



515704

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/24/2026	.	
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The Committee on Rules (Simon) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
120.81, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

120.81 Exceptions and special requirements; general areas.-

(1) EDUCATIONAL UNITS.-

(a) District school boards are not subject to the  
requirements for rules in this chapter when making and adopting  
rules with public input at a public meeting. Notwithstanding s.



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12 120.536(1) and the flush left provisions of s. 120.52(8),  
13 district school boards may adopt rules to implement their  
14 general powers under s. 1001.41.

15 Section 2. Subsection (21) of section 1001.42, Florida  
16 Statutes, is amended to read:

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

20 (21) EDUCATIONAL EMERGENCY.—To free schools that have with  
21 a school grade of "D" or "F" or are persistently low-performing  
22 schools as described in s. 1002.333 from contract restrictions  
23 that limit the school district's ~~school's~~ ability to implement  
24 programs and strategies needed to improve student performance, a  
25 district school board may adopt salary incentives or other  
26 strategies that address the selection, placement, compensation,  
27 and expectations of instructional personnel and provide  
28 principals with the autonomy described in s. 1012.28(8). For  
29 purposes of this subsection, an educational emergency exists in  
30 a school district if one or more schools in the district have a  
31 school grade of "D" or "F" or are persistently low-performing  
32 schools as described in s. 1002.333. Notwithstanding chapter  
33 447, relating to collective bargaining, a district school board  
34 may:

35 (a) Provide salary incentives that differentiate based on a  
36 teacher's certification, subject area taught, or grade level  
37 taught. Such incentives are not subject to collective bargaining  
38 requirements.

39 (b) Notwithstanding s. 1012.2315, relating to assignment of  
40 teachers, adopt strategies to assign high-quality teachers more



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41 equitably across schools in the district to low-performing  
42 schools as a management right. Such strategies are not subject  
43 to collective bargaining requirements.

44 Section 3. Paragraph (i) of subsection (3) of section  
45 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

46 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public  
47 school students must receive accurate and timely information  
48 regarding their child’s academic progress and must be informed  
49 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12  
50 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory  
51 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

52 (3) HEALTH ISSUES.—

53 (i) *Epinephrine use and supply.*—

54 1. A student who has experienced or is at risk for life-  
55 threatening allergic reactions may carry a United States Food  
56 and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved ~~an~~ epinephrine delivery  
57 device ~~auto-injector~~ and self-administer epinephrine by such  
58 FDA-approved delivery device ~~auto-injector~~ while in school,  
59 participating in school-sponsored activities, or in transit to  
60 or from school or school-sponsored activities if the school has  
61 been provided with parental and physician authorization. The  
62 State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of  
63 Health, shall adopt rules for such use of FDA-approved  
64 epinephrine delivery devices which must ~~auto-injectors that~~  
65 ~~shall~~ include provisions to protect the safety of all students  
66 from the misuse or abuse of such delivery devices ~~auto-~~  
67 ~~injectors~~. A school district, county health department, public-  
68 private partner, and their employees and volunteers shall be  
69 indemnified by the parent of a student authorized to carry an



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70 FDA-approved epinephrine delivery device auto-injector for any  
71 and all liability with respect to the student's use of an FDA-  
72 approved epinephrine delivery device auto-injector pursuant to  
73 this paragraph.

74 2. A public school may purchase a supply of FDA-approved  
75 epinephrine delivery devices auto-injectors from a wholesale  
76 distributor as defined in s. 499.003 or may enter into an  
77 arrangement with a wholesale distributor or manufacturer as  
78 defined in s. 499.003 for the FDA-approved epinephrine delivery  
79 devices auto-injectors at fair-market, free, or reduced prices  
80 for use in the event a student has an anaphylactic reaction. The  
81 FDA-approved epinephrine delivery devices auto-injectors must be  
82 maintained in a secure location on the public school's premises.  
83 The participating school district shall adopt a protocol  
84 developed by a licensed physician for the administration by  
85 school personnel who are trained to recognize an anaphylactic  
86 reaction and to administer ~~an~~ epinephrine by an FDA-approved  
87 delivery device auto-injection. The supply of FDA-approved  
88 epinephrine delivery devices auto-injectors may be provided to  
89 and used by a student authorized to self-administer epinephrine  
90 by FDA-approved delivery device auto-injector under subparagraph  
91 1. or trained school personnel.

92 3. The school district and its employees, agents, and the  
93 physician who provides the standing protocol for school FDA-  
94 approved epinephrine delivery devices auto-injectors are not  
95 liable for any injury arising from the use of such an  
96 epinephrine delivery device auto-injector administered by  
97 trained school personnel who follow the adopted protocol and  
98 whose professional opinion is that the student is having an



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99 anaphylactic reaction:

100 a. Unless the trained school personnel's action is willful  
101 and wanton;

102 b. Notwithstanding that the parents or guardians of the  
103 student to whom the epinephrine is administered have not been  
104 provided notice or have not signed a statement acknowledging  
105 that the school district is not liable; and

106 c. Regardless of whether authorization has been given by  
107 the student's parents or guardians or by the student's  
108 physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered  
109 nurse.

110 Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (7) and paragraph  
111 (e) of subsection (10) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are  
112 amended to read:

113 1002.33 Charter schools.—

114 (7) CHARTER.—The terms and conditions for the operation of  
115 a charter school, including a virtual charter school, shall be  
116 set forth by the sponsor and the applicant in a written  
117 contractual agreement, called a charter. The sponsor and the  
118 governing board of the charter school or virtual charter school  
119 shall use the standard charter contract or standard virtual  
120 charter contract, respectively, pursuant to subsection (21),  
121 which shall incorporate the approved application and any addenda  
122 approved with the application. Any term or condition of a  
123 proposed charter contract or proposed virtual charter contract  
124 that differs from the standard charter or virtual charter  
125 contract adopted by rule of the State Board of Education shall  
126 be presumed a limitation on charter school flexibility. The  
127 sponsor may not impose unreasonable rules or regulations that



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128 violate the intent of giving charter schools greater flexibility  
129 to meet educational goals. The charter shall be signed by the  
130 governing board of the charter school and the sponsor, following  
131 a public hearing to ensure community input.

132 (c)1. A charter may be renewed provided that a program  
133 review demonstrates that the criteria in paragraph (a) have been  
134 successfully accomplished and that none of the grounds for  
135 nonrenewal established by paragraph (8) (a) have been expressly  
136 found. The charter of a charter school that meets these  
137 requirements and has received a school grade lower than a "B"  
138 pursuant to s. 1008.34 in the most recently graded school year  
139 must be renewed for no less than a 5-year term except as  
140 provided in paragraph (9) (n). In order to facilitate long-term  
141 financing for charter school construction, charter schools  
142 operating for a minimum of 3 years and demonstrating exemplary  
143 academic programming, which may include academic performance  
144 measured by school improvement ratings, and fiscal management  
145 are eligible for a 15-year charter renewal. Such long-term  
146 charter is subject to annual review and may be terminated during  
147 the term of the charter.

148 2. The 15-year charter renewal that may be granted pursuant  
149 to subparagraph 1. must be granted to a charter school that has  
150 received a school grade of "A" or "B" pursuant to s. 1008.34 in  
151 the most recently graded school year and that is not in a state  
152 of financial emergency or deficit position as defined by this  
153 section. Such long-term charter is subject to annual review and  
154 may be terminated during the term of the charter pursuant to  
155 subsection (8).

156 (10) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—



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157 (e) A charter school may limit the enrollment process only  
158 to target the following student populations:

159 1. Students within specific age groups or grade levels.

160 2. Students considered at risk of dropping out of school or  
161 academic failure. Such students shall include exceptional  
162 education students.

163 3. Students enrolling in a charter school-in-the-workplace  
164 or charter school-in-a-municipality established pursuant to  
165 subsection (15).

166 4. Students residing within a reasonable distance of the  
167 charter school, as described in paragraph (20)(c). Such students  
168 shall be subject to a random lottery and to the racial/ethnic  
169 balance provisions described in subparagraph (7)(a)8. or any  
170 federal provisions that require a school to achieve a  
171 racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or  
172 within the racial/ethnic range of other nearby public schools.

173 5. Students who meet reasonable academic, artistic, or  
174 other eligibility standards established by the charter school  
175 and included in the charter school application and charter or,  
176 in the case of existing charter schools, standards that are  
177 consistent with the school's mission and purpose. Such standards  
178 shall be in accordance with current state law and practice in  
179 public schools and may not discriminate against otherwise  
180 qualified individuals. A school that limits enrollment for such  
181 purposes must place a student on a progress monitoring plan for  
182 at least one semester before dismissing such student from the  
183 school. A student may not be dismissed based on academic  
184 performance while a school is implementing a school improvement  
185 plan pursuant to paragraph (9)(n) or corrective action plan



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186 pursuant to s. 1002.345.

187         6. Students articulating from one charter school to another  
188 pursuant to an articulation agreement between the charter  
189 schools that has been approved by the sponsor.

190         7. Students living in a development, or students whose  
191 parent or legal guardian maintains a physical or permanent  
192 employment presence within the development, in which a  
193 developer, including any affiliated business entity or  
194 charitable foundation, contributes to the formation,  
195 acquisition, construction, or operation of one or more charter  
196 schools or charter school facilities and related property in an  
197 amount equal to or having a total appraised value of at least \$5  
198 million to be used as charter schools to mitigate the  
199 educational impact created by the development of new residential  
200 dwelling units. Students living in the development are entitled  
201 to 50 percent of the student stations in the charter schools.  
202 The students who are eligible for enrollment are subject to a  
203 random lottery, the racial/ethnic balance provisions, or any  
204 federal provisions, as described in subparagraph 4. The  
205 remainder of the student stations must be filled in accordance  
206 with subparagraph 4.

207         8. Students whose parent or legal guardian is employed  
208 within a reasonable distance of the charter school, as described  
209 in paragraph (20) (c). The students who are eligible for  
210 enrollment are subject to a random lottery.

211         Section 5. Subsection (17) of section 1002.42, Florida  
212 Statutes, is amended to read:

213             1002.42 Private schools.—

214             (17) EPINEPHRINE SUPPLY.—



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215 (a) A private school may purchase a supply of United States  
216 Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved epinephrine delivery  
217 devices ~~auto-injectors~~ from a wholesale distributor as defined  
218 in s. 499.003 or may enter into an arrangement with a wholesale  
219 distributor or manufacturer as defined in s. 499.003 for the  
220 FDA-approved epinephrine delivery devices ~~auto-injectors~~ at  
221 fair-market, free, or reduced prices for use in the event a  
222 student has an anaphylactic reaction. The FDA-approved  
223 epinephrine delivery devices ~~auto-injectors~~ must be maintained  
224 in a secure location on the private school's premises. The  
225 participating private school shall adopt a protocol developed by  
226 a licensed physician for the administration by private school  
227 personnel who are trained to recognize an anaphylactic reaction  
228 and to administer epinephrine by an FDA-approved epinephrine  
229 delivery device ~~auto-injection~~. The supply of FDA-approved  
230 epinephrine delivery devices ~~auto-injectors~~ may be provided to  
231 and used by a student authorized to self-administer epinephrine  
232 by an FDA-approved delivery device ~~auto-injector~~ under s.  
233 1002.20(3)(i) or trained school personnel.

234 (b) The private school and its employees, agents, and the  
235 physician who provides the standing protocol for school FDA-  
236 approved epinephrine delivery devices ~~auto-injectors~~ are not  
237 liable for any injury arising from the use of an FDA-approved  
238 epinephrine delivery device ~~auto-injector~~ administered by  
239 trained school personnel who follow the adopted protocol and  
240 whose professional opinion is that the student is having an  
241 anaphylactic reaction:

242 1. Unless the trained school personnel's action is willful  
243 and wanton;



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244           2. Notwithstanding that the parents or guardians of the  
245 student to whom the epinephrine is administered have not been  
246 provided notice or have not signed a statement acknowledging  
247 that the school district is not liable; and

248           3. Regardless of whether authorization has been given by  
249 the student's parents or guardians or by the student's  
250 physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered  
251 nurse.

252           Section 6. Subsection (3), paragraph (e) of subsection (4),  
253 paragraph (a) of subsection (5), and paragraph (e) of subsection  
254 (6) of section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

255           1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
256 accountability.—

257           ~~(3)(a) For the 2020-2021 program year, the department shall~~  
258 ~~calculate a kindergarten readiness rate for each private~~  
259 ~~prekindergarten provider and public school participating in the~~  
260 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program based upon learning~~  
261 ~~gains and the percentage of students assessed as ready for~~  
262 ~~kindergarten. The department shall require that each school~~  
263 ~~district administer the statewide kindergarten screening in use~~  
264 ~~before the 2021-2022 school year to each kindergarten student in~~  
265 ~~the school district within the first 30 school days of the 2021-~~  
266 ~~2022 school year. Private schools may administer the statewide~~  
267 ~~kindergarten screening to each kindergarten student in a private~~  
268 ~~school who was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~  
269 ~~Education Program. Learning gains shall be determined using a~~  
270 ~~value-added measure based on growth demonstrated by the results~~  
271 ~~of the preassessment and postassessment in use before the 2021-~~  
272 ~~2022 program year. However, a provider may not be newly placed~~



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273 ~~on probationary status under this paragraph. A provider~~  
274 ~~currently on probationary status may only be removed from such~~  
275 ~~status if the provider earns the minimum rate, determined~~  
276 ~~pursuant to subsection (5). The methodology for calculating a~~  
277 ~~provider's readiness rate may not include students who are not~~  
278 ~~administered the statewide kindergarten screening.~~

279 ~~(b) For the 2021-2022 program year, kindergarten screening~~  
280 ~~results may not be used in the calculation of readiness rates.~~  
281 ~~Any private prekindergarten provider or public school~~  
282 ~~participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program~~  
283 ~~which fails to meet the minimum kindergarten readiness rate for~~  
284 ~~the 2021-2022 program year is subject to the probation~~  
285 ~~requirements of subsection (5).~~

286 ~~(3)-(4)~~

287 (e) Subject to an appropriation, the department shall  
288 provide for a differential payment to a private prekindergarten  
289 provider and public school based on the provider's designation.  
290 The maximum differential payment may not exceed a total of 15  
291 percent of the base student allocation per full-time equivalent  
292 student under s. 1002.71 attending in the consecutive program  
293 year for that program. A private prekindergarten provider or  
294 public school may not receive a differential payment if it  
295 receives a designation of "proficient" or lower. ~~Before the~~  
296 ~~adoption of the methodology, the department shall confer with~~  
297 ~~the Council for Early Grade Success under s. 1008.2125 before~~  
298 ~~receiving approval from the State Board of Education for the~~  
299 ~~final recommendations on the designation system and differential~~  
300 ~~payments.~~

301 ~~(4) (a)-(5) (a)~~ If a public school's or private



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302 prekindergarten provider's program assessment composite score  
303 for its prekindergarten classrooms fails to meet the minimum  
304 program assessment composite score for contracting adopted in  
305 rule by the department, the private prekindergarten provider or  
306 public school may not participate in the Voluntary  
307 Prekindergarten Education Program beginning in the consecutive  
308 program year and thereafter until the public school or private  
309 prekindergarten provider meets the minimum composite score for  
310 contracting. A public school or private prekindergarten provider  
311 may request one program assessment per program year in order to  
312 requalify for participation in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
313 Education Program, provided that the public school or private  
314 prekindergarten provider is not excluded from participation  
315 under ss. 1002.55(6), 1002.61(10)(b), 1002.63(9)(b), or  
316 paragraph (b) ~~(5)(b)~~ of this section. If a public school or  
317 private prekindergarten provider would like an additional  
318 program assessment completed within the same program year, the  
319 public school or private prekindergarten provider shall be  
320 responsible for the cost of the program assessment.

321 ~~(5)(6)~~

322 (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school  
323 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its  
324 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required  
325 under paragraph (4)(b) ~~(5)(b)~~ until the provider or school meets  
326 the minimum performance metric.

327 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (6) and subsection  
328 (7) of section 1002.71, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

329 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

330 (6)



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331 (b)1. Each private prekindergarten provider's ~~and district~~  
332 ~~school board's~~ attendance policy must require the parent of each  
333 student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to  
334 verify, each month, the student's attendance on the prior  
335 month's certified student attendance.

336 2. The parent must submit the verification of the student's  
337 attendance to the private prekindergarten provider ~~or public~~  
338 ~~school~~ on forms prescribed by the department. The forms must  
339 include, in addition to the verification of the student's  
340 attendance, a certification, in substantially the following  
341 form, that the parent continues to choose the private  
342 prekindergarten provider or public school in accordance with s.  
343 1002.53 and directs that payments for the program be made to the  
344 provider or school:

345  
346 VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE  
347 AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE  
348

349 I, ...(Name of Parent)..., swear (or affirm) that my child,  
350 ...(Name of Student)..., attended the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
351 Education Program on the days listed above and certify that I  
352 continue to choose ...(Name of Provider or School)... to deliver  
353 the program for my child and direct that program funds be paid  
354 to the provider or school for my child.

355 ...(Signature of Parent)...

356 ...(Date)...

357  
358 3. The private prekindergarten provider ~~or public school~~  
359 must keep each original signed form for at least 2 years. Each



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360 private prekindergarten provider must permit the early learning  
361 coalition, ~~and each public school must permit the school~~  
362 ~~district,~~ to inspect the original signed forms during normal  
363 business hours. The department shall adopt procedures for early  
364 learning coalitions ~~and school districts~~ to review the original  
365 signed forms against the certified student attendance. The  
366 review procedures must ~~shall~~ provide for the use of selective  
367 inspection techniques, including, but not limited to, random  
368 sampling. Each early learning coalition ~~and the school districts~~  
369 must comply with the review procedures.

370 (7) The department shall require that administrative  
371 expenditures be kept to the minimum necessary for efficient and  
372 effective administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
373 Education Program. Administrative policies and procedures must  
374 ~~shall be revised,~~ to the maximum extent practicable, be revised  
375 to incorporate the use of automation and electronic submission  
376 of forms, including those required for child eligibility and  
377 enrollment, provider and class registration, and monthly  
378 certification of attendance for payment. A school district may  
379 use its automated daily attendance reporting system for the  
380 purpose of maintaining and transmitting attendance records to  
381 the early learning coalition in a mutually agreed-upon format.  
382 Each school district shall certify the correctness of attendance  
383 data submitted to the single point of entry system described in  
384 paragraph (5) (a) as required by the department. In addition,  
385 actions must ~~shall~~ be taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate the  
386 duplication of reports, and eliminate other duplicative  
387 activities. Each early learning coalition may retain and expend  
388 no more than 5.0 percent of the funds paid by the coalition to



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389 private prekindergarten providers and public schools under  
390 paragraph (5) (b). Funds retained by an early learning coalition  
391 under this subsection may be used only for administering the  
392 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and may not be used  
393 for the school readiness program or other programs.

394 Section 8. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (4) of  
395 section 1002.945, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

396 1002.945 Gold Seal Quality Care Program.—

397 (4) In order to obtain and maintain a designation as a Gold  
398 Seal Quality Care provider, a child care facility, large family  
399 child care home, or family day care home must meet the following  
400 additional criteria:

401 (a) The child care provider must not have had any class I  
402 violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and  
403 Families, for which the Department of Children and Families  
404 determines that the child care provider is the primary cause of  
405 the violation within the 2 years preceding its application for  
406 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of  
407 a class I violation for which the Department of Children and  
408 Families determines that the child care provider is the primary  
409 cause of the violation shall be grounds for termination of the  
410 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the  
411 provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

412 ~~(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the Department of~~  
413 ~~Education determines through a formal process that a provider~~  
414 ~~has been in business for at least 5 years and has no other class~~  
415 ~~I violations recorded, the department may recommend to the state~~  
416 ~~board that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care~~  
417 ~~status. The state board's determination regarding such~~



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418 ~~provider's status is final.~~

419 Section 9. Paragraph (j) of subsection (2) of section  
420 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

421 1003.42 Required instruction.-

422 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public  
423 schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education  
424 and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and  
425 faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the  
426 highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy,  
427 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing  
428 approved methods of instruction, the following:

429 (j) The elementary principles of agriculture. This  
430 component must include, but need not be limited to, the history  
431 of agriculture both nationally and specifically to this state,  
432 the economic and societal impact of agriculture, and the various  
433 agricultural industry sectors. The department, in collaboration  
434 with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the  
435 University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural  
436 Sciences, shall prepare and offer standards and a curriculum for  
437 the instruction required by this paragraph and may seek input  
438 from state or nationally recognized agricultural educational  
439 organizations. The department may contract with state or  
440 nationally recognized agricultural educational organizations to  
441 develop training for instructional personnel and grade-  
442 appropriate classroom resources to support the developed  
443 curriculum.

444  
445 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards  
446 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.



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447 Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the  
448 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is  
449 offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or  
450 other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness  
451 initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (u).

452 Section 10. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) and subsection  
453 (10) of section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, are amended to  
454 read:

455 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

456 (3) STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; COURSE AND ASSESSMENT  
457 REQUIREMENTS.—

458 (f) *One credit in physical education.*—Physical education  
459 must include the integration of health. Participation in an  
460 interscholastic sport at the junior varsity or varsity level for  
461 two full seasons shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in  
462 physical education. A district school board may not require that  
463 the one credit in physical education be taken during the 9th  
464 grade year. Completion of 2 years of marching band shall satisfy  
465 the one-credit requirement in physical education and ~~or~~ the one-  
466 credit requirement in performing arts. This credit may not be  
467 used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the  
468 requirement for adaptive physical education under an individual  
469 education plan (IEP) or 504 plan. Completion of 1.0 credit with  
470 a grade of "C" or better in a dance techniques course, a  
471 significant component of which is activities designed to  
472 maintain or improve health-related fitness and lifelong fitness,  
473 shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education  
474 or the one-credit requirement in performing arts. This credit  
475 may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or



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476 the requirement for adaptive physical education under an IEP or  
477 504 plan. Completion of one semester with a grade of "C" or  
478 better in a marching band class, in a physical activity class  
479 that requires participation in marching band activities as an  
480 extracurricular activity, or in a dance class shall satisfy one-  
481 half credit in physical education or one-half credit in  
482 performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the  
483 personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive  
484 physical education under an IEP or 504 plan. Completion of 2  
485 years in a Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) class, a  
486 significant component of which is drills, shall satisfy the one-  
487 credit requirement in physical education and the one-credit  
488 requirement in performing arts. This credit may not be used to  
489 satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for  
490 adaptive physical education under an IEP or 504 plan.

491 (10) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CREDIT.—The Department  
492 of Education shall convene a workgroup, ~~no later than December~~  
493 ~~1, 2024,~~ to:

494 (a) Identify best practices in career and technical  
495 education pathways from middle school to high school to aid  
496 middle school students in career planning and facilitate their  
497 transition to high school programs. The career pathway must be  
498 linked to postsecondary programs.

499 (b) Establish three mathematics pathways for students  
500 enrolled in secondary grades by aligning mathematics courses to  
501 programs, postsecondary education, and careers. The workgroup  
502 shall collaborate to identify the three mathematics pathways and  
503 the mathematics course sequence within each pathway which align  
504 to the mathematics skills needed for success in the



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505 corresponding academic programs, postsecondary education, and  
506 careers.

507 1. The mathematics pathways must incorporate the applied  
508 algebra courses established under s. 1003.4936 which align the  
509 Florida Standards for Algebra I with the career and technical  
510 education standards and benchmarks for each designated career  
511 cluster.

512 2. Each mathematics pathway must include at least one  
513 course sequence beginning with an applied algebra course aligned  
514 to a specific career cluster. The workgroup shall identify  
515 additional mathematics courses that follow each applied algebra  
516 course and build on the algebraic reasoning, modeling, and  
517 quantitative skills introduced through industry-relevant  
518 applications. The mathematics pathways may include a plan to  
519 create new mathematics courses to complete a pathway.

520 3. Each mathematics pathway must offer flexibility and the  
521 ability to move between pathways if necessary.

522 4. Mathematics pathways must create clear links between  
523 precollege mathematics and college-level mathematics pathways,  
524 and support student progression into postsecondary academic  
525 programs, state college career and technical education programs,  
526 career center programs, industry certification programs, and  
527 high-skill, high-wage occupations.

528 5. The mathematics pathways that incorporate applied  
529 algebra courses created under s. 1003.4936(3)(a)1. must be  
530 identified no later than September 1, 2027. The mathematics  
531 pathways that incorporate applied algebra courses created under  
532 s. 1003.4936(3)(a)2. must be identified no later than September  
533 1, 2028. The workgroup shall submit the identified mathematics



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534 pathways to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
535 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

536 Section 11. Section 1003.4936, Florida Statutes, is created  
537 to read:

538 1003.4936 Applied algebra for career and technical  
539 education.—

540 (1) The Legislature finds that algebra is an important step  
541 in a student's mathematics pathway. Algebra is a prerequisite  
542 for higher level mathematics courses, and success in algebra is  
543 strongly connected with later mathematics success. Establishing  
544 an applied algebra course that integrates career and technical  
545 education standards equips students with mathematical skills  
546 directly connected to real industry practices and increases the  
547 relevance of algebra instruction. By contextualizing algebraic  
548 concepts within authentic occupational problems, such applied  
549 algebra courses improve student engagement, strengthen  
550 understanding of core math standards, and better prepare  
551 students for high-skill, high-wage careers. Such a course will  
552 enable students to pass the Algebra I end-of-course assessment  
553 and develop practical skills that support success in Florida's  
554 workforce and postsecondary pathways.

555 (2) The Department of Education shall develop an applied  
556 algebra course for each of the established career and technical  
557 education career clusters. Each applied algebra course must:

558 (a) Integrate the career and technical education program  
559 standards and benchmarks for the relevant career cluster with  
560 the Florida Standards for Algebra I.

561 (b) Provide students with rigorous, career-relevant  
562 mathematical applications that demonstrate the use of algebraic



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563 concepts in authentic industry problems, processes, or settings.

564 (c) Prepare students to take the statewide, standardized  
565 Algebra I end-of-course assessment required under s. 1008.22.

566 (d) Meet all requirements for a mathematics credit required  
567 for high school graduation under s. 1003.4282(3)(b) or for  
568 middle grades promotion pursuant to s. 1003.4156(1)(b).

569 (3)(a) The department shall develop the courses on the  
570 following timelines:

571 1. Applied algebra courses in the following career clusters  
572 must be developed and available for school district adoption in  
573 the 2027-2028 school year:

574 a. Agriculture, food, and natural resources.

575 b. Architecture and construction.

576 c. Business management and administration.

577 d. Energy.

578 e. Engineering and technology education.

579 f. Finance.

580 g. Health science.

581 h. Information technology.

582 i. Manufacturing.

583 j. Transportation and distribution logistics.

584 2. Applied algebra courses in the following career clusters  
585 must be developed and available for district adoption in the  
586 2028-2029 school year:

587 a. Arts, audio-visual technology, and communications.

588 b. Education and training.

589 c. Government and public administration.

590 d. Hospitality and tourism.

591 e. Human services.



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592 f. Law, public safety, and security.

593 g. Marketing, sales, and service.

594 (b) In grades 6 through 12, school districts may offer one  
595 or more applied algebra courses in lieu of Algebra I, and  
596 successful completion of the course will satisfy the Algebra I  
597 credit requirement for high school graduation or middle grades  
598 promotion.

599 (c) The department shall collaborate with the Board of  
600 Governors of the State University System to ensure that each  
601 applied algebra course is accepted as a mathematics credit for  
602 state university admissions.

603 (d) The department shall provide professional development,  
604 instructional resources, and technical assistance to support  
605 school district implementation.

606 Section 12. Subsection (5) is added to section 1003.5716,  
607 Florida Statutes, to read:

608 1003.5716 Transition to postsecondary education and career  
609 opportunities.—All students with disabilities who are 3 years of  
610 age to 21 years of age have the right to a free, appropriate  
611 public education. As used in this section, the term "IEP" means  
612 individual education plan.

613 (5)

614 (a) If a related service identified in a student's IEP is  
615 not provided as scheduled, the school district must notify the  
616 parent or guardian in writing or by electronic means within 10  
617 school days, explain the reason the service was not provided,  
618 and discuss a plan for make-up services.

619 (b) A parent or guardian has the right to access, upon  
620 request, all service provider logs or progress notes within 15



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621 school days after such service is provided. The school district  
622 must inform parents of this right at each IEP meeting.

623 Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
624 1004.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

625 1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

626 (3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to  
627 this section may offer competency-based certification programs  
628 specifically designed for noneducation major baccalaureate  
629 degree holders to enable program participants to meet the  
630 educator certification requirements of s. 1012.56. An educator  
631 preparation institute choosing to offer a competency-based  
632 certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section  
633 must implement a program developed by the institute and approved  
634 by the department for this purpose. Approved programs shall be  
635 available for use by other approved educator preparation  
636 institutes.

637 (b) Each program participant must:

638 1. Meet certification requirements pursuant to s.  
639 1012.56(1) by obtaining a statement of status of eligibility  
640 determining the participant is eligible for a certificate in the  
641 certification subject area of the educational plan. An educator  
642 preparation institute may allow a program participant to enroll  
643 in and complete coursework while the participant is working to  
644 obtain the statement of status of eligibility indicating  
645 eligibility for a certificate in the certification subject area  
646 of the educational plan.

647 2. and Meet the requirements of s. 1012.56(2) (a)-(f) before  
648 participating in field experiences.

649 3.2- Demonstrate competency and participate in field



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650 experiences that are appropriate to his or her educational plan  
651 prepared under paragraph (a). Beginning with candidates entering  
652 an educator preparation institute in the 2022-2023 school year,  
653 a candidate for certification in a coverage area identified  
654 pursuant to s. 1012.585(3)(f) must successfully complete all  
655 competencies for a reading endorsement, including completion of  
656 the endorsement practicum through the candidate's field  
657 experience, in order to graduate from the program.

658 ~~4.3.~~ Before completion of the program, fully demonstrate  
659 his or her ability to teach the subject area for which he or she  
660 is seeking certification by documenting a positive impact on  
661 student learning growth in a prekindergarten through grade 12  
662 setting and, except as provided in s. 1012.56(7)(a)3., achieving  
663 a passing score on the professional education competency  
664 examination, the basic skills examination, and the subject area  
665 examination for the subject area certification which is required  
666 by state board rule.

667 Section 14. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and paragraph  
668 (b) of subsection (4) of section 1004.933, Florida Statutes, are  
669 amended to read:

670 1004.933 Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education  
671 (GATE) Program.—

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

673 (b) "Institution" means any a school district career center  
674 established under s. 1001.44, a charter technical career center  
675 established under s. 1002.34, or a Florida College System  
676 institution identified in s. 1000.21. Any such institution may  
677 enter into an agreement with an online provider for the adult  
678 education or career instruction portion of the program if such



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679 provider offers instructional content and services that align  
680 with the state career and adult education curriculum frameworks.

681 (4) PAYMENT WAIVER; ELIGIBILITY.—

682 (b) To be eligible for participation in the GATE Program, a  
683 student must:

684 1. Not have earned a standard high school diploma pursuant  
685 to s. 1003.4282 or a high school equivalency diploma pursuant to  
686 s. 1003.435 before enrolling in the GATE Program;

687 2. Have been withdrawn from high school;

688 3. Be a resident of this state as defined in s. 1009.21(1);

689 4. Be at least 16 ~~to 21~~ years of age at the time of initial  
690 enrollment, provided that a student who is 16 or 17 years of age  
691 has withdrawn from school enrollment pursuant to the  
692 requirements and safeguards in s. 1003.21(1)(c);

693 5. Select the adult secondary education program and career  
694 education program of his or her choice at the time of admission  
695 to the GATE Program, provided that the career education program  
696 is included on the Master Credentials List under s. 445.004(4).

697 The student is not required to enroll in adult secondary and  
698 career education program coursework simultaneously. The student  
699 may not change the requested pathway after enrollment, except  
700 that, if necessary for the student, the student may enroll in an  
701 adult basic education program prior to enrolling in the adult  
702 secondary education program;

703 6. Maintain a 2.0 GPA for career and technical education  
704 coursework; and

705 7. Notwithstanding s. 1003.435(4), complete the programs  
706 under subparagraph 5. within 3 years after his or her initial  
707 enrollment unless the institution determines that an extension



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708 is warranted due to extenuating circumstances.

709 Section 15. Section 1006.12, Florida Statutes, is amended  
710 to read:

711 1006.12 Safe-school officers at each public school.—For the  
712 protection and safety of school personnel, property, students,  
713 and visitors, each district school board and school district  
714 superintendent shall partner with law enforcement agencies or  
715 security agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school  
716 officers at each school facility within the district, including  
717 charter schools. A district school board must collaborate with  
718 charter school governing boards to facilitate charter school  
719 access to all safe-school officer options available under this  
720 section. Notwithstanding any local ordinance or development  
721 order, the school district or charter school may implement any  
722 combination of the options in subsections (1)-(4) to best meet  
723 the needs of the school district and charter schools.

724 (1) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER.—A school district may  
725 establish school resource officer programs through a cooperative  
726 agreement with law enforcement agencies.

727 (a) School resource officers shall undergo criminal  
728 background checks, drug testing, and a psychological evaluation  
729 and be certified law enforcement officers, as defined in s.  
730 943.10(1), who are employed by a law enforcement agency as  
731 defined in s. 943.10(4). The powers and duties of a law  
732 enforcement officer shall continue throughout the employee's  
733 tenure as a school resource officer.

734 (b) School resource officers shall abide by district school  
735 board policies and shall consult with and coordinate activities  
736 through the school principal, but shall be responsible to the



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737 law enforcement agency in all matters relating to employment,  
738 subject to agreements between a district school board and a law  
739 enforcement agency. The agreements shall identify the entity  
740 responsible for maintaining records relating to training.  
741 Activities conducted by the school resource officer which are  
742 part of the regular instructional program of the school shall be  
743 under the direction of the school principal.

744 (2) SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICER.—A school district may commission  
745 one or more school safety officers for the protection and safety  
746 of school personnel, property, and students within the school  
747 district. The district school superintendent may recommend, and  
748 the district school board may appoint, one or more school safety  
749 officers.

750 (a) School safety officers shall undergo criminal  
751 background checks, drug testing, and a psychological evaluation  
752 and be law enforcement officers, as defined in s. 943.10(1),  
753 certified under chapter 943 and employed by either a law  
754 enforcement agency or by the district school board. If the  
755 officer is employed by the district school board, the district  
756 school board is the employing agency for purposes of chapter  
757 943, and must comply with that chapter.

758 (b) A school safety officer has and shall exercise the  
759 power to make arrests for violations of law on district school  
760 board property or on property owned or leased by a charter  
761 school under a charter contract, as applicable, and to arrest  
762 persons, whether on or off such property, who violate any law on  
763 such property under the same conditions that deputy sheriffs are  
764 authorized to make arrests. A school safety officer has the  
765 authority to carry weapons when performing his or her official



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766 duties.

767 (c) School safety officers must complete mental health  
768 crisis intervention training using a curriculum developed by a  
769 national organization with expertise in mental health crisis  
770 intervention. The training shall improve officers' knowledge and  
771 skills as first responders to incidents involving students with  
772 emotional disturbance or mental illness, including de-escalation  
773 skills to ensure student and officer safety.

774 (d) A district school board may enter into mutual aid  
775 agreements with one or more law enforcement agencies as provided  
776 in chapter 23. A school safety officer's salary may be paid  
777 jointly by the district school board and the law enforcement  
778 agency, as mutually agreed to.

779 (3) SCHOOL GUARDIAN.—

780 (a) At the school district's or the charter school  
781 governing board's discretion, as applicable, pursuant to s.  
782 30.15, a school district or charter school governing board may  
783 participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach  
784 Scott Beigel Guardian Program to meet the requirement of  
785 establishing a safe-school officer. The following individuals  
786 may serve as a school guardian, in support of school-sanctioned  
787 activities for purposes of s. 790.115, upon satisfactory  
788 completion of the requirements under s. 30.15(1)(k) and  
789 certification by a sheriff:

790 1. A school district employee or personnel, as defined  
791 under s. 1012.01, or a charter school employee, as provided  
792 under s. 1002.33(12)(a), who volunteers to serve as a school  
793 guardian in addition to his or her official job duties; or

794 2. An employee of a school district or a charter school who



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795 is hired for the specific purpose of serving as a school  
796 guardian.

797 (b) Before appointing an individual as a school guardian,  
798 the school district or charter school shall contact the  
799 Department of Law Enforcement and review all information  
800 maintained under s. 30.15(1)(k)3.c. related to the individual.

801 (c) The department shall provide to the Department of Law  
802 Enforcement any information relating to a school guardian  
803 received pursuant to subsection (5).

804 (4) SCHOOL SECURITY GUARD.—A school district or charter  
805 school governing board may contract with a security agency as  
806 defined in s. 493.6101(18) to employ as a school security guard  
807 an individual who holds a Class "D" and Class "G" license  
808 pursuant to chapter 493, provided the following training and  
809 contractual conditions are met:

810 (a) An individual who serves as a school security guard,  
811 for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section,  
812 must:

813 1. Demonstrate completion of 144 hours of required training  
814 conducted by a sheriff pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k)2.

815 2. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a  
816 psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the  
817 Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the  
818 evaluation to the sheriff's office and school district, charter  
819 school governing board, or employing security agency, as  
820 applicable. The Department of Law Enforcement is authorized to  
821 provide the sheriff's office, school district, charter school  
822 governing board, or employing security agency with mental health  
823 and substance abuse data for compliance with this paragraph.



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824           3. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent  
825 random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s.  
826 112.0455 and the sheriff's office, school district, charter  
827 school governing board, or employing security agency, as  
828 applicable.

829           4. Be approved to work as a school security guard by the  
830 sheriff of each county in which the school security guard will  
831 be assigned to a school before commencing work at any school in  
832 that county. The sheriff's approval authorizes the security  
833 agency to assign the school security guard to any school in the  
834 county, and the sheriff's approval is not limited to any  
835 particular school.

836           5. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon  
837 inspection, and firearm qualification conducted by a sheriff  
838 pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k)2.e. on at least an annual basis and  
839 provide documentation to the sheriff's office, school district,  
840 charter school governing board, or employing security agency, as  
841 applicable.

842           (b) The contract between a security agency and a school  
843 district or a charter school governing board regarding  
844 requirements applicable to school security guards serving in the  
845 capacity of a safe-school officer for purposes of satisfying the  
846 requirements of this section shall define the entity or entities  
847 responsible for maintaining records relating to training,  
848 inspection, and firearm qualification.

849           (c) School security guards serving in the capacity of a  
850 safe-school officer pursuant to this subsection are in support  
851 of school-sanctioned activities for purposes of s. 790.115, and  
852 must aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant



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853 incidents on school premises.

854 (d) The Office of Safe Schools shall provide the Department  
855 of Law Enforcement any information related to a school security  
856 guard that the office receives pursuant to subsection (5).

857 (5) NOTIFICATION.—The district school superintendent or  
858 charter school administrator, or a respective designee shall  
859 notify the county sheriff and the Office of Safe Schools  
860 immediately after, but no later than 72 hours after:

861 (a) A safe-school officer is dismissed for misconduct or is  
862 otherwise disciplined.

863 (b) A safe-school officer discharges his or her firearm in  
864 the exercise of the safe-school officer's duties, other than for  
865 training purposes.

866 (6) CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING.—Each safe-school officer  
867 who is also a sworn law enforcement officer shall complete  
868 mental health crisis intervention training using a curriculum  
869 developed by a national organization with expertise in mental  
870 health crisis intervention. The training must improve the  
871 officer's knowledge and skills as a first responder to incidents  
872 involving students with emotional disturbance or mental illness,  
873 including de-escalation skills to ensure student and officer  
874 safety.

875 (7) LIMITATIONS.—An individual must satisfy the background  
876 screening, psychological evaluation, and drug test requirements  
877 and be approved by the sheriff before participating in any  
878 training required by s. 30.15(1)(k), which may be conducted only  
879 by a sheriff.

880 (8) EXEMPTION.—Any information that would identify whether  
881 a particular individual has been appointed as a safe-school



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882 officer pursuant to this section held by a law enforcement  
883 agency, school district, or charter school is exempt from s.  
884 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

885  
886 If a district school board, through its adopted policies,  
887 procedures, or actions, denies a charter school access to any  
888 safe-school officer options pursuant to this section, the school  
889 district must assign a school resource officer or school safety  
890 officer to the charter school. Under such circumstances, the  
891 charter school's share of the costs of the school resource  
892 officer or school safety officer may not exceed the safe school  
893 allocation funds provided to the charter school pursuant to s.  
894 1011.62(12) and shall be retained by the school district.

895 Section 16. Present subsection (8) of section 1007.2616,  
896 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (9), and a new  
897 subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

898 1007.2616 Computer science and technology instruction.—

899 (8) (a) To align educator credentials with instructional  
900 practice across grade levels, the State Board of Education shall  
901 establish by rule or maintain the following computer science  
902 subject area coverages:

- 903 1. Computer science (grades K-5);  
904 2. Computer science (grades 6-12); and  
905 3. Computer science (K-12).

906 (b) For the coverages in paragraph (a), the State Board of  
907 Education shall adopt competencies and skills and designate  
908 corresponding examinations by rule. The comprehensive computer  
909 science (K-12) coverage and its examination shall remain  
910 available unless amended by rule of the state board.



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911 (c)1. The Department of Education shall present recommended  
912 competencies and skills for the grades K-5 and grades 6-12  
913 coverages to the State Board of Education for approval by  
914 September 1, 2026.

915 2. Following approval under subparagraph 1., the department  
916 shall coordinate development, piloting, and standard-setting for  
917 the examinations. The examinations for both grade-band coverages  
918 must be available for administration no later than January 1,  
919 2028.

920 Section 17. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4), paragraphs (b)  
921 and (d) of subsection (5), and paragraph (a) of subsection (9)  
922 of section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph  
923 (d) is added to subsection (4) of that section, to read:

924 1008.25 Public school student progression; student support;  
925 coordinated screening and progress monitoring; reporting  
926 requirements.—

927 (4) ASSESSMENT AND SUPPORT.—

928 (c) A student who has a substantial reading deficiency as  
929 determined in paragraph (5)(a) or a substantial mathematics  
930 deficiency as determined in paragraph (6)(a) must be covered by  
931 a federally required student plan, such as an individual  
932 education plan or an individualized progress monitoring plan, or  
933 both, as necessary. The individualized progress monitoring plan  
934 must be developed within 45 days after the results of the  
935 coordinated screening and progress monitoring system become  
936 available. The plan must, at a minimum, include:

937 1. The student's specific, identified reading or  
938 mathematics skill deficiency.

939 2. Goals and benchmarks for student growth in reading or



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940 mathematics.

941 3. A description of the specific measures that will be used  
942 to evaluate and monitor the student's reading or mathematics  
943 progress.

944 4. For a substantial reading deficiency, the specific  
945 evidence-based literacy instruction grounded in the science of  
946 reading which the student will receive.

947 5. Strategies, resources, and materials that will be  
948 provided to the student's parent to support the student to make  
949 reading or mathematics progress. For a student with a  
950 substantial reading deficiency, resources must include  
951 information about the student's eligibility for the New Worlds  
952 Reading Initiative under s. 1003.485.

953 6. Any additional services the student's teacher deems  
954 available and appropriate to accelerate the student's reading or  
955 mathematics skill development.

956 (d) If the coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
957 system under subsection (9), or any district-approved screening  
958 instrument, identifies a student as exhibiting characteristics  
959 of dyslexia or dyscalculia, the school district shall:

960 1. Ensure that the student is covered by a plan under  
961 paragraph (b) which includes evidence-based interventions that  
962 are specific to the identified characteristics of dyslexia or  
963 dyscalculia and that are aligned, as appropriate, with the  
964 interventions required under subsections (5) and (6).

965 2. Treat the screening result as reasonable suspicion that  
966 the student may be a student with a disability for purposes of  
967 s. 1003.57 and promptly seek parental consent to conduct an  
968 initial evaluation consistent with State Board of Education rule



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969 and applicable federal law.

970 3. Ensure that screening activities and intervention  
971 procedures, including interventions required under this  
972 subsection and subsections (5) and (6), occur concurrently with  
973 the evaluation process and are not used to delay or deny an  
974 appropriate evaluation.

975 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

976 (b) A Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student  
977 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills  
978 based upon the results of the administration of the midyear or  
979 final coordinated screening and progress monitoring under  
980 subsection (9) shall be referred to the local school district  
981 and may be eligible to receive instruction in early literacy  
982 skills before participating in kindergarten. A Voluntary  
983 Prekindergarten Education Program student who scores below the  
984 25th ~~40th~~ percentile on the final administration of the  
985 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under subsection  
986 (9) shall be referred to the local school district and is  
987 eligible to receive early literacy skill instructional support  
988 through a summer bridge program the summer before participating  
989 in kindergarten. The summer bridge program must meet  
990 requirements adopted by the department and shall consist of 4  
991 hours of instruction per day for a minimum of 100 total hours. A  
992 student with an individual education plan who has been retained  
993 pursuant to paragraph (2) (g) and has demonstrated a substantial  
994 deficiency in early literacy skills must receive instruction in  
995 early literacy skills.

996 (d) The parent of any student who exhibits a substantial  
997 deficiency in reading, as described in paragraph (a), must be



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998 immediately notified in writing of the following:

999           1. That his or her child has been identified as having a  
1000 substantial deficiency in reading, including a description and  
1001 explanation, in terms understandable to the parent, of the exact  
1002 nature of the student's difficulty in learning and lack of  
1003 achievement in reading.

1004           2. A description of the current services that are provided  
1005 to the child.

1006           3. A description of the proposed intensive interventions  
1007 and supports that will be provided to the child that are  
1008 designed to remediate the identified area of reading deficiency.

1009           4. The student progression requirements under paragraph  
1010 (2) (h) and that if the child's reading deficiency is not  
1011 remediated by the end of grade 3, the child must be retained  
1012 unless he or she is exempt from mandatory retention for good  
1013 cause.

1014           5. Strategies, including multisensory strategies and  
1015 programming, through a read-at-home plan the parent can use in  
1016 helping his or her child succeed in reading. The read-at-home  
1017 plan must provide access to the resources identified in  
1018 paragraph (e).

1019           6. That the statewide, standardized English Language Arts  
1020 assessment is not the sole determiner of promotion and that  
1021 additional evaluations, portfolio reviews, and assessments are  
1022 available to the child to assist parents and the school district  
1023 in knowing when a child is reading at or above grade level and  
1024 ready for grade promotion.

1025           7. The district's specific criteria and policies for a  
1026 portfolio as provided in subparagraph (7) (b) 4. and the evidence



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1027 required for a student to demonstrate mastery of Florida's  
1028 academic standards for English Language Arts. A school must  
1029 immediately begin collecting evidence for a portfolio when a  
1030 student in grade 3 is identified as being at risk of retention  
1031 or upon the request of the parent, whichever occurs first.

1032 8. The district's specific criteria and policies for  
1033 midyear promotion. Midyear promotion means promotion of a  
1034 retained student at any time during the year of retention once  
1035 the student has demonstrated ability to read at grade level.

1036 9. Information about the student's eligibility for the New  
1037 Worlds Reading Initiative under s. 1003.485 and the New Worlds  
1038 Scholarship Accounts under s. 1002.411 and information on parent  
1039 training modules and other reading engagement resources  
1040 available through the initiative.

1041  
1042 After initial notification, the school shall apprise the parent  
1043 at least monthly of the student's progress in response to the  
1044 intensive interventions and supports and the student's  
1045 eligibility for the New Worlds Reading Initiative under s.

1046 1003.485. Such communications must be in writing and must  
1047 explain any additional interventions or supports that will be  
1048 implemented to accelerate the student's progress if the  
1049 interventions and supports already being implemented have not  
1050 resulted in improvement. Upon the request of the parent, the  
1051 teacher or school administrator shall meet to discuss the  
1052 student's progress. The parent may request more frequent  
1053 notification of the student's progress, more frequent  
1054 interventions or supports, and earlier implementation of the  
1055 additional interventions or supports described in the initial



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1056 notification.

1057 (9) COORDINATED SCREENING AND PROGRESS MONITORING SYSTEM.—

1058 (a) The Department of Education, in collaboration with the  
1059 Office of Early Learning, shall procure and require the use of a  
1060 statewide, standardized coordinated screening and progress  
1061 monitoring system for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1062 Program and public schools. The system must:

1063 1. Measure student progress in meeting the appropriate  
1064 expectations in early literacy and mathematics skills and in  
1065 English Language Arts and mathematics standards as required by  
1066 ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41 and identify the educational  
1067 strengths and needs of students.

1068 2. For students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1069 Program through grade 3, measure student performance in oral  
1070 language development, phonological and phonemic awareness,  
1071 knowledge of print and letters, decoding, fluency, vocabulary,  
1072 and comprehension, as applicable by grade level, and, at a  
1073 minimum, provide interval level and norm-referenced data that  
1074 measures equivalent levels of growth.

1075 3. Be a valid, reliable, and developmentally appropriate  
1076 computer-based direct instrument that provides screening and  
1077 diagnostic capabilities for monitoring student progress;  
1078 identifies students who have a substantial deficiency in reading  
1079 or mathematics, including identifying students with  
1080 characteristics of dyslexia, dyscalculia, and other learning  
1081 disorders; and informs instruction. Any student identified by  
1082 the system as having characteristics of dyslexia or dyscalculia  
1083 shall undergo further screening. Any student whose performance  
1084 in the system meets thresholds established by State Board of



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1085 Education rule in circumstances in which the system is not  
1086 capable of identifying characteristics of dyslexia or  
1087 dyscalculia must undergo further screening. The further  
1088 screening required under this subparagraph is used to refine  
1089 instructional planning and parental communication and is not a  
1090 prerequisite for the interventions or evaluation obligations  
1091 described in subsection (4). The State Board of Education shall  
1092 adopt rules establishing timelines, performance thresholds, and  
1093 parental notification requirements for further screening under  
1094 this subparagraph. Screening activities under this subsection  
1095 shall occur concurrently with the interventions and evaluation  
1096 obligations described in subsection (4) and may not be used to  
1097 delay or deny an appropriate evaluation. Beginning with the  
1098 2023-2024 school year, the coordinated screening and progress  
1099 monitoring system must be computer-adaptive.

1100       4. Provide data for Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1101 Program accountability as required under s. 1002.68.

1102       5. Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
1103 providers, school districts, schools, teachers, and parents with  
1104 data and resources that enhance differentiated instruction and  
1105 parent communication.

1106       6. Provide baseline data to the department of each  
1107 student's readiness for kindergarten. The determination of  
1108 kindergarten readiness must be based on the results of each  
1109 student's initial progress monitoring assessment in  
1110 kindergarten. The methodology for determining a student's  
1111 readiness for kindergarten must be developed by the department  
1112 and aligned to the methodology adopted pursuant to s. 1002.68(3)  
1113 ~~s. 1002.68(4)~~.



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1114           7. Assess how well educational goals and curricular  
1115 standards are met at the provider, school, district, and state  
1116 levels and provide information to the department to aid in the  
1117 development of educational programs, policies, and supports for  
1118 providers, districts, and schools.

1119           Section 18. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
1120 1008.2125, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1121           1008.2125 The Council for Early Grade Success.—

1122           (1) The Council for Early Grade Success, a council as  
1123 defined in s. 20.03(7), is created within the Department of  
1124 Education to oversee the coordinated screening and progress  
1125 monitoring program under s. 1008.25(9) for students in the  
1126 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 and,  
1127 except as otherwise provided in this section, shall operate  
1128 consistent with s. 20.052.

1129           (a) The council shall be responsible for reviewing the  
1130 implementation of, training for, and outcomes from the  
1131 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program to provide  
1132 recommendations to the department that support grade 3 students  
1133 reading at or above grade level. The council, at a minimum,  
1134 shall:

1135           1. Provide recommendations on the implementation of the  
1136 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program, including  
1137 reviewing any procurement solicitation documents and criteria  
1138 before being published.

1139           2. Develop training plans and timelines for such training.

1140           3. Identify appropriate personnel, processes, and  
1141 procedures required for the administration of the coordinated  
1142 screening and progress monitoring program.



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1143 4. Provide input on the methodology for calculating a  
1144 provider's or school's performance metric and designations under  
1145 s. 1002.68(3) ~~s. 1002.68(4)~~.

1146 5. Work with the department to review the methodology for  
1147 determining a child's kindergarten readiness.

1148 6. Review data on age-appropriate learning gains by grade  
1149 level that a student would need to attain in order to  
1150 demonstrate proficiency in reading by grade 3.

1151 7. Continually review anonymized data from the results of  
1152 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program for  
1153 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
1154 through grade 3 to help inform recommendations to the department  
1155 that support practices that will enable grade 3 students to read  
1156 at or above grade level.

1157 Section 19. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) and subsection  
1158 (5) of section 1008.33, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1159 1008.33 Authority to enforce public school improvement.—  
1160 (3)

1161 (c) The state board shall adopt by rule a differentiated  
1162 matrix of intervention and support strategies for assisting  
1163 traditional public schools identified under this section and  
1164 rules for implementing s. 1002.33(9)(n), relating to charter  
1165 schools. The intervention and support strategies must address  
1166 student performance and may include improvement planning;  
1167 leadership quality improvement; educator quality improvement;  
1168 professional learning; curriculum review, pacing, and alignment  
1169 across grade levels to improve background knowledge in social  
1170 studies, science, and the arts; and the use of continuous  
1171 improvement and monitoring plans and processes. In addition, the



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1172 state board may prescribe reporting requirements to review and  
1173 monitor the progress of the schools. The rule must define the  
1174 intervention and support strategies for school improvement for  
1175 schools earning a grade of "D" or "F" and the roles for the  
1176 district and department. A school may not be required to use the  
1177 measure of student learning growth in s. 1012.34(7) as the sole  
1178 determinant to recruit instructional personnel. The rule must  
1179 create a timeline for a school district's school improvement  
1180 plan or district-managed turnaround plan to be approved and for  
1181 the school improvement funds under Title I to be released to the  
1182 school district. The timeline established by rule for the  
1183 release of school improvement funding under Title I may not  
1184 exceed 20 calendar days after the approval of the school  
1185 improvement plan or district-managed turnaround plan.

1186 (5) The state board shall adopt rules pursuant to ss.  
1187 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section. The rules  
1188 shall include timelines for submission of implementation plans,  
1189 approval criteria for implementation plans, timelines for  
1190 releasing Title I funding, timelines for implementing  
1191 intervention and support strategies, a standard charter school  
1192 turnaround contract, a standard facility lease, and a mutual  
1193 management agreement. The state board shall consult with  
1194 education stakeholders in developing the rules.

1195 Section 20. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (2) of  
1196 section 1010.20, Florida Statutes, to read:

1197 1010.20 Cost accounting and reporting for school  
1198 districts.—

1199 (2) COST REPORTING.—

1200 (e) Each charter school shall receive and respond to



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1201 monitoring questions from the department.

1202           Section 21. Subsection (1) of section 1011.14, Florida  
1203 Statutes, is amended to read:

1204           1011.14 Obligations for a period of 1 year.—District school  
1205 boards are authorized only under the following conditions to  
1206 create obligations by way of anticipation of budgeted revenues  
1207 accruing on a current basis without pledging the credit of the  
1208 district or requiring future levy of taxes for certain purposes  
1209 for a period of 1 year; however, such obligations may be  
1210 extended from year to year with the consent of the lender for a  
1211 period not to exceed 4 years, or for a total of 5 years  
1212 including the initial year of the loan:

1213           (1) PURPOSES.—The purposes for which such obligations may  
1214 be incurred within the intent of this section shall include only  
1215 the purchase of school buses, land, and equipment for  
1216 educational purposes; the erection of, alteration to, or  
1217 addition to educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary  
1218 facilities; and the adjustment of insurance on educational  
1219 property on a 5-year plan, as provided by rules of the State  
1220 Board of Education.

1221           Section 22. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section  
1222 1011.69, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1223           1011.69 Equity in School-Level Funding Act.—

1224           (4) After providing Title I, Part A, Basic funds to schools  
1225 above the 75 percent poverty threshold, which may include high  
1226 schools above the 50 percent threshold as permitted by federal  
1227 law, school districts shall provide any remaining Title I, Part  
1228 A, Basic funds directly to all eligible schools as provided in  
1229 this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, an eligible



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1230 school is a school that is eligible to receive Title I funds,  
1231 including a charter school. The threshold for identifying  
1232 eligible schools may not exceed the threshold established by a  
1233 school district for the 2016-2017 school year or the statewide  
1234 percentage of economically disadvantaged students, as determined  
1235 annually.

1236 (a) Prior to the allocation of Title I funds to eligible  
1237 schools, a school district may withhold funds only as follows:

1238 1. One percent for parent involvement, in addition to the  
1239 one percent the district must reserve under federal law for  
1240 allocations to eligible schools for parent involvement;

1241 2. A necessary and reasonable amount for administration  
1242 which includes the district's indirect cost rate, not to exceed  
1243 a total of 10 percent;

1244 3. A reasonable and necessary amount to provide:

1245 a. Homeless programs;

1246 b. Delinquent and neglected programs;

1247 c. Prekindergarten programs and activities;

1248 d. Private school equitable services; and

1249 e. Transportation for foster care children to their school  
1250 of origin or choice programs; and

1251 4. A necessary and reasonable amount, not to exceed 1  
1252 percent, for eligible schools to provide educational services in  
1253 accordance with the approved Title I plan. Such educational  
1254 services may include the provision of STEM curricula,  
1255 instructional materials, and related learning technologies that  
1256 support academic achievement in science, technology,  
1257 engineering, and mathematics in Title I schools, including, but  
1258 not limited to, technologies related to drones, coding,



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1259 animation, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data science,  
1260 the engineering design process, mobile development, and  
1261 robotics. Funds may be reserved under this subparagraph only to  
1262 the extent that all required reservations under federal law have  
1263 been met and that such reservation does not reduce school-level  
1264 allocations below the levels required under federal law.

1265 Section 23. Subsections (2) through (6) of section 1011.71,  
1266 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1267 1011.71 District school tax.—

1268 (2) In addition to the maximum millage levy as provided in  
1269 subsection (1), each school board may levy not more than 1.5  
1270 mills against the taxable value for school purposes for charter  
1271 schools pursuant to s. 1013.62(1) and (3) and for district  
1272 schools for operational or capital purposes to fund:

1273 ~~(a) New construction, remodeling projects, sites and site~~  
1274 ~~improvement or expansion to new sites, existing sites, auxiliary~~  
1275 ~~facilities, athletic facilities, or ancillary facilities.~~

1276 ~~(b) Maintenance, renovation, and repair of existing school~~  
1277 ~~plants or of leased facilities to correct deficiencies pursuant~~  
1278 ~~to s. 1013.15(2).~~

1279 ~~(c) The purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of school buses.~~

1280 ~~(d) The purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of new and~~  
1281 ~~replacement equipment; computer and device hardware and~~  
1282 ~~operating system software necessary for gaining access to or~~  
1283 ~~enhancing the use of electronic and digital instructional~~  
1284 ~~content and resources; and enterprise resource software~~  
1285 ~~applications that are classified as capital assets in accordance~~  
1286 ~~with definitions of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board,~~  
1287 ~~have a useful life of at least 5 years, and are used to support~~



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1288 ~~districtwide administration or state-mandated reporting~~  
1289 ~~requirements. Enterprise resource software may be acquired by~~  
1290 ~~annual license fees, maintenance fees, or lease agreements.~~  
1291 ~~(e) Payments for educational facilities and sites due under~~  
1292 ~~a lease-purchase agreement entered into by a district school~~  
1293 ~~board pursuant to s. 1003.02(1)(f) or s. 1013.15(2), not~~  
1294 ~~exceeding, in the aggregate, an amount equal to three-fourths of~~  
1295 ~~the proceeds from the millage levied by a district school board~~  
1296 ~~pursuant to this subsection. The three-fourths limit is waived~~  
1297 ~~for lease-purchase agreements entered into before June 30, 2009,~~  
1298 ~~by a district school board pursuant to this paragraph. If~~  
1299 ~~payments under lease-purchase agreements in the aggregate,~~  
1300 ~~including lease-purchase agreements entered into before June 30,~~  
1301 ~~2009, exceed three-fourths of the proceeds from the millage~~  
1302 ~~levied pursuant to this subsection, the district school board~~  
1303 ~~may not withhold the administrative fees authorized by s.~~  
1304 ~~1002.33(20) from any charter school operating in the school~~  
1305 ~~district.~~  
1306 ~~(f) Payment of loans approved pursuant to ss. 1011.14 and~~  
1307 ~~1011.15.~~  
1308 ~~(g) Payment of costs directly related to complying with~~  
1309 ~~state and federal environmental statutes, rules, and regulations~~  
1310 ~~governing school facilities.~~  
1311 ~~(h) Payment of costs of leasing relocatable educational~~  
1312 ~~facilities, of renting or leasing educational facilities and~~  
1313 ~~sites pursuant to s. 1013.15(2), or of renting or leasing~~  
1314 ~~buildings or space within existing buildings pursuant to s.~~  
1315 ~~1013.15(4).~~  
1316 ~~(i) Payment of the cost of school buses when a school~~



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1317 ~~district contracts with a private entity to provide student~~  
1318 ~~transportation services if the district meets the requirements~~  
1319 ~~of this paragraph.~~

1320 ~~1. The district's contract must require that the private~~  
1321 ~~entity purchase, lease-purchase, or lease, and operate and~~  
1322 ~~maintain, one or more school buses of a specific type and size~~  
1323 ~~that meet the requirements of s. 1006.25.~~

1324 ~~2. Each such school bus must be used for the daily~~  
1325 ~~transportation of public school students in the manner required~~  
1326 ~~by the school district.~~

1327 ~~3. Annual payment for each such school bus may not exceed~~  
1328 ~~10 percent of the purchase price of the state pool bid.~~

1329 ~~4. The proposed expenditure of the funds for this purpose~~  
1330 ~~must have been included in the district school board's notice of~~  
1331 ~~proposed tax for school capital outlay as provided in s.~~  
1332 ~~200.065(10).~~

1333 ~~(j) Payment of the cost of the opening day collection for~~  
1334 ~~the library media center of a new school.~~

1335 ~~(k) Payment of salaries and benefits for employees whose~~  
1336 ~~job duties support activities funded by this subsection.~~

1337 (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), if the revenue from 1.5  
1338 mills is insufficient to meet the payments due under a lease-  
1339 purchase agreement entered into before June 30, 2009, by a  
1340 district school board pursuant to paragraph (2)(e), or to meet  
1341 other critical district fixed capital outlay needs, the board,  
1342 in addition to the 1.5 mills, may levy up to 0.25 mills for  
1343 fixed capital outlay in lieu of levying an equivalent amount of  
1344 the discretionary mills for operations as provided in the  
1345 General Appropriations Act. Millage levied pursuant to this



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1346 subsection is subject to the provisions of s. 200.065 and,  
1347 combined with the 1.5 mills authorized in subsection (2), may  
1348 not exceed 1.75 mills. If the district chooses to use up to 0.25  
1349 mills for fixed capital outlay, the compression adjustment  
1350 pursuant to s. 1011.62(5) shall be calculated for the standard  
1351 discretionary millage that is not eligible for transfer to  
1352 capital outlay.

1353 (4) If the revenue from the millage authorized in  
1354 subsection (2) is insufficient to make payments due under a  
1355 lease-purchase agreement entered into prior to June 30, 2008, by  
1356 a district school board pursuant to paragraph (2)(e), an amount  
1357 up to 0.5 mills of the taxable value for school purposes within  
1358 the school district shall be legally available for such  
1359 payments, notwithstanding other restrictions on the use of such  
1360 revenues imposed by law.

1361 ~~(5) A school district may expend, subject to s. 200.065, up~~  
1362 ~~to \$200 per unweighted full-time equivalent student from the~~  
1363 ~~revenue generated by the millage levy authorized by subsection~~  
1364 ~~(2) to fund, in addition to expenditures authorized in~~  
1365 ~~paragraphs (2)(a)-(j), expenses for the following:~~

1366 ~~(a) The purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of driver's~~  
1367 ~~education vehicles; motor vehicles used for the maintenance or~~  
1368 ~~operation of plants and equipment; security vehicles; or~~  
1369 ~~vehicles used in storing or distributing materials and~~  
1370 ~~equipment.~~

1371 ~~(b) Payment of the cost of premiums, as defined in s.~~  
1372 ~~627.403, for property and casualty insurance necessary to insure~~  
1373 ~~school district educational and ancillary plants. As used in~~  
1374 ~~this paragraph, casualty insurance has the same meaning as in s.~~



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1375 ~~624.605(1)(b), (d), (f), (g), (h), and (m). Operating revenues~~  
1376 ~~that are made available through the payment of property and~~  
1377 ~~casualty insurance premiums from revenues generated under this~~  
1378 ~~subsection may be expended only for nonrecurring operational~~  
1379 ~~expenditures of the school district.~~

1380 ~~(6) Violations of the expenditure provisions in subsection~~  
1381 ~~(2) or subsection (5) shall result in an equal dollar reduction~~  
1382 ~~in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funds for the~~  
1383 ~~violating district in the fiscal year following the audit~~  
1384 ~~citation.~~

1385 Section 24. Subsection (2) of section 1011.73, Florida  
1386 Statutes, is amended to read:

1387 1011.73 District millage elections.—

1388 (2) MILLAGE AUTHORIZED NOT TO EXCEED 4 YEARS.—The district  
1389 school board, pursuant to resolution adopted at a regular  
1390 meeting, shall direct the county commissioners to call an  
1391 election at which the electors within the school district may  
1392 approve an ad valorem tax millage as authorized under s.  
1393 1011.71(7) ~~s. 1011.71(9)~~. Such election may be held at any time,  
1394 except that not more than one such election shall be held during  
1395 any 12-month period. Any millage so authorized shall be levied  
1396 for a period not in excess of 4 years or until changed by  
1397 another millage election, whichever is earlier. If any such  
1398 election is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction,  
1399 such invalidated election shall be considered not to have been  
1400 held.

1401 Section 25. Section 1011.804, Florida Statutes, is amended  
1402 to read:

1403 1011.804 GATE Startup Grant Program.—



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1404 (1) The GATE Startup Grant Program is established within  
1405 the Department of Education to fund and support the startup and  
1406 implementation of the GATE Program, subject to legislative  
1407 appropriation. The purpose of the grant program is to increase  
1408 access to programs that support adult learners earning a high  
1409 school credential, either a high school diploma or its  
1410 equivalent, and a workforce credential aligned to statewide or  
1411 regional demand. The department shall administer the grants,  
1412 determine eligibility, and distribute grant awards.

1413 (2) As used in this section, the term "institution" means a  
1414 school district career center established under s. 1001.44, a  
1415 charter technical career center established under s. 1002.34, or  
1416 a Florida College System institution identified in s. 1000.21  
1417 which offers the GATE Program pursuant to s. 1004.933.

1418 (3) The department may solicit proposals from institutions  
1419 ~~without programs that meet the requirements of s. 1004.933.~~ Such  
1420 institutions must be located in or serve a rural area of  
1421 opportunity , as defined in s. 288.0656(2)(d) as designated by  
1422 the Governor. For purposes of this subsection, an institution  
1423 serves a rural area of opportunity if the institution's service  
1424 area includes one or more counties or municipalities included  
1425 within a rural area of opportunity as defined in s.  
1426 288.0656(2)(d). An institution's principal place of business,  
1427 main campus, or administrative offices are not required to be  
1428 located within a rural area of opportunity in order to satisfy  
1429 the service requirement.

1430 (a) The department may award a grant to an institution  
1431 that, at the time of application, does not offer programs that  
1432 meet the requirements of s. 1004.933 to support startup and



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1433 implementation activities.

1434 (b) The department may award a grant to an institution  
1435 that, at the time of application, offers programs that meet the  
1436 requirements of s. 1004.933 only for costs authorized in  
1437 subsection (6), excluding new construction, structural  
1438 expansion, and major renovation.

1439 (4) The department shall prioritize grant proposals that  
1440 combine adult basic education, adult secondary education, and  
1441 career education programs at one location or allow students to  
1442 complete programs through distance learning. An applicant may  
1443 not receive more than 10 percent of the total amount  
1444 appropriated for the program.

1445 (5) The department shall make the grant application  
1446 available to potential applicants no later than August 15 of  
1447 each year in which funds are appropriated for the program, ~~2024.~~

1448 A grant proposal must include:

1449 (a) The institution or institutions that will provide the  
1450 adult basic education, adult secondary education, and career  
1451 education programs;

1452 (b) The proposed adult basic education and adult secondary  
1453 education program or programs the institution or institutions  
1454 will provide, and the projected enrollment for such program or  
1455 programs;

1456 (c) The proposed career education program or programs the  
1457 institution or institutions will provide and the projected  
1458 enrollment for such program or programs;

1459 (d) The credential or credentials associated with the  
1460 career education program or programs. Such credential or  
1461 credentials must be included on the Master Credentials List



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1462 under s. 445.004(4);

1463 (e) The cost of instruction for all programs contemplated  
1464 in the proposal, including costs for tuition, fees,  
1465 registration, and laboratory, examination, and instructional  
1466 materials costs;

1467 (f) Outreach strategies, including collaboration with local  
1468 workforce development boards; ~~and~~

1469 (g) A plan or timeline for implementing s. 1004.933 and  
1470 enrolling students; and

1471 (h) Documentation identifying the counties or  
1472 municipalities within the institution's service area which are  
1473 included in a rural area of opportunity as defined in s.  
1474 288.0656(2) (d).

1475 (6) Grant funds may be used for planning activities and  
1476 other expenses associated with the creation and implementation  
1477 of the GATE Program, such as expenses related to program  
1478 instruction, instructional equipment, supplies, instructional  
1479 personnel, and student services, minor facility modifications  
1480 necessary to install or operate instructional equipment used for  
1481 the GATE Program, and marketing and outreach activities to  
1482 recruit and enroll eligible students. Marketing and outreach  
1483 activities and minor facility modifications authorized under  
1484 this subsection are allowable direct costs of program  
1485 implementation. Grant funds may not be used for indirect costs.  
1486 Grant recipients must submit an annual report in a format  
1487 prescribed by the department. The department shall consolidate  
1488 such annual reports and include the reports in the report  
1489 required by s. 1004.933(6).

1490 (7) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to



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1491 administer this section.

1492 Section 26. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
1493 1012.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1494 1012.22 Public school personnel; powers and duties of the  
1495 district school board.—The district school board shall:

1496 (3) (a) *Collective bargaining*.—Notwithstanding provisions of  
1497 chapter 447 related to district school board collective  
1498 bargaining, collective bargaining may not preclude a district  
1499 school board from carrying out its constitutional and statutory  
1500 duties related to the following:

1501 1. Providing incentives to effective and highly effective  
1502 teachers.

1503 2. Implementing intervention and support strategies under  
1504 s. 1008.33 to address the causes of low student performance and  
1505 improve student academic performance and attendance.

1506 3. Implementing student discipline provisions required by  
1507 law, including a review of a student's abilities, past  
1508 performance, behavior, and needs.

1509 4. Implementing school safety plans and requirements.

1510 5. Implementing staff and student recognition programs.

1511 6. Distributing correspondence to parents, teachers, and  
1512 community members related to the daily operation of schools and  
1513 the district.

1514 7. Providing any required notice or copies of information  
1515 related to the district school board or district operations  
1516 which is readily available on the school district's website.

1517 8. The school district's calendar.

1518 9. Providing salary supplements pursuant to sub-  
1519 subparagraph (1) (c) 5.c. (III).



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1520 10. Implementing the salary increases and salary  
1521 distribution plan required under s. 1011.62(14).

1522 Section 27. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
1523 1012.555, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1524 1012.555 Teacher Apprenticeship Program.—

1525 (2)

1526 (d) An apprentice teacher must be appointed by the district  
1527 school board or work in the district as an education  
1528 paraprofessional and must be paid in accordance with s. 446.032  
1529 and rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

1530 Section 28. (1) The Department of Education shall  
1531 collaborate with the Lastinger Center for Learning at the  
1532 University of Florida to recommend to the Legislature  
1533 individualized, adaptive artificial intelligence tools to  
1534 support mathematics instruction in kindergarten through grade  
1535 12. The recommendations must:

1536 (a) Ensure that recommended tools align to the Florida  
1537 academic standards and prepare students for state assessments.

1538 (b) Consider alternate mathematics sequencing and grade-  
1539 level progression, and alternate funding models to support  
1540 individualized progression through content.

1541 (c) Evaluate the extent to which the tools provide real-  
1542 time diagnostic assessments, individualized learning pathways,  
1543 adaptive sequencing of content, and immediate, personalized  
1544 feedback to students.

1545 (d) Evaluate the applicability of the tools to progress  
1546 monitoring tools, district learning management systems,  
1547 suggested interventions, small-group instructional supports, and  
1548 professional development that enables teachers to integrate the



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1549 tools into classroom instruction.

1550 (e) Provide for student data privacy and transparency in  
1551 data collection and retention.

1552 (f) Consider statewide and district-level costs.

1553 (2) The department shall submit its recommendations to the  
1554 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
1555 House of Representatives by December 1, 2026.

1556 Section 29. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

1557

1558 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

1559 And the title is amended as follows:

1560 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
1561 and insert:

1562 A bill to be entitled  
1563 An act relating to education; amending s. 120.81,  
1564 F.S.; providing that district school boards are not  
1565 subject to the requirements for rules in chapter 120  
1566 when making and adopting rules with public input at a  
1567 public meeting; amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; removing  
1568 certain schools from specified contract restrictions;  
1569 revising the conditions considered an educational  
1570 emergency; amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; authorizing a  
1571 student to carry a United States Food and Drug  
1572 Administration (FDA)-approved epinephrine delivery  
1573 device, rather than an epinephrine auto-injector;  
1574 requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules  
1575 for the use of an FDA-approved epinephrine delivery  
1576 device, rather than an epinephrine auto-injector;  
1577 making conforming changes; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.;



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1578 providing additional criteria for award of a 15-year  
1579 charter; providing that students may not be dismissed  
1580 from certain charter schools based on academic  
1581 performance; amending s. 1002.42, F.S.; authorizing a  
1582 private school to purchase a supply of FDA-approved  
1583 epinephrine delivery devices, rather than epinephrine  
1584 auto-injectors; making conforming changes; amending s.  
1585 1002.68, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to the  
1586 calculation of a kindergarten readiness rate; revising  
1587 the period of time for which a public or private  
1588 prekindergarten provider is prohibited from  
1589 participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1590 Education Program for a failing program assessment  
1591 composite score; amending s. 1002.71, F.S.; revising  
1592 requirements for attendance reporting by private  
1593 prekindergarten providers; requiring that  
1594 administrative policies and procedures be revised into  
1595 certain forms; requiring school districts to certify  
1596 attendance data in a specified manner; amending s.  
1597 1002.945, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children  
1598 and Families to make a specified determination for  
1599 child care providers; deleting an exception; amending  
1600 s. 1003.42, F.S.; revising required instruction on the  
1601 principles of agriculture; requiring the Department of  
1602 Education to collaborate with specified entities to  
1603 develop associated standards and a curriculum;  
1604 authorizing the department to contract with certain  
1605 agricultural education organizations for specified  
1606 purposes; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; providing that



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1607 completion of 2 years of marching band shall satisfy  
1608 two specified credit requirements; authorizing  
1609 completion of a specified dance techniques class to  
1610 satisfy specified high school diploma credit  
1611 requirements; providing requirements for mathematics  
1612 pathways established by a certain workgroup; requiring  
1613 that certain courses for the mathematics pathways be  
1614 identified by specified dates; requiring the workgroup  
1615 to submit identified mathematics pathways to the  
1616 Governor and the Legislature; creating s. 1003.4936,  
1617 F.S.; providing legislative findings; requiring the  
1618 Department of Education to develop applied algebra  
1619 courses; providing requirements for the applied  
1620 algebra courses; requiring the department to develop  
1621 the courses on specified timelines; authorizing school  
1622 districts to satisfy certain graduation requirements  
1623 with an applied algebra course; requiring the  
1624 department to collaborate with the Board of Governors  
1625 of the State University System to ensure the courses  
1626 are accepted as mathematics credits for state  
1627 university admissions; requiring the department to  
1628 provide certain implementation support; amending s.  
1629 1003.5716, F.S.; requiring a school district to take  
1630 specified actions if a related service identified in a  
1631 student's individual education plan (IEP) is not  
1632 provided; providing that a parent or guardian has the  
1633 right to request provider logs or notes within a  
1634 specified timeframe; requiring the school district to  
1635 inform parents of such right; amending s. 1004.85,



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1636 F.S.; authorizing an educator preparation institute to  
1637 allow certain program participants to enroll in  
1638 introductory coursework; amending s. 1004.933, F.S.;  
1639 revising the definition of the term "institution";  
1640 deleting the age limit for enrollment in the  
1641 Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education  
1642 Program; clarifying that students are not required to  
1643 enroll in adult secondary and career education program  
1644 coursework simultaneously; amending s. 1006.12, F.S.;  
1645 revising requirements relating to safe-school officers  
1646 at public schools, including charter schools; amending  
1647 s. 1007.2616, F.S.; requiring the State Board of  
1648 Education to establish by rule or maintain specified  
1649 computer science subject area coverages; requiring the  
1650 state board to adopt competencies and skills and  
1651 designate corresponding examinations; requiring the  
1652 Department of Education to submit recommended  
1653 competencies and skills for certain coverages to the  
1654 state board for approval by a specified date;  
1655 requiring the department to coordinate development and  
1656 availability of certain examinations by a specified  
1657 date; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; requiring specified  
1658 resources for certain students to include information  
1659 about the student's eligibility for the New Worlds  
1660 Reading Initiative; requiring school districts to take  
1661 specified actions when screening identifies a student  
1662 as exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia or  
1663 dyscalculia; revising the score threshold for  
1664 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program



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1665 eligibility for specified instructional support;  
1666 requiring monthly written communications to include  
1667 specified eligibility information; providing  
1668 circumstances under which a student must undergo  
1669 further screening for dyslexia or dyscalculia;  
1670 providing that such screening has a specified purpose;  
1671 requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules;  
1672 conforming cross-references; amending s. 1008.2125,  
1673 F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s.  
1674 1008.33, F.S.; revising requirements relating to  
1675 district and school improvement; amending s. 1010.20,  
1676 F.S.; requiring charter schools to respond to  
1677 monitoring questions from the Department of Education;  
1678 amending s. 1011.14, F.S.; revising authorized  
1679 purposes for school district short-term obligations;  
1680 amending s. 1011.69, F.S.; revising a category of  
1681 funding which a school district is authorized to  
1682 withhold; amending s. 1011.71, F.S.; authorizing  
1683 specified discretionary millage proceeds to be used  
1684 for operational or capital purposes; deleting  
1685 specified purposes that certain proceeds and revenue  
1686 may be used for; amending s. 1011.73, F.S.; conforming  
1687 a cross-reference; amending s. 1011.804, F.S.;  
1688 revising the GATE Startup Grant Program; specifying  
1689 what constitutes service to a rural area of  
1690 opportunity for purposes of specified provisions;  
1691 revising eligibility and award authority for grants;  
1692 revising application availability and application  
1693 requirements; revising allowable uses of grant funds



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1694 to include specified implementation-related costs;  
1695 amending s. 1012.22, F.S.; providing that collective  
1696 bargaining may not preclude specified salary  
1697 supplements and implementation of the salary increase  
1698 and salary distribution plan; amending s. 1012.555,  
1699 F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for  
1700 participation in the Teacher Apprenticeship Program;  
1701 requiring the department to collaborate with the  
1702 Lastinger Center for Learning to make specified  
1703 recommendations relating to artificial intelligence in  
1704 learning to the Governor and the Legislature by a  
1705 specified date; providing requirements for the  
1706 recommendations; providing an effective date.