

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to middle school and high school start
 3 times; amending ss. 1001.42 and 1002.33, F.S.;
 4 providing that district school boards and charter
 5 schools are in compliance with certain provisions
 6 relating to middle school and high school start times
 7 upon submission of a specified report to the
 8 Department of Education by a specified date; providing
 9 an effective date.

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

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 13 **Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (4) of section**
 14 **1001.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

15 1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The
 16 district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all
 17 powers and perform all duties listed below:

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

22 (f) Opening and closing of schools; fixing uniform date;
 23 middle school and high school start times.—Adopt policies for
 24 the opening and closing of schools, fix uniform dates, and
 25 middle school and high school start times.

26 1. The opening date for schools in the district may not be
27 earlier than August 10 of each year.

28 2. By July 1, 2026, the instructional day for middle
29 schools may not begin earlier than 8 a.m. and the instructional
30 day for high schools may not begin earlier than 8:30 a.m. Each
31 district school board must inform its community, including
32 parents, students, teachers, school administrators, athletic
33 coaches, and other stakeholders, about the health, safety, and
34 academic impacts of sleep deprivation on middle school and high
35 school students and the benefits of a later school start time
36 and discuss local strategies to successfully implement the later
37 school start times.

38 3. A district school board shall be deemed in compliance
39 with the requirements of subparagraph 2. if the district school
40 board submits to the department, by June 1, 2026, a report, in a
41 format prescribed by the department, that includes at a minimum
42 all of the following:

43 a. The start times of elementary schools, middle schools,
44 and high schools in the school district.

45 b. Documentation of strategies the school district
46 considered to implement a later school start time for middle
47 schools and high schools within the school district, including
48 the number of board meetings and public hearings held to discuss
49 the strategies and any parent input the school district
50 received.

51 c. A description of the impact of implementing the school
 52 start time requirements in subparagraph 2., including the
 53 financial impact to the school district.

54 d. Any identified unintended consequences to the school
 55 district, students, and the community from implementing the
 56 school start time requirements in subparagraph 2.

57 **Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (16) of section**
 58 **1002.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

59 1002.33 Charter schools.—

60 (16) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—

61 (b) Additionally, a charter school shall be in compliance
 62 with the following statutes:

63 1. Section 286.011, relating to public meetings and
 64 records, public inspection, and criminal and civil penalties.

65 2. Chapter 119, relating to public records.

66 3. Section 1003.03, relating to the maximum class size,
 67 except that the calculation for compliance pursuant to s.
 68 1003.03 shall be the average at the school level.

69 4. Section 1012.22(1)(c), relating to compensation and
 70 salary schedules.

71 5. Section 1012.33(5), relating to workforce reductions.

72 6. Section 1012.335, relating to contracts with
 73 instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 2011.

74 7. Section 1012.34, relating to the substantive
 75 requirements for performance evaluations for instructional

76 personnel and school administrators.

77 8. Section 1006.12, relating to safe-school officers.

78 9. Section 1006.07(7), relating to threat management

79 teams.

80 10. Section 1006.07(9), relating to School Environmental

81 Safety Incident Reporting.

82 11. Section 1006.07(10), relating to reporting of

83 involuntary examinations.

84 12. Section 1006.1493, relating to the Florida Safe

85 Schools Assessment Tool.

86 13. Section 1006.07(6)(d), relating to adopting an active

87 assailant response plan.

88 14. Section 943.082(4)(b), relating to the mobile

89 suspicious activity reporting tool.

90 15. Section 1012.584, relating to youth mental health

91 awareness and assistance training.

92 16. Section 1001.42(4)(f)2., relating to middle school and

93 high school start times unless the governing board has submitted

94 a report to the department pursuant to s. 1001.42(4)(f)3. A

95 charter school-in-the-workplace is exempt from this requirement.

96 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.