

By the Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education; and
Senator Jones

602-02904-25

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the Family Empowerment Scholarship
Program; amending s. 1002.394, F.S.; requiring private
schools participating in the Family Empowerment
Scholarship Program to provide specified information
in writing to parents before certain students enroll
in the school; requiring that the parent of certain
students be informed of certain information within a
specified timeframe; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (9) of section
1002.394, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

(9) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—To be
eligible to participate in the Family Empowerment Scholarship
Program, a private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and
must:

(d) Before a student with an Individualized Education Plan,
Education Plan, English Learner Plan, or 504 plan's initial
enrollment or grade level transition, provide to the parent, in
writing, For a student determined eligible pursuant to paragraph
(3)(b), discuss the school's academic programs and policies,
specialized services, code of conduct, and attendance policies,
and specialized services and therapies offered at the school.
The private school must specifically delineate for the parent
which elements of the student's Individualized Education Plan,
Education Plan, English Learner Plan, or 504 plan will be met. A

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30 private school may update specialized services and therapies
31 offered if a school district updates its list of equitable
32 services offered, or at a student's grade level transition,
33 whichever comes first. In addition, within 30 days of the school
34 district providing an eligible student with a private school
35 services plan, ~~before enrollment with the parent must be~~
36 informed of what modifications, accommodations, and therapies
37 included in to determine which programs and services may meet
38 the student's plan will be honored by the private school
39 individual needs.

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41 If a private school fails to meet the requirements of this
42 subsection or s. 1002.421, the commissioner may determine that
43 the private school is ineligible to participate in the
44 scholarship program.

45 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.