:

879 1. Additional time per day of evidence-based intensive
880 reading instruction for kindergarten through grade 12 students,
881 which may be delivered during or outside of the regular school
882 day.

883 2. Highly qualified reading coaches, who must be endorsed
884 in reading, to specifically support classroom teachers in making
885 instructional decisions based on progress monitoring data
886 collected pursuant to s. 1008.25(9) and improve classroom
887 teacher delivery of effective reading instruction, reading
888 intervention, and reading in the content areas based on student
889 need.

890 3. Professional learning to help instructional personnel
891 and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida
892 Education Finance Program earn a certification, a credential, an
893 endorsement, or an advanced degree in scientifically researched
894 and evidence-based reading instruction.

895 4. Summer reading camps, using only classroom teachers or
896 other district personnel who possess a micro-credential as
897 specified in s. 1003.485 or are certified or endorsed in reading
898 consistent with s. 1008.25(8)(b)3., for all students in

kindergarten through grade 5 exhibiting a reading deficiency as determined by district and state assessments.

5. Incentives for instructional personnel and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida Education Finance Program who possess a reading certification or endorsement or micro-credential as specified in s. 1003.485 and provide educational support to improve student literacy.

6. Tutoring in reading.

7. Providing resources that support informed parent involvement in decisionmaking processes for students who have difficulty in reading and for parents of students who are reading below grade level and information about the student's eligibility for the New Worlds Reading Initiative under s. 1003.485 and the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts under s. 1002.411.

Section 19. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (4) of section 1003.485, Florida Statutes, to read:

1003.485 The New Worlds Reading Initiative.—

(4) ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The administrator shall:

(n) Develop a collection of low-cost, high-quality books encompassing diverse subjects and genres for each grade level to establish libraries in kindergarten through grade 5 classrooms at Title I schools. The administrator shall develop a competitive incentive program to provide classroom libraries in

924 Title I schools that increase the percentage of eligible
925 students participating in the initiative under subsection (6).

926 **Section 20. Effective January 1, 2026, subsections (1) and**
927 **(5) of section 1004.085, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

928 1004.085 Textbook and instructional materials
929 affordability and transparency.—

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

931 (a) The term "Instructional materials" means educational
932 materials for use within a course which may be available in
933 printed or digital format.

934 (b) "Syllabus" or "syllabi" means the course syllabus or
935 syllabi developed by the instructor assigned to the course.

936 (c) "Term" includes the fall, spring, and summer terms.

937 (5) (a) Each Florida College System institution and state
938 university shall post prominently in the course registration
939 system and on its website a hyperlink to lists of required and
940 recommended textbooks and instructional materials, including
941 those that are open access or an open educational resource or
942 for which there is no cost, for at least 95 percent of all
943 courses and course sections offered at the institution during
944 the upcoming term. The lists must include the International
945 Standard Book Number (ISBN) or a unique identifier for each
946 required and recommended textbook and instructional material and
947 ~~or~~ other identifying information, which must include, at a
948 minimum, all of the following: the title, all authors listed,

949 publishers, edition number, copyright date, published date, and
950 other relevant information necessary to identify the specific
951 textbooks or instructional materials required and recommended
952 for each course. The State Board of Education and the Board of
953 Governors shall include in the policies, procedures, and
954 guidelines adopted under subsection (6) certain limited
955 exceptions to this notification requirement for classes added
956 after the notification deadline.

957 (b) The lists of required and recommended textbooks and
958 instructional materials required in paragraph (a) must be based
959 on a list submitted by the instructor and:

960 1. Be posted as early as is feasible but at least 45 days
961 before the first day of class for each term.

962 2. Remain posted for at least 5 academic years.

963 3. Be searchable by the general education status, the
964 course subject, the course section, the course number, the
965 course title, the name of the instructor of the course, the
966 title of each assigned textbook or instructional material, and
967 each author of an assigned textbook or instructional material.

968 4. Include the duration of any license allowing access to
969 the textbook or instructional material.

970 5. Display corresponding retail costs, when applicable, to
971 students to help determine the value of any bulk pricing
972 program.

973 ~~6.4.~~ Be easily downloadable by current and prospective

974 students.

975 (c) To maximize informed student choice, the current
976 syllabus for each ~~If a course subject to paragraphs (a) and (b)~~
977 shall be posted prominently as a hyperlink in the course
978 registration system. Each syllabus must contain ~~is a general~~
979 ~~education core course option identified pursuant to s. 1007.25,~~
980 ~~course syllabi information containing~~ sufficient detail to
981 inform students of all of the following ~~must be included~~:

982 1. The course curriculum, including the required,
983 recommended, and supplemental textbooks and instructional
984 materials, regardless of cost or whether the materials are open
985 access or an open educational resource.

986 2. Specific ~~The~~ goals, objectives, and student
987 expectations of the course.

988 3. How student performance will be evaluated, including
989 the grading scale and methodology ~~measured~~.

990 **Section 21. Section 1004.098, Florida Statutes, is amended**
991 **to read:**

992 1004.098 Applicants for president of a state university or
993 Florida College System institution; ~~public records exemption;~~
994 ~~public meetings exemption.~~

995 (1) (a) Each state university and Florida College System
996 institution board of trustees must adopt a presidential
997 succession plan specifying lines of authority should the
998 president not fulfill his or her full term as president. To

999 promote continuity and efficiency in government, each successor
1000 identified in the plan must be a current employee of the state
1001 university or Florida College System institution.

1002 (b) A state university or Florida College System
1003 institution may not appoint or select an interim president
1004 unless the appointment or selection conforms to its succession
1005 plan or the university or institution conducts a search pursuant
1006 to s. 1001.706(6)(a) or s. 1001.64(19), as applicable.

1007 (2) Upon the vacancy or anticipated vacancy of the
1008 position of president, a public officer, including the Governor,
1009 or an employee of an executive branch agency, may not discuss
1010 the vacancy, an anticipated vacancy, or the process for filling
1011 such vacancy or promote or advocate for a person to be appointed
1012 as president, with a member or employee of the following:

1013 (a) The Board of Governors.

1014 (b) The State Board of Education.

1015 (c) A state university board of trustees.

1016 (d) A Florida College System institution board of
1017 trustees.

1018 ~~(1)(a) Any personal identifying information of an~~
1019 ~~applicant for president of a state university or a Florida~~
1020 ~~College System institution held by a state university or a~~
1021 ~~Florida College System institution is confidential and exempt~~
1022 ~~from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State~~
1023 ~~Constitution.~~

1024 ~~(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the age, race, and~~
1025 ~~gender of all applicants who met the minimum qualifications~~
1026 ~~established for the position by a state university or Florida~~
1027 ~~College System institution who were considered and the personal~~
1028 ~~identifying information of an applicant included in the final~~
1029 ~~group of applicants for president of a state university or a~~
1030 ~~Florida College System institution are no longer confidential~~
1031 ~~and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State~~
1032 ~~Constitution beginning at the earlier of the date the final~~
1033 ~~group of applicants to be considered for president is~~
1034 ~~established or 21 days before the date of a meeting at which an~~
1035 ~~interview of an applicant will be conducted or at which final~~
1036 ~~action or a vote is to be taken on the offer of the employment~~
1037 ~~of an applicant as president.~~

1038 ~~(2)(a) Any portion of a meeting held for the purpose of~~
1039 ~~identifying or vetting applicants for president of a state~~
1040 ~~university or a Florida College System institution, including~~
1041 ~~any portion of a meeting which would disclose personal~~
1042 ~~identifying information of such applicants which is otherwise~~
1043 ~~confidential and exempt under subsection (1), is exempt from s.~~
1044 ~~286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution.~~

1045 ~~(b) A complete recording must be made of any portion of a~~
1046 ~~meeting which is closed pursuant to paragraph (a), and any~~
1047 ~~closed portion of such meeting may not be held off the record.~~
1048 ~~The recording of the closed portion of a meeting is exempt from~~

CS/CS/HB 1267

2025

~~s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.~~

~~(c) The exemption provided in paragraph (a) does not apply to:~~

~~1. Any portion of a meeting held for the purpose of establishing qualifications for the position or establishing any compensation framework to be offered to an applicant for president of a state university or a Florida College System institution.~~

~~2. Any meeting that is held after a final group of applicants for president of a state university or a Florida College System institution has been established.~~

~~(3) This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2027, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.~~

Section 22. Section 1004.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.89 Institute for Freedom in the Americas.—

~~(1)~~ The Institute for Freedom in the Americas is hereby created at Miami Dade College to preserve the ideals of a free society and promote democracy in the Americas. The institute shall be located at the Freedom Tower and shall:

(1)(a) Partner with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom to Hold workshops, symposiums, and conferences that provide networking opportunities for leaders throughout the

1074 region to gain new insights and ideas for promoting democracy,
1075 including knowledge of and insight into the intellectual,
1076 political, and economic freedoms that are foundational to a
1077 democratic society.

1078 (2)~~(b)~~ Enter into an agreement with the Adam Smith Center
1079 for Economic Freedom to provide participants with academic
1080 coursework and programs that advance democratic practices and
1081 economic and legal reforms.

1082 (3)~~(c)~~ Provide educational and experiential opportunities
1083 for regional leaders committed to careers in democracy and
1084 governance.

1085 ~~(2) Miami Dade College, in accordance with s. 1004.70,~~
1086 ~~shall approve a direct-support organization to support the~~
1087 ~~institute in its mission to develop partnerships throughout the~~
1088 ~~Americas. Notwithstanding s. 1004.70(2), the board of the~~
1089 ~~direct-support organization shall be composed of five members,~~
1090 ~~as follows: one member appointed by the President of the Senate;~~
1091 ~~one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of~~
1092 ~~Representatives; and three members appointed by the Governor,~~
1093 ~~including a representative from Miami Dade College and a~~
1094 ~~representative from the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom.~~

1095 **Section 23. Subsection (15) is added to section 1007.25,**
1096 **Florida Statutes, to read:**

1097 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;
1098 other degree requirements.—

1099 (15) A Florida College System institution or state
1100 university may not impose an institutionwide or universitywide
1101 graduation requirement that includes a course in conflict with
1102 paragraph (3) (c).

1103 **Section 24. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2), paragraphs**
1104 **(a) and (b) of subsection (3), paragraphs (a) and (b) of**
1105 **subsection (5), paragraph (a) of subsection (6), and subsection**
1106 **(8) of section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1107 1008.25 Public school student progression; student
1108 support; coordinated screening and progress monitoring;
1109 reporting requirements.—

1110 (2) STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN.—Each district school board
1111 shall establish a comprehensive plan for student progression
1112 which must provide for a student's progression from one grade to
1113 another based on the student's mastery of the standards in s.
1114 1003.41, specifically English Language Arts, mathematics,
1115 science, and social studies standards. The plan must:

1116 (a) Include criteria that emphasize student reading
1117 proficiency in kindergarten through grade 12 ~~3~~ and provide
1118 targeted instructional support for students with identified
1119 deficiencies in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and
1120 social studies, including students who have been referred to the
1121 school district from the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1122 Program pursuant to paragraph (5) (b). High schools shall use all
1123 available assessment results, including the results of

1124 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessments and
1125 end-of-course assessments for Algebra I and Geometry, to advise
1126 students of any identified deficiencies and to provide
1127 appropriate postsecondary preparatory instruction before high
1128 school graduation. The results of evaluations used to monitor a
1129 student's progress in grades K-12 must be provided to the
1130 student's teacher in a timely manner and as otherwise required
1131 by law. Thereafter, evaluation results must be provided to the
1132 student's parent in a timely manner. When available,
1133 instructional personnel must be provided with information on
1134 student achievement of standards and benchmarks in order to
1135 improve instruction.

1136 (3) ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.—District school boards shall
1137 allocate remedial and supplemental instruction resources to
1138 students in the following priority:

1139 (a) Students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1140 Program who have a substantial deficiency in early literacy
1141 skills and students in kindergarten through grade 8 ~~3~~ who have a
1142 substantial deficiency in reading or the characteristics of
1143 dyslexia as determined in paragraph (5) (a).

1144 (b) Students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1145 Program who have a substantial deficiency in early mathematics
1146 skills and students in kindergarten through grade 8 ~~4~~ who have a
1147 substantial deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of
1148 dyscalculia as determined in paragraph (6) (a).

(5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

(a) Any student in a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provided by a public school who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills and any student in kindergarten through grade 8 ~~3~~ who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading or the characteristics of dyslexia based upon screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring, or assessment data; statewide assessments; or teacher observations must be provided intensive, explicit, systematic, and multisensory reading interventions immediately following the identification of the reading deficiency or the characteristics of dyslexia to address his or her specific deficiency or dyslexia. For the purposes of this subsection, a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student is deemed to exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills based upon the results of the midyear or final administration of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring under subsection (9).

1. The department shall provide a list of state examined and approved comprehensive reading and intervention programs. The intervention programs shall be provided in addition to the comprehensive core reading instruction that is provided to all students in the general education classroom. Dyslexia-specific interventions, as defined by rule of the State Board of Education, shall be provided to students who have the characteristics of dyslexia. The reading intervention programs

1174 must do all of the following:

1175 a. Provide explicit, direct instruction that is
1176 systematic, sequential, and cumulative in language development,
1177 phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and
1178 comprehension, as applicable.

1179 b. Provide daily targeted small group reading
1180 interventions based on student need in phonological awareness,
1181 phonics, including decoding and encoding, sight words,
1182 vocabulary, or comprehension.

1183 c. Be implemented during regular school hours.

1184 2. A school may not wait for a student to receive a
1185 failing grade at the end of a grading period or wait until a
1186 plan under paragraph (4) (b) is developed to identify the student
1187 as having a substantial reading deficiency and initiate
1188 intensive reading interventions. In addition, a school may not
1189 wait until an evaluation conducted pursuant to s. 1003.57 is
1190 completed to provide appropriate, evidence-based interventions
1191 for a student whose parent submits documentation from a
1192 professional licensed under chapter 490 which demonstrates that
1193 the student has been diagnosed with dyslexia. Such interventions
1194 must be initiated upon receipt of the documentation and based on
1195 the student's specific areas of difficulty as identified by the
1196 licensed professional.

1197 3. A student's reading proficiency must be monitored and
1198 the intensive interventions must continue until the student

1199 demonstrates grade level proficiency in a manner determined by
1200 the district, which may include achieving a Level 3 on the
1201 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment. The
1202 State Board of Education shall identify by rule guidelines for
1203 determining whether a student in a Voluntary Prekindergarten
1204 Education Program has a deficiency in early literacy skills or a
1205 student in kindergarten through grade 8 ~~3~~ has a substantial
1206 deficiency in reading, which shall include students who have
1207 been retained as a result of a reading or early literacy
1208 deficiency and students who scored a Level 1 or its equivalent
1209 on the early literacy or English Language Arts end-of-year
1210 administration of the coordinated screening and progress
1211 monitoring system.

1212 (b) A Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student
1213 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills
1214 based upon the results of the administration of the midyear or
1215 final coordinated screening and progress monitoring under
1216 subsection (9) shall be referred to the local school district
1217 and ~~may be eligible to receive instruction in early literacy~~
1218 ~~skills before participating in kindergarten. A Voluntary~~
1219 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program student who scores below the~~
1220 ~~10th percentile on the final administration of the coordinated~~
1221 ~~screening and progress monitoring under subsection (9) shall be~~
1222 ~~referred to the local school district and is eligible to receive~~
1223 early literacy skill instructional support through a summer

bridge program the summer before participating in kindergarten. The summer bridge program must meet requirements adopted by the department and shall consist of 4 hours of instruction per day for a minimum of 100 total hours. A student with an individual education plan who has been retained pursuant to paragraph (2)(g) and has demonstrated a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills must receive instruction in early literacy skills.

(6) MATHEMATICS DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

(a) Any student in a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provided by a public school who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early mathematics skills and any student in kindergarten through grade 8 4 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of dyscalculia based upon screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring, or assessment data; statewide assessments; or teacher observations must:

1. Immediately following the identification of the mathematics deficiency, be provided systematic and explicit mathematics instruction to address his or her specific deficiencies through either:

a. Daily targeted small group mathematics intervention based on student need; or

b. Supplemental, evidence-based mathematics interventions before or after school, or both, delivered by a highly qualified

1249 teacher of mathematics or a trained tutor.

1250 2. The performance of a student receiving mathematics
1251 instruction under subparagraph 1. must be monitored, and
1252 instruction must be adjusted based on the student's need.

1253 3. The department shall provide a list of state examined
1254 and approved mathematics intervention programs, curricula, and
1255 high-quality supplemental materials that may be used to improve
1256 a student's mathematics deficiencies. In addition, the
1257 department shall work, at a minimum, with the Florida Center for
1258 Mathematics and Science Education Research established in s.
1259 1004.86 to disseminate information to school districts and
1260 teachers on effective evidence-based explicit mathematics
1261 instructional practices, strategies, and interventions.

1262 4. A school may not wait for a student to receive a
1263 failing grade at the end of a grading period or wait until a
1264 plan under paragraph (4) (b) is developed to identify the student
1265 as having a substantial mathematics deficiency and initiate
1266 intensive mathematics interventions. In addition, a school may
1267 not wait until an evaluation conducted pursuant to s. 1003.57 is
1268 completed to provide appropriate, evidence-based interventions
1269 for a student whose parent submits documentation from a
1270 professional licensed under chapter 490 which demonstrates that
1271 the student has been diagnosed with dyscalculia. Such
1272 interventions must be initiated upon receipt of the
1273 documentation and based on the student's specific areas of

1274 difficulty as identified by the licensed professional.

1275 5. The mathematics proficiency of a student receiving
1276 additional mathematics supports must be monitored and the
1277 intensive interventions must continue until the student
1278 demonstrates grade level proficiency in a manner determined by
1279 the district, which may include achieving a Level 3 on the
1280 statewide, standardized Mathematics assessment. The State Board
1281 of Education shall identify by rule guidelines for determining
1282 whether a student in a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1283 Program has a deficiency in early mathematics skills or a
1284 student in kindergarten through grade 8 4 has a substantial
1285 deficiency in mathematics, which shall include students who have
1286 been retained as a result of a mathematics deficiency and
1287 students who scored a Level 1 or its equivalent on the
1288 mathematics end-of-year administration of the coordinated
1289 screening and progress monitoring system.

1290
1291 For the purposes of this subsection, a Voluntary Prekindergarten
1292 Education Program student is deemed to exhibit a substantial
1293 deficiency in mathematics skills based upon the results of the
1294 midyear or final administration of the coordinated screening and
1295 progress monitoring under subsection (9).

1296 (8) SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION FOR RETAINED ~~THIRD-GRADE~~
1297 STUDENTS.—

1298 (a) Students who are retained due to a substantial reading

1299 deficiency ~~under paragraph (5)(c)~~ must be provided intensive
1300 interventions in reading to ameliorate the student's specific
1301 reading deficiency and prepare the student for promotion to the
1302 next grade. These interventions must include:

1303 1. Evidence-based, explicit, systematic, and multisensory
1304 reading instruction grounded in the science of reading, in
1305 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and
1306 comprehension and other strategies prescribed by the school
1307 district.

1308 2. Participation in the school district's summer reading
1309 camp, which must incorporate the instructional and intervention
1310 strategies under subparagraph 1. that place rigor and grade-
1311 level learning at the forefront.

1312 3. A minimum of 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading
1313 instruction incorporating the instructional and intervention
1314 strategies under subparagraph 1. This instruction may include:

1315 a. Coordinated integration of content-rich texts in
1316 science and civic literacy within the 90-minute block.

1317 b. Targeted small group instruction.

1318 c. Explicit and systematic instruction with more detailed
1319 explanations, more extensive opportunities for guided practice,
1320 and more opportunities for error correction and feedback.

1321 d. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

1322 e. More frequent progress monitoring of the reading skills
1323 of each student throughout the school year and the adjustment of

instruction according to student need.

f. Tutoring or mentoring.

g. Transition classes containing 3rd and 4th grade students.

h. Extended school day, week, or year.

i. Before school or after school, or both, supplemental evidence-based reading interventions grounded in the science of reading delivered by a teacher who is certified or endorsed in reading and is rated highly effective as determined by the teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34.

The primary instructional strategy for teaching word reading is phonics instruction for decoding and encoding. Instructional strategies may not employ the three-cueing system model of reading or visual memory as a basis for teaching word reading. Such instruction may include visual information and strategies which improve background and experiential knowledge, add context, and increase oral language and vocabulary to support comprehension, but may not be used to teach word reading.

(b) Each school district shall:

1. Provide written notification to the parent of a student who is retained under paragraph (5)(c) that his or her child has not met the achievement level required for promotion and the reasons the child is not eligible for a good cause exemption as provided in paragraph (7)(b). The notification must comply with

1349 paragraph (5)(d) and must include a description of proposed
1350 interventions and supports that will be provided to the child to
1351 remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency.

1352 2. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a
1353 student retained under paragraph (5)(c) who can demonstrate that
1354 he or she is a successful and independent reader and performing
1355 at or above grade level in reading or, upon implementation of
1356 English Language Arts assessments, performing at or above grade
1357 level in English Language Arts. Tools that school districts may
1358 use in reevaluating a student retained may include subsequent
1359 assessments, alternative assessments, and portfolio reviews, in
1360 accordance with rules of the State Board of Education. Students
1361 promoted during the school year after November 1 must
1362 demonstrate achievement levels in reading equivalent to the
1363 level necessary for the beginning of grade 4. The rules adopted
1364 by the State Board of Education must include standards that
1365 provide a reasonable expectation that the student's progress is
1366 sufficient to master appropriate grade 4 level reading skills.

1367 3. Provide students who are retained under paragraph
1368 (5)(c), including students participating in the school
1369 district's summer reading camp under subparagraph (a)2., with a
1370 teacher who is certified or endorsed in reading and is rated
1371 highly effective as determined by the teacher's performance
1372 evaluation under s. 1012.34.

1373 4. Establish at each school, when applicable, an intensive

1374 reading acceleration course for any student retained in grade 3
1375 who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade
1376 2. The intensive reading acceleration course must provide the
1377 following:

1378 a. Uninterrupted reading instruction grounded in the
1379 science of reading for the majority of student contact time each
1380 day and opportunities to master the grade 4 state academic
1381 standards in other core subject areas through content-rich
1382 texts.

1383 b. Explicit and systematic instruction with more detailed
1384 explanations, more extensive opportunities for guided practice,
1385 and more opportunities for error correction and feedback.

1386 c. Targeted small group instruction.

1387 d. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

1388 e. The use of explicit, systematic, and multisensory
1389 reading interventions grounded in the science of reading,
1390 including intensive language, phonics, and vocabulary
1391 instruction, and use of a speech-language therapist if
1392 necessary, that have proven results in accelerating student
1393 reading achievement within the same school year.

1394 f. A read-at-home plan.

1395 **Section 25. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) and**
1396 **subsections (4) and (7) of section 1008.34, Florida Statutes,**
1397 **are amended to read:**

1398 1008.34 School grading system; school report cards;

1399 district grade.—

1400 (3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.—

1401 (c)~~4.~~ The calculation of a school grade shall be based on
1402 the percentage of points earned from the components listed in
1403 subparagraph (b)1. and, if applicable, subparagraph (b)2. The
1404 State Board of Education shall adopt in rule a school grading
1405 scale that sets the percentage of points needed to earn each of
1406 the school grades listed in subsection (2). There shall be at
1407 least five percentage points separating the percentage
1408 thresholds needed to earn each of the school grades. The state
1409 board shall annually review the percentage of school grades of
1410 "A" and "B" for the school year to determine whether to adjust
1411 the school grading scale upward for the following school year's
1412 school grades. The first adjustment would occur no earlier than
1413 the 2023-2024 school year. An adjustment must be made if the
1414 percentage of schools earning a grade of "A" or "B" in the
1415 current year represents 75 percent or more of all graded schools
1416 within a particular school type, which consists of elementary,
1417 middle, high, and combination. The adjustment must reset the
1418 minimum required percentage of points for each grade of "A,"
1419 "B," "C," or "D" at the next highest percentage ending in the
1420 numeral 5 or 0, whichever is closest to the current percentage.

1421 1. School grades for the 2026-2027 school year shall use
1422 ~~Annual reviews of the percentage of schools earning a grade of~~
1423 ~~"A" or "B" and adjustments to the required points must be~~

1424 ~~suspended when the following grading scale for all school types~~
1425 ~~for a specific school type is achieved:~~

1426 a. Sixty-five ~~Ninety~~ percent or more of the points for a
1427 grade of "A."

1428 b. Fifty-five ~~Eighty~~ to sixty-four ~~eighty-nine~~ percent of
1429 the points for a grade of "B."

1430 c. Forty-five ~~Seventy~~ to fifty-four ~~seventy-nine~~ percent
1431 of the points for a grade of "C."

1432 d. Thirty-five ~~Sixty~~ to forty-four ~~sixty-nine~~ percent of
1433 the points for a grade of "D."

1434 2. School grades for the 2027-2028 school year shall use
1435 the following grading scale for all school types:

1436 a. Sixty-eight percent or more of the points for a grade
1437 of "A."

1438 b. Fifty-eight to sixty-seven percent of the points for a
1439 grade of "B."

1440 c. Forty-eight to fifty-seven percent of the points for a
1441 grade of "C."

1442 d. Thirty-eight to forty-seven percent of the points for a
1443 grade of "D."

1444 3. School grades for the 2028-2029 school year shall use
1445 the following grading scale for all school types:

1446 a. Seventy-one percent or more of the points for a grade
1447 of "A."

1448 b. Sixty-one to seventy percent of the points for a grade

1449 of "B."

1450 c. Fifty-one to sixty percent of the points for a grade of
1451 "C."

1452 d. Forty-one to fifty percent of the points for a grade of
1453 "D."

1454 4. School grades for the 2029-2030 school year shall use
1455 the following grading scale for all school types:

1456 a. Seventy-four percent or more of the points for a grade
1457 of "A."

1458 b. Sixty-four to seventy-three percent of the points for a
1459 grade of "B."

1460 c. Fifty-four to sixty-three percent of the points for a
1461 grade of "C."

1462 d. Forty-four to fifty-three percent of the points for a
1463 grade of "D."

1464 5. School grades for the 2030-2031 school year shall use
1465 the following grading scale for all school types:

1466 a. Seventy-eight percent or more of the points for a grade
1467 of "A."

1468 b. Sixty-eight to seventy-seven percent of the points for
1469 a grade of "B."

1470 c. Fifty-eight to sixty-seven percent of the points for a
1471 grade of "C."

1472 d. Forty-eight to fifty-seven percent of the points for a
1473 grade of "D."

1474 6. School grades for the 2031-2032 school year shall use
1475 the following grading scale for all school types:

1476 a. Eighty-two percent or more of the points for a grade of
1477 "A."

1478 b. Seventy-two to eighty-one percent of the points for a
1479 grade of "B."

1480 c. Sixty-two to seventy-one percent of the points for a
1481 grade of "C."

1482 d. Fifty-two to sixty-one percent of the points for a
1483 grade of "D."

1484 7. School grades for the 2032-2033 school year shall use
1485 the following grading scale for all school types:

1486 a. Eighty-six percent or more of the points for a grade of
1487 "A."

1488 b. Seventy-six to eighty-five percent of the points for a
1489 grade of "B."

1490 c. Sixty-six to seventy-five percent of the points for a
1491 grade of "C."

1492 d. Fifty-six to sixty-five percent of the points for a
1493 grade of "D."

1494 8. School grades for the 2033-2034 school year and
1495 thereafter shall use the following grading scale for all school
1496 types:

1497 a. Ninety percent or more of the points for a grade of
1498 "A."

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

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

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

When the state board adjusts the grading scale upward, the state board must inform the public of the degree of the adjustment and its anticipated impact on school grades. ~~Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year,~~ Any changes made by the state board to components in the school grades model or to the school grading scale shall go into effect, at the earliest, in the following school year.

~~9.2.~~ The calculation of school grades may not include any provision that would raise or lower the school's grade beyond the percentage of points earned. Extra weight may not be added in the calculation of any components.

(4) SCHOOL REPORT CARD.—The Department of Education shall annually develop, in collaboration with the school districts, a school report card to be provided by the school district to parents within the district. The report card shall include the school's grade; the percentage of students at the school performing at or above grade level in English Language Arts; the percentage of students at the school performing at or above

1524 grade level in mathematics; student performance in English
1525 Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies;
1526 information regarding school improvement; an explanation of
1527 school performance as evaluated by the federal Elementary and
1528 Secondary Education Act (ESEA), 20 U.S.C. ss. 6301 et seq.; and
1529 indicators of return on investment. The report card shall also
1530 disclose whether the school is in need of intervention and
1531 support pursuant to s. 1008.33 or supports pursuant to s.
1532 1008.365, and the criteria for such a determination. Each
1533 school's report card shall be published annually by the
1534 department on its website based upon the most recent data
1535 available.

1536 ~~(7) TRANSITION. To assist in the transition to 2022-2023~~
1537 ~~school grades and district grades calculated based on the~~
1538 ~~comprehensive, end-of-year progress monitoring assessment under~~
1539 ~~s. 1008.25(9), the 2022-2023 school grades and district grades~~
1540 ~~shall serve as an informational baseline for schools and~~
1541 ~~districts to work toward improved performance in future years.~~
1542 ~~Accordingly, notwithstanding any other provision of law:~~

1543 ~~(a) Due to the absence of learning gains data in the 2022-~~
1544 ~~2023 school year, the initial school grading scale for the 2022-~~
1545 ~~2023 informational baseline grades shall be set so that the~~
1546 ~~percentage of schools that earn an "A," "B," "C," "D," and "F"~~
1547 ~~is statistically equivalent to the 2021-2022 school grades~~
1548 ~~results. When learning gains data becomes available in the 2023-~~

1549 ~~2024 school year, the State Board of Education shall review the~~
1550 ~~school grading scale and determine if the scale should be~~
1551 ~~adjusted.~~

1552 ~~(b) A school may not be required to select and implement a~~
1553 ~~turnaround option pursuant to s. 1008.33 in the 2023-2024 school~~
1554 ~~year based on the school's 2022-2023 grade. The benefits of s.~~
1555 ~~1008.33(4)(c), relating to a school being released from~~
1556 ~~implementation of the turnaround option, and s. 1008.33(4)(d),~~
1557 ~~relating to a school implementing strategies identified in its~~
1558 ~~school improvement plan, apply to a school using turnaround~~
1559 ~~options pursuant to s. 1008.33 which improves to a grade of "C"~~
1560 ~~or higher during the 2022-2023 school year.~~

1561 ~~(c) A school or approved provider under s. 1002.45 which~~
1562 ~~receives the same or lower school grade for the 2022-2023 school~~
1563 ~~year compared to the 2021-2022 school year is not subject to~~
1564 ~~sanctions or penalties that would otherwise occur as a result of~~
1565 ~~the 2022-2023 school grade or rating. A charter school system or~~
1566 ~~school district designated as high performing may not lose the~~
1567 ~~designation based on the 2022-2023 school grades of any of the~~
1568 ~~schools within the charter school system or school district or~~
1569 ~~based on the 2022-2023 district grade, as applicable.~~

1570 ~~(d) For purposes of determining grade 3 retention pursuant~~
1571 ~~to s. 1008.25(5) and high school graduation pursuant to s.~~
1572 ~~1003.4282, student performance on the 2022-2023 comprehensive,~~
1573 ~~end-of-year progress monitoring assessment under s. 1008.25(9)~~

~~shall be linked to 2021-2022 student performance expectations.~~
~~In addition to the good cause exemptions under s. 1008.25(7), a~~
~~student may be promoted to grade 4 for the 2023-2024 school year~~
~~if the student demonstrates an acceptable level of performance~~
~~through means reasonably calculated by the school district to~~
~~provide reliable evidence of the student's performance.~~

~~This subsection is repealed July 1, 2025.~~

Section 26. Section 1009.635, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1009.635 Rural Incentive for Professional Educators.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Rural Incentive for Professional Educators (RIPE) Program is established within the Department of Education to support the recruitment and retention of qualified instructional personnel in rural communities. The program shall provide financial assistance for the repayment of student loans for eligible participants who establish permanent residency and employment in rural areas of opportunity.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual is eligible to participate in the RIPE Program if he or she does all of the following:

(a) Establishes permanent residency on or after July 1, 2025, in a rural area of opportunity as designated pursuant to s. 288.0656. The address on an individual's state-issued identification card or driver license is evidence of residence.

(b) Secures full-time employment as a teacher or

1599 administrator in a private school as defined in s. 1002.01, or
1600 as instructional or administrative personnel as those terms are
1601 defined in s. 1012.01(2) and (3), respectively, in the public
1602 school district located within the same rural area of
1603 opportunity as he or she resides.

1604 (c) Holds an associate degree, bachelor's degree,
1605 postgraduate degree, or certificate from an accredited
1606 institution earned before establishing residency.

1607 (d) Has an active student loan balance incurred for the
1608 completion of the qualifying degree or certificate.

1609 (3) LOAN REPAYMENT.—Eligible participants may receive up
1610 to \$15,000 in total student loan repayment assistance over 5
1611 years, disbursed in annual payments not to exceed \$3,000 per
1612 year. Payments shall be made directly to the lender servicing
1613 the participant's student loan.

1614 (4) AWARD DISTRIBUTION.—Before disbursement of an award,
1615 the department shall verify that the participant:

1616 (a) Has maintained continuous employment with the school
1617 district in an instructional or administrative position;

1618 (b) Has received a rating of effective or highly effective
1619 pursuant to s. 1012.34; and

1620 (c) Has not been placed on probation, had his or her
1621 certificate suspended or revoked, or been placed on the
1622 disqualification list, pursuant to s. 1012.796.

1623 (5) ADMINISTRATION.—The program shall be administered by

the Office of Student Financial Assistance within the Department of Education, which shall:

(a) Develop application procedures requiring documentation, including proof of residency, verification of employment, official academic transcripts, and details of outstanding student loans; and

(b) Monitor compliance with program requirements.

(6) RULEMAKING.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules no later than January 31, 2026, to administer this section.

Section 27. Subsection (3) of section 1013.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.62 Charter schools capital outlay funding.—

(3) If the school board levies the discretionary millage authorized in s. 1011.71(2), the department must ~~shall~~ use the following calculation methodology to determine the amount of revenue that a school district must distribute to each eligible charter school:

(a) Reduce the total discretionary millage revenue by the school district's annual debt service obligation incurred as of March 1, 2017, which has not been subsequently retired, and:

1. Beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, for any district with an active project or an outstanding participation requirement balance, any amount of participation requirement pursuant to s. 1013.64(2)(a)8. that is being satisfied by

revenues raised by the discretionary millage; or

2. For construction projects for which Special Facilities Construction Account funding is sought beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the value of 1 mill from the revenue generated pursuant to s. 1013.64(2) (a) 8.b.

(b) Divide the school district's adjusted discretionary millage revenue by the district's total capital outlay full-time equivalent membership and the total number of full-time equivalent students of each eligible charter school to determine a capital outlay allocation per full-time equivalent student.

(c) Multiply the capital outlay allocation per full-time equivalent student by the total number of full-time equivalent students of each eligible charter school to determine the capital outlay allocation for each charter school.

(d) If applicable, reduce the capital outlay allocation identified in paragraph (c) by the total amount of state funds allocated to each eligible charter school in subsection (2) to determine the maximum calculated capital outlay allocation. The amount of funds a school district must distribute to charter schools shall be as follows:

1. For fiscal year 2023-2024, the amount is 20 percent of the amount calculated under this paragraph.

2. For fiscal year 2024-2025, the amount is 40 percent of the amount calculated under this paragraph.

3. For fiscal year 2025-2026, the amount is 60 percent of

the amount calculated under this paragraph.

4. For fiscal year 2026-2027, the amount is 80 percent of the amount calculated under this paragraph.

5. For fiscal year 2027-2028, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount is 100 percent of the amount calculated under this paragraph.

(e) School districts shall distribute capital outlay funds to eligible charter schools no later than February 1 of each year, as required by this subsection, based on the amount of funds received by the district school board. School districts shall distribute any remaining capital outlay funds, as required by this subsection, upon the receipt of such funds until the total amount calculated pursuant to this subsection is distributed.

By October 1 of each year, each school district shall certify to the department the amount of debt service that ~~and participation requirement that complies with the requirement of paragraph (a) and~~ can be reduced from the total discretionary millage revenue. Each school district shall also certify the amount of the participation requirement that complies with paragraph (a), or certify the value of 1 mill from revenue generated pursuant to s. 1013.64(2)(a)8.b. that can be reduced from the total discretionary millage revenue, as applicable. The Auditor General shall verify compliance with the requirements of

paragraph (a) and s. 1011.71(2)(e) during scheduled operational audits of school districts.

Section 28. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1013.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.64 Funds for comprehensive educational plant needs; construction cost maximums for school district capital projects.—Allocations from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund to the various boards for capital outlay projects shall be determined as follows:

(2)(a) The department shall establish, as a part of the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund, a separate account, in an amount determined by the Legislature, to be known as the "Special Facility Construction Account." The Special Facility Construction Account shall be used to provide necessary construction funds to school districts which have urgent construction needs but which lack sufficient resources at present, and cannot reasonably anticipate sufficient resources within the period of the next 3 years, for these purposes from currently authorized sources of capital outlay revenue. A school district requesting funding from the Special Facility Construction Account shall submit one specific construction project, not to exceed one complete educational plant, to the Special Facility Construction Committee. A district may not receive funding for more than one approved project in any 3-year period ~~or while any portion of the district's participation~~

~~requirement is outstanding.~~ The first year of the 3-year period shall be the first year a district receives an appropriation. The department shall encourage a construction program that reduces the average size of schools in the district. The request must meet the following criteria to be considered by the committee:

1. The project must be deemed a critical need and must be recommended for funding by the Special Facility Construction Committee. Before developing construction plans for the proposed facility, the district school board must request a preapplication review by the Special Facility Construction Committee or a project review subcommittee convened by the chair of the committee to include two representatives of the department and two staff members from school districts not eligible to participate in the program. A school district may request a preapplication review at any time; however, if the district school board seeks inclusion in the department's next annual capital outlay legislative budget request, the preapplication review request must be made before February 1. Within 90 days after receiving the preapplication review request, the committee or subcommittee must meet in the school district to review the project proposal and existing facilities. To determine whether the proposed project is a critical need, the committee or subcommittee shall consider, at a minimum, the capacity of all existing facilities within the district as

determined by the Florida Inventory of School Houses; the district's pattern of student growth; the district's existing and projected capital outlay full-time equivalent student enrollment as determined by the demographic, revenue, and education estimating conferences established in s. 216.136; the district's existing satisfactory student stations; the use of all existing district property and facilities; grade level configurations; and any other information that may affect the need for the proposed project.

2. The construction project must be recommended in the most recent survey or survey amendment cooperatively prepared by the district and the department, and approved by the department under the rules of the State Board of Education. If a district employs a consultant in the preparation of a survey or survey amendment, the consultant may not be employed by or receive compensation from a third party that designs or constructs a project recommended by the survey.

3. The construction project must appear on the district's approved project priority list under the rules of the State Board of Education.

4. The district must have selected and had approved a site for the construction project in compliance with s. 1013.36 and the rules of the State Board of Education.

5. The district shall have developed a district school board adopted list of facilities that do not exceed the norm for

1774 net square feet occupancy requirements under the State
1775 Requirements for Educational Facilities, using all possible
1776 programmatic combinations for multiple use of space to obtain
1777 maximum daily use of all spaces within the facility under
1778 consideration.

1779 6. Upon construction, the total cost per student station,
1780 including change orders, must not exceed the cost per student
1781 station as provided in subsection (6) unless approved by the
1782 Special Facility Construction Committee. At the discretion of
1783 the committee, costs that exceed the cost per student station
1784 for special facilities may include legal and administrative
1785 fees, the cost of site improvements or related offsite
1786 improvements, the cost of complying with public shelter and
1787 hurricane hardening requirements, cost overruns created by a
1788 disaster as defined in s. 252.34(2), costs of security
1789 enhancements approved by the school safety specialist, and
1790 unforeseeable circumstances beyond the district's control.

1791 7. There shall be an agreement signed by the district
1792 school board stating that it will advertise for bids within 30
1793 days of receipt of its encumbrance authorization from the
1794 department.

1795 8.a.(I) For construction projects for which Special
1796 Facilities Construction Account funding is sought before the
1797 2019-2020 fiscal year, the district shall, at the time of the
1798 request and for a continuing period necessary to meet the

1799 district's participation requirement, levy the maximum millage
1800 against its nonexempt assessed property value as allowed in s.
1801 1011.71(2) or shall raise an equivalent amount of revenue from
1802 the school capital outlay surtax authorized under s. 212.055(6).

1803 (II) Beginning with construction projects for which
1804 Special Facilities Construction Account funding is sought in the
1805 2019-2020 fiscal year, the district shall, for a minimum of 3
1806 years before submitting the request and for a continuing period
1807 necessary to meet its participation requirement, levy the
1808 maximum millage against the district's nonexempt assessed
1809 property value as authorized under s. 1011.71(2) or shall raise
1810 an equivalent amount of revenue from the school capital outlay
1811 surtax authorized under s. 212.055(6).

1812 (III) Beginning with the 2025-2026 fiscal year, any
1813 district with an ~~a new or~~ active project or an outstanding
1814 participation requirement balance, funded under ~~the provisions~~
1815 ~~of~~ this subsection, shall be required to budget no more than the
1816 value of 1 mill per year to the project until the district's
1817 participation requirement relating to the local discretionary
1818 capital improvement millage or the equivalent amount of revenue
1819 from the school capital outlay surtax is satisfied.

1820 b. For construction projects for which Special Facilities
1821 Construction Account funding is sought beginning in the 2025-
1822 2026 fiscal year, the district shall, for a minimum of 3 years
1823 before submitting the request and for the initial year of the

1824 appropriation and the 2 years following the initial
1825 appropriation, levy the maximum millage against the district's
1826 nonexempt assessed property value as authorized under s.
1827 1011.71(2) or shall raise an equivalent amount of revenue from
1828 the school capital outlay surtax authorized under s. 212.055(6).
1829 The district is not required to budget the funds toward the
1830 project, but must use the funds as authorized pursuant to s.
1831 1011.71 or s. 212.055(6), as applicable.

1832 9. If a contract has not been signed 90 days after the
1833 advertising of bids, the funding for the specific project must
1834 ~~shall~~ revert to the Special Facility New Construction Account to
1835 be reallocated to other projects on the list. However, an
1836 additional 90 days may be granted by the commissioner.

1837 10. The department shall certify the inability of the
1838 district to fund the survey-recommended project over a
1839 continuous 3-year period using projected capital outlay revenue
1840 derived from s. 9(d), Art. XII of the State Constitution, as
1841 amended, paragraph (3)(a) of this section, and s. 1011.71(2).

1842 11.a. For projects funded before the 2025-2026 fiscal
1843 year, the district shall have on file with the department an
1844 adopted resolution acknowledging its commitment to satisfy its
1845 participation requirement, which is equivalent to all
1846 unencumbered and future revenue acquired from s. 9(d), Art. XII
1847 of the State Constitution, as amended, paragraph (3)(a) of this
1848 section, and s. 1011.71(2), in the year of the initial

CS/CS/HB 1267

2025

1849 appropriation and for the 2 years immediately following the
1850 initial appropriation.

1851 b. For projects funded during the 2025-2026 fiscal year,
1852 and thereafter, the district shall have on file with the
1853 department an adopted resolution acknowledging its commitment to
1854 comply with the requirements of this paragraph.

1855 12. Phase I plans must be approved by the district school
1856 board as being in compliance with the building and life safety
1857 codes before June 1 of the year the application is made.

1858 **Section 29.** Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
1859 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
1860 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,
1861 2025.