An act relating to education accountability; amending s. 1008.34, F.S.; providing definitions for the statewide, standardized assessment program and school grading system; deleting annual reports; revising authority over allocation of a school’s budget based on school grades; revising the basis for the calculation of school grades; revising the contents of the school report card; revising the basis for the calculation of district grades; requiring the Department of Education to develop a district report card; providing for transition to the revised school grading system; amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; revising criteria that necessitate a school’s improvement plan to include certain strategies; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; revising cross-references; amending s. 1003.621, F.S.; revising cross-references; amending s. 1008.31, F.S.; revising legislative intent for the K-20 education performance accountability system; amending s. 1008.33, F.S.; conforming provisions relating to school improvement and education accountability; amending s. 1008.341, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the school improvement rating for alternative schools; amending s. 1008.3415, F.S.; correcting cross-references; requiring the Commissioner of Education to exempt students from taking statewide, standardized assessments under certain circumstances; authorizing a parent to request that a student who is granted an exemption participate
in statewide, standardized assessments; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1008.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.34 School grading system; school report cards; district grade.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of the statewide, standardized assessment program and school grading system, the following terms are defined:

(a) “Achievement level,” “student achievement,” or “achievement” describes the level of content mastery a student has acquired in a particular subject as measured by a statewide, standardized assessment administered pursuant to s. 1008.22(3)(a) and (b). There are five achievement levels. Level 1 is the lowest achievement level, level 5 is the highest achievement level, and level 3 indicates satisfactory performance. A student passes an assessment if the student achieves a level 3, level 4, or level 5. For purposes of the Florida Alternate Assessment administered pursuant to s. 1008.22(3)(c), the state board shall provide, in rule, the number of achievement levels and identify the achievement levels that are considered passing.

(b) “Learning Gains,” “annual learning gains,” or “student learning gains” means the degree of student learning growth occurring from one school year to the next as required by state
board rule for purposes of calculating school grades under this section.

(c) “Student performance,” “student academic performance,” or “academic performance” includes, but is not limited to, student learning growth, achievement levels, and Learning Gains on statewide, standardized assessments administered pursuant to s. 1008.22.

(1) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Commissioner of Education shall prepare annual reports of the results of the statewide assessment program which describe student achievement in the state, each district, and each school. The commissioner shall prescribe the design and content of these reports, which must include descriptions of the performance of all schools participating in the assessment program and all of their major student populations as determined by the commissioner. The report must also include the percent of students performing at or above grade level and making learning gains in reading and mathematics. The provisions of s. 1002.22 pertaining to student records apply to this section.

(2) SCHOOL GRADES.—The annual report shall identify Schools shall be graded using as having one of the following grades, defined according to rules of the State Board of Education:

(a) “A,” schools making excellent progress.
(b) “B,” schools making above average progress.
(c) “C,” schools making satisfactory progress.
(d) “D,” schools making less than satisfactory progress.
(e) “F,” schools failing to make adequate progress.

Each school that earns a grade of “A” or improves at least two
letter grades may shall have greater authority over the allocation of the school’s total budget generated from the FEFP, state categoricals, lottery funds, grants, and local funds, as specified in state board rule. The rule must provide that the increased budget authority shall remain in effect until the school’s grade declines.

(3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.—

(a) Each school must assess at least 95 percent of its eligible students, except as provided under s. 1008.341 for alternative schools. Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, each school that has students who are tested and included in the school grading system shall receive a school grade based on the school’s performance on the components listed in subparagraphs (b)1. and 2. If a school does not have at least 10 students with complete data for one or more of the components listed in subparagraphs (b)1. and 2., those components may not be used in calculating the school’s grade. If the number of its students tested on statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22 meets or exceeds the minimum sample size of 10, except as follows:

1. An alternative school may choose to receive a school grade under this section or a school improvement rating under s. 1008.341. For charter schools that meet the definition of an alternative school pursuant to State Board of Education rule, the decision to receive a school grade is the decision of the charter school governing board.

2. A school that serves any combination of students in kindergarten through grade 3 which does not receive a school grade because its students are not tested and included in the school grading system shall receive the school grade
designation of a K-3 feeder pattern school identified by the Department of Education and verified by the school district. A school feeder pattern exists if at least 60 percent of the students in the school serving a combination of students in kindergarten through grade 3 are scheduled to be assigned to the graded school.

3. If a collocated school does not earn a school grade or school improvement rating for the performance of its students, the student performance data of all schools operating at the same facility must be aggregated to develop a school grade that will be assigned to all schools at that location. A collocated school is a school that has its own unique master school identification number, provides for the education of each of its enrolled students, and operates at the same facility as another school that has its own unique master school identification number and provides for the education of each of its enrolled students.

(b)1. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a school’s grade shall be based on the following components, each worth 100 points a combination of:

   a. The percentage of eligible students passing Student achievement scores on statewide, standardized assessments in English Language Arts under s. 1008.22(3) and achievement scores for students seeking a special diploma.

   b. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide, standardized assessments in mathematics under s. 1008.22(3).

   c. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide, standardized assessments in science under s. 1008.22(3).

   d. The percentage of eligible students passing the
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statewide, standardized assessments in social studies under s. 1008.22(3).

e.b. The percentage of eligible students who make Student Learning Gains in FCAT Reading or, upon transition to common core assessments, the common core English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments as measured by statewide, standardized assessments administered under pursuant to s. 1008.22(3) 1008.22, including learning gains for students seeking a special diploma, as measured by an alternate assessment.

f. The percentage of eligible students who make Learning Gains in mathematics as measured by statewide, standardized assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).

g.e. The percentage of eligible students in Improvement of the lowest 25 percent in English Language Arts, as identified by prior year performance on statewide, standardized assessments, who make Learning Gains as measured by statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3) 25th percentile of students in the school in reading or, upon transition to common core assessments, English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments administered pursuant to s. 1008.22, unless these students are exhibiting satisfactory performance.

h. The percentage of eligible students in the lowest 25 percent in mathematics, as identified by prior year performance on statewide, standardized assessments, who make Learning Gains as measured by statewide, standardized mathematics assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).

i. For schools comprised of middle grades 6 through 8 or grades 7 and 8, the school’s grade shall include the percentage
of eligible students passing high school level statewide, standardized end-of-course assessments for courses required for high school graduation. The school grades shall include the students’ attainment of national industry certifications that satisfy high school graduation requirements and are identified in the Industry Certification Funding List pursuant to rules adopted by the state board.

In calculating Learning Gains for the components listed in sub-subparagraphs e.-i., the State Board of Education shall require that learning growth toward achievement levels 3, 4, and 5 is demonstrated by students who scored below each of those levels in the prior year.

2. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, for schools comprised of middle grades 6 through 8 or grades 7 and 8, the school’s grade shall include the performance and participation of its students enrolled in high school level courses with statewide, standardized assessments administered under s. 1008.22. Performance and participation must be weighted equally. As valid data becomes available, the school grades shall include the students’ attainment of national industry certification identified in the Industry Certification Funding List pursuant to rules adopted by the state board.

2.3. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year For a school schools comprised of high school grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, or grades 10, 11, and 12, the school’s grade at least 50 percent of the school grade shall be based on sub-subparagraphs 1.a.-h. and a combination of the factors listed in sub-subparagraphs 1.a.-e. and the remaining percentage on the following components, each

CODING: Words [stricken] are deletions; words [underlined] are additions.
worth 100 points factors:

a. The four-year high school graduation rate of the school, as defined by state board rule.

b. The percentage of students who were eligible to earn college and career credit through As valid data becomes available, the performance and participation of the school’s students in College Board Advanced Placement examinations courses, International Baccalaureate examinations courses, dual enrollment courses, or and Advanced International Certificate of Education examinations courses; or who, at any time during high school, earned and the students’ achievement of national industry certification identified in the Industry Certification Funding List, pursuant to rules adopted by the state board.

(c) 1. The calculation of a school grade shall be based on the percentage of points earned from the components listed in subparagraph (b) 1. and, if applicable, subparagraph (b) 2. The State Board of Education shall adopt in rule a school grading scale that sets the percentage of points needed to earn each of the school grades listed in subsection (2). There shall be at least 5 percentage points separating the percentage thresholds needed to earn each of the school grades. Each school year, the percentage of schools earning “A” and “B” grades shall be reviewed to determine whether to adjust the school grading scale upward for the following school year’s calculation of school grades. An adjustment must be made if the percentage of schools earning an “A” and “B” in the current year represents 75 percent or more of all graded schools within a particular school type used for accountability. The adjustment must reset the minimum required percentage of points for each grade at a percentage
threshold that would yield less than 75 percent of schools earning an “A” and “B” if applied in the year mandating the adjustment. The adjustments shall end when the following grade scale is achieved:

a. Ninety percent or more of the points for an “A.”
b. Eighty to 89 percent of the points for a “B.”
c. Seventy to 79 percent of the points for a “C.”
d. Sixty to 69 percent of the points for a “D.”
e. Fifty-nine percent or less of the points for an “F.”

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

e. Postsecondary readiness of all of the school’s on-time graduates as measured by the SAT, the ACT, the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test, or the common placement test;
d. The high school graduation rate of at-risk students, who score Level 1 or Level 2 on grade 8 FCAT Reading or the English Language Arts and mathematics assessments administered under s. 1008.22;

e. As valid data becomes available, the performance of the school’s students on statewide, standardized end-of-course assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3)(b)4. and 5.; and
f. The growth or decline in the components listed in sub-subparagraphs a.–e. from year to year.

c. Student assessment data used in determining school grades shall include:

1. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled in the school who have been assessed on statewide, standardized
assessments in courses required for high school graduation, including, beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, the end-of-course assessment in Algebra I; and beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the end-of-course assessments in Geometry and Biology I; and beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, on the statewide, standardized end-of-course assessment in civics education at the middle grades level.

2. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled in the school who have been assessed on statewide, standardized assessments under s. 1008.22 and who have scored at or in the lowest 25th percentile of students in the school in reading and mathematics, unless these students are exhibiting satisfactory performance.

(d) The performance of students attending alternative schools and students designated as hospital or homebound shall be factored into a school grade as follows:

1. The student performance data for achievement scores and learning gains of eligible students attending alternative schools that provide dropout prevention and academic intervention services pursuant to s. 1003.53 shall be included in the calculation of the home school’s grade. The term “eligible students” in this subparagraph does not include students attending an alternative school who are subject to district school board policies for expulsion for repeated or serious offenses, who are in dropout retrieval programs serving students who have officially been designated as dropouts, or who are in programs operated or contracted by the Department of Juvenile Justice. The student performance data for eligible students identified in this subparagraph shall be included in
the calculation of the home school’s grade. As used in this
subsection and s. 1008.341, the term “home school” means the
school to which the student would be assigned if the student
were not assigned to an alternative school. If an alternative
school chooses to be graded under this section, student
performance data for eligible students identified in this
subparagraph shall not be included in the home school’s grade
but shall be included only in the calculation of the alternative
school’s grade. A school district that fails to assign
statewide, standardized end-of-course assessment scores of each
of its students to his or her home school or to the alternative
school that receives a grade shall forfeit Florida School
Recognition Program funds for one fiscal year. School
districts must require collaboration between the home school and
the alternative school in order to promote student success. This
collaboration must include an annual discussion between the
principal of the alternative school and the principal of each
student’s home school concerning the most appropriate school
assignment of the student.

2.4. Student performance data for The achievement scores
and learning gains of students designated as hospital or
homebound hospital- or homebound. Student assessment data for
students designated as hospital- or homebound shall be assigned
to their home school for the purposes of school grades. As used
in this subparagraph, the term “home school” means the school to
which a student would be assigned if the student were not
assigned to a hospital or homebound hospital- or homebound
program.

5. For schools comprised of high school grades 9, 10, 11,
and 12, or grades 10, 11, and 12, the data listed in
subparagraphs 1.–3. and the following data as the Department of
Education determines such data are valid and available:
   a. The high school graduation rate of the school as
calculated by the department;
   b. The participation rate of all eligible students enrolled
in the school and enrolled in College Board Advanced Placement
courses; International Baccalaureate courses; dual enrollment
courses; Advanced International Certificate of Education
courses; and courses or sequences of courses leading to national
industry certification identified in the Industry Certification
Funding List, pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of
Education;
   e. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled
in the school in College Board Advanced Placement courses,
International Baccalaureate courses, and Advanced International
Certificate of Education courses;
   d. Earning of college credit by all eligible students
enrolled in the school in dual enrollment programs under s.
1007.271;
   e. Earning of a national industry certification identified
in the Industry Certification Funding List, pursuant to rules
adopted by the State Board of Education;
   f. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled
in the school in reading, mathematics, and other subjects as
measured by the SAT, the ACT, the Postsecondary Education
Readiness Test, and the common placement test for postsecondary
readiness;
   g. The high school graduation rate of all eligible at-risk
students enrolled in the school who scored Level 2 or lower on
grade 8 FCAT Reading and FCAT Mathematics;

h. The performance of the school’s students on statewide,
standardized end-of-course assessments administered under s.
1008.22(3)(b)4. and 5.; and

i. The growth or decline in the data components listed in
sub-subparagraphs a.–h. from year to year.

The State Board of Education shall adopt appropriate criteria
for each school grade. The criteria must also give added weight
to student achievement in reading. Schools earning a grade of
“C,” making satisfactory progress, shall be required to
demonstrate that adequate progress has been made by students in
the school who are in the lowest 25th percentile in reading and
mathematics on statewide, standardized assessments under s.
1008.22, unless these students are exhibiting satisfactory
performance. For schools comprised of high school grades 9, 10,
11, and 12, or grades 10, 11, and 12, the criteria for school
grades must also give added weight to the graduation rate of all
eligible at-risk students. In order for a high school to earn a
grade of “A,” the school must demonstrate that its at-risk
students, as defined in this paragraph, are making adequate
progress.

(4) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT RATINGS. The annual report shall
identify each school’s performance as having improved, remained
the same, or declined. This school improvement rating shall be
based on a comparison of the current year’s and previous year’s
student and school performance data. A school that improves its
rating by at least one level is eligible for school recognition.
(4) SCHOOL REPORT CARD.—The Department of Education shall annually develop, in collaboration with the school districts, a school report card to be provided by the school district to parents within the district. The report card shall include the school’s grade, student performance in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies; information regarding school improvement; an explanation of school performance as evaluated by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), 20 U.S.C. ss. 6301 et seq., and indicators of return on investment. Each school’s report card shall be published annually by the department on its website based upon the most recent data available.

(5) PERFORMANCE-BASED FUNDING. The Legislature may factor in the performance of schools in calculating any performance-based funding policy that is provided for annually in the General Appropriations Act.

(7) DISTRICT GRADE.—The annual report required by subsection (1) shall include the school district’s grade. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a school district’s grade shall include a district-level calculation of the components under paragraph (3)(b) be calculated using student performance and learning gains data on statewide assessments used for determining school grades under subparagraph (3)(b)1. for each eligible student enrolled for a full school year in the district. This calculation methodology captures each eligible student in the district who may have transferred among schools within the district or is enrolled in a school that does not receive a grade. The department shall develop a district report...
card that includes the district’s grade; measures of the district’s progress in closing the achievement gap between higher-performing student subgroups and lower-performing student subgroups; measures of the district’s progress in demonstrating Learning Gains of its highest-performing students; measures of the district’s success in improving student attendance; the district’s grade-level promotion of students scoring achievement levels 1 and 2 on statewide, standardized English Language Arts and mathematics assessments; and measures of the district’s performance in preparing students for the transition from elementary to middle school, middle to high school, and high school to postsecondary institutions and careers.

(6)(8) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section.

(7) TRANSITION.—School grades and school improvement ratings pursuant to s. 1008.341 for the 2013-2014 school year shall be calculated based on statutes and rules in effect on June 30, 2014. To assist in the transition to 2014-2015 school grades, calculated based on new statewide, standardized assessments administered pursuant to s. 1008.22, the 2014-2015 school grades shall serve as an informational baseline for schools to work toward improved performance in future years. Accordingly, notwithstanding any other provision of law:

(a) A school may not be required to select and implement a turnaround option pursuant to s. 1008.33 in the 2015-2016 school year based on the school’s 2014-2015 grade or school improvement rating under s. 1008.341, as applicable.

(b) A school or approved provider under s. 1002.45 that
receives the same or a lower school grade or school improvement rating for the 2014-2015 school year compared to the 2013-2014 school year is not subject to sanctions or penalties that would otherwise occur as a result of the 2014-2015 school grade or rating. A charter school system or a school district designated as high performing may not lose the designation based on the 2014-2015 school grades of any of the schools within the charter school system or school district, as applicable.

2. The Florida School Recognition Program established under s. 1008.36 shall continue to be implemented as otherwise provided in the General Appropriations Act.

(c) For purposes of determining grade 3 retention pursuant to s. 1008.25(5) and high school graduation pursuant to s. 1003.4282, student performance on the 2014-2015 statewide, standardized assessments shall be linked to 2013-2014 student performance expectations.

This subsection is repealed July 1, 2017.

Section 2. Subsection (18) of section 1001.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(18) IMPLEMENT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—Maintain a state system of school improvement and education accountability as provided by statute and State Board of Education rule. This system of school improvement and education accountability shall be consistent with, and implemented through, the district’s continuing system of planning and
budgeting required by this section and ss. 1008.385, 1010.01, and 1011.01. This system of school improvement and education accountability shall comply with the provisions of ss. 1008.33, 1008.34, 1008.345, and 1008.385 and include the following:

(a) School improvement plans.—The district school board shall annually approve and require implementation of a new, amended, or continuation school improvement plan for each school in the district. If a school has a significant gap in achievement on statewide, standardized assessments administered pursuant to s. 1008.22, one or more student subgroups, as defined in the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), 20 U.S.C. s. 6311(b)(2)(C)(v)(II); has not significantly increased the percentage of students passing scoring below satisfactory on statewide, standardized assessments; has not significantly increased the percentage of students demonstrating Learning Gains, as defined in s. 1008.34 and as calculated under s. 1008.34(3)(b), who passed statewide, standardized assessments; or has significantly lower graduation rates for a subgroup when compared to the state’s graduation rate, that school’s improvement plan shall include strategies for improving these results. The state board shall adopt rules establishing thresholds and for determining compliance with this paragraph.

(b) Public disclosure.—The district school board shall provide information regarding the performance of students and educational programs as required pursuant to ss. 1008.22 and 1008.385 and implement a system of school reports as required by statute and State Board of Education rule which shall include schools operating for the purpose of providing educational
services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs, and for those schools, report on the elements specified in s. 1003.52(19). Annual public disclosure reports shall be in an easy-to-read report card format and shall include the school’s grade, high school graduation rate calculated without GED tests, disaggregated by student ethnicity, and performance data as specified in state board rule.

(c) School improvement funds.—The district school board shall provide funds to schools for developing and implementing school improvement plans. Such funds shall include those funds appropriated for the purpose of school improvement pursuant to s. 24.121(5)(c).

Section 3. Paragraph (n) of subsection (9) and paragraph (b) of subsection (21) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.—
(9) CHARTER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS.—
(n) 1. The director and a representative of the governing board of a charter school that has earned a grade of “D” or “F” pursuant to s. 1008.34(2) shall appear before the sponsor to present information concerning each contract component having noted deficiencies. The director and a representative of the governing board shall submit to the sponsor for approval a school improvement plan to raise student achievement. Upon approval by the sponsor, the charter school shall begin implementation of the school improvement plan. The department shall offer technical assistance and training to the charter school and its governing board and establish guidelines for developing, submitting, and
approving such plans.

2.a. If a charter school earns three consecutive grades of “D,” two consecutive grades of “D” followed by a grade of “F,” or two nonconsecutive grades of “F” within a 3-year period, the charter school governing board shall choose one of the following corrective actions:

   (I) Contract for educational services to be provided directly to students, instructional personnel, and school administrators, as prescribed in state board rule;

   (II) Contract with an outside entity that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness to operate the school;

   (III) Reorganize the school under a new director or principal who is authorized to hire new staff; or

   (IV) Voluntarily close the charter school.

b. The charter school must implement the corrective action in the school year following receipt of a third consecutive grade of “D,” a grade of “F” following two consecutive grades of “D,” or a second nonconsecutive grade of “F” within a 3-year period.

c. The sponsor may annually waive a corrective action if it determines that the charter school is likely to improve a letter grade if additional time is provided to implement the intervention and support strategies prescribed by the school improvement plan. Notwithstanding this sub-subparagraph, a charter school that earns a second consecutive grade of “F” is subject to subparagraph 4.

d. A charter school is no longer required to implement a corrective action if it improves by at least one letter grade. However, the charter school must continue to implement
strategies identified in the school improvement plan. The sponsor must annually review implementation of the school improvement plan to monitor the school’s continued improvement pursuant to subparagraph 5.

   e. A charter school implementing a corrective action that does not improve by at least one letter grade after 2 full school years of implementing the corrective action must select a different corrective action. Implementation of the new corrective action must begin in the school year following the implementation period of the existing corrective action, unless the sponsor determines that the charter school is likely to improve a letter grade if additional time is provided to implement the existing corrective action. Notwithstanding this sub-subparagraph, a charter school that earns a second consecutive grade of “F” while implementing a corrective action is subject to subparagraph 4.

3. A charter school with a grade of “D” or “F” that improves by at least one letter grade must continue to implement the strategies identified in the school improvement plan. The sponsor must annually review implementation of the school improvement plan to monitor the school’s continued improvement pursuant to subparagraph 5.

4. The sponsor shall terminate a charter if the charter school earns two consecutive grades of “F” unless:
   a. The charter school is established to turn around the performance of a district public school pursuant to s. 1008.33(4)(b)3. Such charter schools shall be governed by s. 1008.33;
   b. The charter school serves a student population the
majority of which resides in a school zone served by a district public school that earned a grade of “F” in the year before the charter school opened and the charter school earns at least a grade of “D” in its third year of operation. The exception provided under this sub-subparagraph does not apply to a charter school in its fourth year of operation and thereafter; or

c. The state board grants the charter school a waiver of termination. The charter school must request the waiver within 15 days after the department’s official release of school grades. The state board may waive termination if the charter school demonstrates that the Learning Gains of its students on statewide assessments are comparable to or better than the Learning Gains of similarly situated students enrolled in nearby district public schools. The waiver is valid for 1 year and may only be granted once. Charter schools that have been in operation for more than 5 years are not eligible for a waiver under this sub-subparagraph.

5. The director and a representative of the governing board of a graded charter school that has implemented a school improvement plan under this paragraph shall appear before the sponsor at least once a year to present information regarding the progress of intervention and support strategies implemented by the school pursuant to the school improvement plan and corrective actions, if applicable. The sponsor shall communicate at the meeting, and in writing to the director, the services provided to the school to help the school address its deficiencies.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of this paragraph except sub-subparagraphs 4.a.-c., the sponsor may terminate the charter
at any time pursuant to subsection (8).

(21) PUBLIC INFORMATION ON CHARTER SCHOOLS.—

(b)1. The Department of Education shall report to each charter school receiving a school grade pursuant to s. 1008.34 or a school improvement rating pursuant to s. 1008.341 the school’s student assessment data pursuant to s. 1008.34(3)(c) which is reported to schools that receive a school grade or student assessment data pursuant to s. 1008.341(3) which is reported to alternative schools that receive a school improvement rating to each charter school that:

a. Does not receive a school grade pursuant to s. 1008.34 or a school improvement rating pursuant to s. 1008.341; and

b. Serves at least 10 students who are tested on the statewide assessment test pursuant to s. 1008.22.

2. The charter school shall report the information in subparagraph 1. to each parent of a student at the charter school, the parent of a child on a waiting list for the charter school, the district in which the charter school is located, and the governing board of the charter school. This paragraph does not abrogate the provisions of s. 1002.22, relating to student records, or the requirements of 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

3.a. Pursuant to this paragraph, the Department of Education shall compare the charter school student performance data for each charter school in subparagraph 1. with the student performance data in traditional public schools in the district in which the charter school is located and other charter schools in the state. For alternative charter schools, the department shall compare the student performance data described in this
paragraph with all alternative schools in the state. The comparative data shall be provided by the following grade groupings:
   (I) Grades 3 through 5;
   (II) Grades 6 through 8; and
   (III) Grades 9 through 11.

b. Each charter school shall provide the information specified in this paragraph on its Internet website and also provide notice to the public at large in a manner provided by the rules of the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer the notice requirements of this subparagraph pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54. The website shall include, through links or actual content, other information related to school performance.

Section 4. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of section 1003.621, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1003.621 Academically high-performing school districts.—It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and reward school districts that demonstrate the ability to consistently maintain or improve their high-performing status. The purpose of this section is to provide high-performing school districts with flexibility in meeting the specific requirements in statute and rules of the State Board of Education.

(1) ACADEMICALLY HIGH-PERFORMING SCHOOL DISTRICT.—

(a) A school district is an academically high-performing school district if it meets the following criteria:

1.a. Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, Earns a grade of “A” under s. 1008.34(7) for 2 consecutive years; and
b. Has no district-operated school that earns a grade of “F” under s. 1008.34;

2. Complies with all class size requirements in s. 1, Art. IX of the State Constitution and s. 1003.03; and

3. Has no material weaknesses or instances of material noncompliance noted in the annual financial audit conducted pursuant to s. 11.45 or s. 218.39.

(d) In order to maintain the designation as an academically high-performing school district pursuant to this section, a school district must meet the following requirements:

1. Comply with the provisions of subparagraphs (a)2. and 3.; and

2. Earn a grade of “A” under s. 1008.34(7) for 2 years within a 3-year period.

However, a district in which a district-operated school earns a grade of “F” under s. 1008.34 during the 3-year period may not continue to be designated as an academically high-performing school district during the remainder of that 3-year period. The district must meet the criteria in paragraph (a) in order to be redesignated as an academically high-performing school district.

Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1008.31, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.31 Florida’s K-20 education performance accountability system; legislative intent; mission, goals, and systemwide measures; data quality improvements.—

(1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—It is the intent of the Legislature that:

(b) The K-20 education performance accountability system be
established as a single, unified accountability system with multiple components, including, but not limited to, measures of adequate yearly progress, individual student performance, learning gains in public schools, school and district grades, and return on investment.

Section 6. Subsection (2) of section 1008.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.33 Authority to enforce public school improvement.—
(2)(a) Pursuant to subsection (1) and ss. 1008.34, 1008.345, and 1008.385, the State Board of Education shall hold all school districts and public schools accountable for student performance. The state board is responsible for a state system of school improvement and education accountability that assesses student performance by school, identifies schools in which students are not meeting accountability standards, making adequate progress toward state standards, and institutes appropriate measures for enforcing improvement.

(b) The state system of school improvement and education accountability must provide for uniform accountability standards, provide assistance of escalating intensity to low-performing schools not meeting accountability standards, direct support to schools in order to improve and sustain performance, focus on the performance of student subgroups, and enhance student performance.

(c) School districts must be held accountable for improving the academic performance achievement of all students and for identifying and improving turning around low-performing schools that fail to meet accountability standards.

Section 7. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section
1008.341, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

(2) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT RATING.—An alternative school is a school that provides dropout prevention and academic intervention services pursuant to s. 1003.53. An alternative school shall receive a school improvement rating pursuant to this section unless the school earns a school grade pursuant to s. 1008.34. Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, each alternative school that chooses to receive a school improvement rating shall receive a school improvement rating if the number of its students for whom student performance data on statewide, standardized assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22 which is available for the current year and previous year meets or exceeds the minimum sample size of 10. If an alternative school does not have at least 10 students with complete data for a component listed in subsection (3), that component may not be used in calculating the school’s improvement rating. The calculation of the school improvement rating shall be based on the percentage of points earned from the components listed in subsection (3). An alternative school that tests at least 80 percent of its students may receive a school improvement rating. If an alternative school tests less than 90 percent of its students, the school may not earn a rating higher than “maintaining.” Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, if an alternative school does not meet the requirements for the issuance of a school improvement rating in the current year, and has failed to receive a school improvement rating for the prior 2 consecutive years, the school shall receive a rating for the
current year based upon a compilation of all student Learning Gains, for all grade levels, for those 3 years. Likewise, if the school fails to meet the requirements for a rating the following year or any year thereafter, the school’s rating shall be based on a compilation of student Learning Gains achieved during the current and prior 2 years. The school improvement rating shall identify an alternative school as having one of the following ratings defined according to rules of the State Board of Education:

(a) “Commendable” “Improving” means a significant percentage of the students attending the school are making Learning Gains more academic progress than when the students were served in their home schools.

(b) “Maintaining” means a sufficient percentage of the students attending the school are making Learning Gains progress equivalent to the progress made when the students were served in their home schools.

(c) “Unsatisfactory” “Declining” means an insufficient percentage of the students attending the school are making Learning Gains less academic progress than when the students were served in their home schools.

The school improvement rating shall be based on a comparison of student performance data for the current year and previous year. Schools that improve at least one level or maintain a “commendable” an “improving” rating pursuant to this section are eligible for school recognition awards pursuant to s. 1008.36.

(3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT RATING.—Student Learning Gains data used in determining an alternative school’s
school improvement rating shall include:

(a) student performance results based on statewide, standardized assessments, including retakes, administered under s. 1008.22 for all eligible students who were assigned to and enrolled in the school during the October or February FTE count and who have assessment scores or comparable scores for the preceding school year shall be used in determining an alternative school’s school improvement rating. An alternative school’s rating shall be based on the following components:

(a) The percentage of eligible students who make Learning Gains in English Language Arts as measured by statewide, standardized assessments under s. 1008.22(3).

(b) The percentage of eligible students who make Learning Gains in mathematics as measured by statewide, standardized assessments under s. 1008.22(3).

Student performance results of students who are subject to district school board policies for expulsion for repeated or serious offenses, who are in dropout retrieval programs serving students who have officially been designated as dropouts, or who are in programs operated or contracted by the Department of Juvenile Justice may not be included in an alternative school’s school improvement rating.

(4) IDENTIFICATION OF STUDENT LEARNING GAINS.—For each
alternative school receiving a school improvement rating, the
Department of Education shall annually identify the percentage
of students making Learning Gains consistent with the provisions
in s. 1008.34(3) as compared to the percentage of the same
students making learning gains in their home schools in the year
prior to being assigned to the alternative school.

Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 1008.3415, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.3415 School grade or school improvement rating for
exceptional student education centers.—

(2) Notwithstanding s. 1008.34(3)(c)3., the
achievement levels scores and Learning Gains of a student with a
disability who attends an exceptional student education center
and has not been enrolled in or attended a public school other
than an exceptional student education center for grades K-12
within the school district shall not be included in the
calculation of the home school’s grade if the student is
identified as an emergent student on the alternate assessment
tool described in s. 1008.22(3)(c)13.

Section 9. (1) Based on documentation from a physician
licensed under chapter 458, Florida Statutes, and after
reviewing the district school board superintendent’s
recommendation, the Commissioner of Education must grant:

(a) A permanent exemption from taking statewide,
standardized assessments to a student who, as determined by a
physician licensed pursuant to chapter 458, Florida Statutes, is
a “child with medical complexity.” For purposes of this
paragraph, the term “child with medical complexity” means a
child who has medical fragility and intensive care needs due to
a congenital or acquired multisystem disease, a severe
neurologic condition with marked functional impairment, or
technology dependent for activities of daily living.

(b) A one-year exemption from taking statewide,
standardized assessments to a student who suffers from such a
significant cognitive or physical disability that the student
temporarily lacks the capacity to take statewide, standardized
assessments.

(2) A parent may request that the student participate in
statewide, standardized assessments, including, but not limited
to, the Florida Alternate Assessment, during the term of the
exemption.

(3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
administer this section, including, but not limited to,
expediting the exemption process to demonstrate the utmost
compassion and consideration for meeting the parent’s and
student’s needs, and establishing deadlines for the
superintendent to provide a recommendation to the commissioner.

Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.