1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to educational options; creating s. 3 1004.6495, F.S.; providing a short title; providing 4 purposes and legislative intent; defining terms; 5 establishing student eligibility requirements for 6 enrollment in the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive 7 Transition Program; requiring eligible institutions to make student eligibility determinations; establishing 8 9 the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities; 10 specifying the responsibilities of the center and the center director; specifying amounts of funds to be 11 12 used for start-up and enhancement grants; specifying 13 application requirements for initial approval and 14 renewal of approval; requiring an eligible institution 15 with an approved program to submit an annual report to the center by a specified date; establishing a Florida 16 Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program 17 Scholarship for certain qualified students; specifying 18 19 requirements for a student to maintain scholarship 20 eligibility; providing for the distribution of 21 scholarship funds; requiring an eligible institution 2.2 to report certain data and information to the center; requiring an eligible institution to certify and 23 report the amount of funds disbursed and undisbursed 24 advances to the center by a specified date; specifying 25 26 the amount of the scholarship for eligible students;

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27	authorizing awards to be prorated under certain
28	circumstances; requiring the center, with the Board of
29	Governors and the State Board of Education, to
30	identify program progress and performance indicators;
31	requiring an annual report to the Legislature, the
32	Chancellor of the State University System, and the
33	Commissioner of Education by a specified date;
34	requiring the center, in collaboration with the Board
35	of Governors, State Board of Education, Higher
36	Education Coordinating Council, and other
37	stakeholders, to submit to the Governor and
38	Legislature statutory and budgetary recommendations
39	for the program; requiring the Board of Governors and
40	the State Board of Education, in consultation with the
41	center, to adopt regulations and rules; creating s.
42	1011.78, F.S.; authorizing certain school districts
43	and charter schools to be eligible to receive
44	incentive payments for implementing a standard student
45	attire policy that meets certain criteria; providing a
46	short title and purpose; establishing the
47	qualifications for such a payment; providing for
48	funding, subject to availability in the General
49	Appropriations Act; requiring the district school
50	superintendent or charter school governing board to
51	certify certain information to the commissioner by a
52	specified date; providing for reversion of the funds
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53 under certain circumstances; providing immunity from 54 civil liability to a school district board or charter 55 school governing board that establishes a standard 56 student attire policy; amending ss. 1001.43 and 57 1002.33, F.S.; authorizing a district school board or charter school that implements a standard student 58 59 attire policy to be eligible to receive incentive payments; amending s. 1002.385, F.S.; revising terms 60 for purposes of the Florida Personal Learning 61 Scholarship Account Program; revising program 62 eligibility criteria and program prohibitions for such 63 64 accounts; authorizing a parent to submit a specified document to receive scholarship funds before confirmed 65 66 eligibility; requiring that authorized program funds be used to support the student's educational needs; 67 authorizing program funds to be spent for specified 68 69 fees and services; revising the terms of the program; 70 providing for the reversion of certain funds to the 71 state; revising the obligations of school districts, 72 parents, and the Department of Education with respect 73 to the program; revising the authority of the 74 Commissioner of Education to deny, suspend, or revoke 75 certain program participation and use of program funds; specifying maximum periods for certain 76 77 suspensions and revocations; authorizing the 78 commissioner to recover program funds through certain

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79 means; revising information that must be provided for 80 the program by scholarship-funding organizations and 81 parents of applicants; specifying priority for 82 participation in the program; revising funding and 83 payment provisions for the program; requiring the Auditor General to provide the commissioner with 84 program annual operational audits by a specified time; 85 amending s. 1002.395, F.S.; prohibiting a scholarship-86 funding organization from charging an application fee; 87 deleting a requirement that certain fees be returned 88 89 to the General Revenue Fund; providing for the 90 transfer of contributions in excess of the amount that may be carried forward; revising the surety bond or 91 92 letter of credit requirements for nonprofit 93 scholarship-funding organizations submitting initial 94 or renewal scholarship program participation applications; providing for the deposit of certain 95 transferred funds by certain scholarship-funding 96 97 organizations; requiring that certain deposited funds 98 be separately disclosed; amending s. 1009.971, F.S.; 99 revising the duties of the Florida Prepaid College 100 Board; amending ss. 1009.98 and 1009.981, F.S.; 101 providing implementation procedures for the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program and the Florida 102 103 College Savings Program relating to plans purchased 104 through the Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts

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105 Programs; providing appropriations; providing an 106 effective date. 107 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 108 109 110 Section 1. Section 1004.6495, Florida Statutes, is created 111 to read: 1004.6495 Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition 112 113 Program and Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities.-114 SHORT TITLE.-This section may be cited as the "Florida (1) Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act." 115 116 (2) PURPOSE AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT.-The purpose of this 117 section is to increase independent living, inclusive and experiential postsecondary education, and employment 118 opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities 119 through degree, certificate, or nondegree programs and to 120 121 establish statewide coordination of the dissemination of 122 information regarding programs and services for students with 123 disabilities. It is the intent of the Legislature that students 124 with intellectual disabilities and students with disabilities 125 have access to meaningful postsecondary education credentials 126 and be afforded the opportunity to have a meaningful campus 127 experience. 128 (3) DEFINITIONS.-As used in this section, the term: 129 "Center" means the Florida Center for Students with (a) 130 Unique Abilities established under subsection (5).

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131	(b) "Director" means the director of the center.
132	(c) "Eligible institution" means a state university; a
133	Florida College System institution; a career center; a charter
134	technical career center; or an independent college or university
135	that is located and chartered in this state, is not for profit,
136	is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern
137	Association of Colleges and Schools, and is eligible to
138	participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access
139	Grant Program.
140	(d) "Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition
141	Program Scholarship" or "scholarship" means the scholarship
142	established under this section to provide state financial
143	assistance awards to students who meet the student eligibility
144	requirements specified in subsection (4) and are enrolled in an
145	FPCTP.
146	(e) "FPCTP" means a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive
147	Transition Program that is approved pursuant to paragraph (5)(c)
148	and offered by an eligible institution.
149	(f) "Transitional student" means a student who is 18 to 26
150	years of age and meets the student eligibility requirements
151	specified in subsection (4).
152	(4) STUDENT ELIGIBILITYTo be eligible to enroll in an
153	FPCTP at an eligible institution, a student must, as determined
154	by the institution, based on guidelines established by the
155	center:
156	(a) Be a "student with an intellectual disability" as that
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157	term is defined in 20 U.S.C. s. 1140(2), including, but not
158	limited to, a transitional student.
159	(b) Physically attend the eligible institution.
160	(c) Submit to the eligible institution documentation
161	regarding his or her intellectual disability. Such documentation
162	may include, but need not be limited to, a current
163	individualized plan for employment associated with a review
164	completed pursuant to s. 413.20(3) or a diagnosis from a
165	physician who is licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 or a
166	psychologist licensed under chapter 490.
167	(5) CENTER RESPONSIBILITIESThe Florida Center for
168	Students with Unique Abilities is established within the
169	University of Central Florida. At a minimum, the center shall:
170	(a) Disseminate information to students with disabilities
171	and their parents, including, but not limited to:
172	1. Education programs, services, and resources that are
173	available at eligible institutions.
174	2. Supports, accommodations, technical assistance, or
175	training provided by eligible institutions, the advisory council
176	established pursuant to s. 383.141, and regional autism centers
177	established pursuant to s. 1004.55.
178	3. Mentoring, networking, and employment opportunities.
179	(b) Coordinate, facilitate, and oversee the statewide
180	implementation of this section. At a minimum, the director
181	shall:
182	1. Consult and collaborate with the National Center and
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183	the Coordinating Center, as identified in 20 U.S.C. s. 1140q,
184	regarding guidelines established by the center for the effective
185	implementation of the programs for students with disabilities
186	and for students with intellectual disabilities which align with
187	the federal requirements and with standards, quality indicators,
188	and benchmarks identified by the National Center and the
189	Coordinating Center.
190	2. Consult and collaborate with the Higher Education
191	Coordinating Council to identify meaningful credentials for
192	FPCTPs and to engage businesses and stakeholders to promote
193	experiential training and employment opportunities for students
194	with intellectual disabilities.
195	3. Establish requirements and timelines for the:
196	a. Submission and review of an application.
197	b. Approval or disapproval of an initial or renewal
198	application.
199	c. Implementation of an FPCTP, which must begin no later
200	than the academic year immediately following the academic year
201	during which the approval is granted.
202	4. Administer scholarship funds.
203	5. Administer FPCTP start-up and enhancement grants. From
204	funds appropriated in the 2016-2017 fiscal year for the FPCTP,
205	\$3 million shall be used for such grants. Thereafter, funds
206	appropriated for the FPCTP may only be used for such grants if
207	specifically authorized in the General Appropriations Act. The
208	maximum annual start-up and enhancement grant award shall be
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209 \$300,000 per institution.

210	6. Report on the implementation and administration of this
211	section by planning, advising, and evaluating approved degree,
212	certificate, and nondegree programs and the performance of
213	students and programs pursuant to subsection (8).

214 (c) Create the application for the initial approval and 215 renewal of approval as an FPCTP for use by an eligible 216 institution which, at a minimum, must align with the federal 217 comprehensive transition and postsecondary program application 218 requirements. Notwithstanding the program approval requirements 219 of s. 1004.03, the director shall review applications for the 220 initial approval of an application for, or renewal of approval 221 of, an FPCTP.

222 1. Within 30 days after receipt of an application, the director shall issue his or her recommendation regarding 223 224 approval to the Chancellor of the State University System or the 225 Commissioner of Education, as applicable, or shall give written 226 notice to the applicant of any deficiencies in the application, 227 which the eliqible institution must be given an opportunity to 228 correct. Within 15 days after receipt of a notice of deficiencies, an eligible institution that chooses to continue 229 230 to seek program approval shall correct the application 231 deficiencies and return the application to the center. Within 30 232 days after receipt of a revised application, the director shall 233 recommend approval or disapproval of the revised application to 234 the chancellor or the commissioner, as applicable. Within 15

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235 days after receipt of the director's recommendation, the 236 chancellor or the commissioner shall approve or disapprove the 237 recommendation. If the chancellor or the commissioner does not 238 act on the director's recommendation within 15 days after receipt of such recommendation, the comprehensive transition 239 240 program proposed by the institution shall be considered 241 approved. 242 2. Initial approval of an application for an FPCTP that 243 meets the requirements of this section is valid for the 3 244 academic years immediately following the academic year during 245 which the approval is granted. An eligible institution may 246 submit an application to the center requesting that the initial 247 approval be renewed. If the approval is granted and the FPCTP 248 continues to meet the requirements of this section, including, but not limited to, program and student performance outcomes, 249 250 and federal requirements, a renewal is valid for the 5 academic 251 years immediately following the academic year during which the 252 renewal is granted. 253 3. An application must, at a minimum: 254 a. Identify a credential associated with the proposed 255 program which will be awarded to eligible students upon 256 completion of the FPCTP. 257 b. Outline the program length and design, including, at a 258 minimum, inclusive and successful experiential education 259 practices relating to curricular, assessment, and advising 260 structure and internship and employment opportunities, which Page 10 of 60

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261	must support students with intellectual disabilities who are
262	seeking to continue academic, career and technical, and
263	independent living instruction at an eligible institution,
264	including, but not limited to, opportunities to earn industry
265	certifications, to prepare students for gainful employment. If
266	an eligible institution offers a credit-bearing degree program,
267	the institution is responsible for maintaining the rigor and
268	effectiveness of a comprehensive transition degree program at
269	the same level as other comparable degree programs offered by
270	the institution pursuant to applicable accreditation standards.
271	c. Outline a plan for students with intellectual
272	disabilities to be integrated socially and academically with
273	nondisabled students, to the maximum extent possible, and to
274	participate on not less than a half-time basis, as determined by
275	the eligible institution, with such participation focusing on
276	academic components and occurring through one or more of the
277	following activities with nondisabled students:
278	(I) Regular enrollment in credit-bearing courses offered
279	by the institution.
280	(II) Auditing or participating in courses offered by the
281	institution for which the student does not receive academic
282	credit.
283	(III) Enrollment in noncredit-bearing, nondegree courses.
284	(IV) Participation in internships or work-based training.
285	d. Outline a plan for partnerships with businesses to
286	promote experiential training and employment opportunities for
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287 students with intellectual disabilities. 288 Identify performance indicators pursuant to subsection e. 289 (8) and other requirements identified by the center. 290 Outline a 5-year plan incorporating enrollment and f. 291 operational expectations for the program. 292 Provide technical assistance regarding programs and (d) services for students with intellectual disabilities to 293 294 administrators, instructors, staff, and others, as applicable, 295 at eligible institutions by: 296 1. Holding meetings and annual workshops to share 297 successful practices and to address issues or concerns. 298 2. Facilitating collaboration between eligible 299 institutions and school districts, private schools operating pursuant to s. 1002.42, and parents of students enrolled in home 300 301 education programs operating pursuant to s. 1002.41 in assisting 302 students with intellectual disabilities and their parents to 303 plan for the transition of such students into an FPCTP or 304 another program at an eligible institution. 305 Assisting eligible institutions with FPCTP and federal 3. 306 comprehensive transition and postsecondary program applications. 307 4. Assisting eligible institutions with the identification 308 of funding sources for an FPCTP and for student financial 309 assistance for students enrolled in an FPCTP. 310 5. Monitoring federal and state law relating to the 311 comprehensive transition program and notifying the Legislature, 312 the Governor, the Board of Governors, and the State Board of

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313	Education of any change in law which may impact the
314	implementation of this section.
315	(6) INSTITUTION ELIGIBILITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES
316	(a) To offer an FPCTP, the president or executive director
317	of an eligible institution, as applicable, must submit to the
318	center, by a date established by the center, the following:
319	1. An application for approval of a comprehensive
320	transition program proposed by the eligible institution, which
321	must be approved by the institution's governing board and must
322	address the requirements of the federal comprehensive transition
323	and postsecondary program under 20 U.S.C. s. 1140 and the
324	requirements of this section.
325	2. Documented evidence that the institution currently
326	offers a federally approved comprehensive transition and
327	postsecondary program that is eligible for federal student aid
328	programs, documented evidence of the submission of an
329	application for such federal approval of a program proposed by
330	the institution, or documentation demonstrating the commitment
331	of the institution's governing board to submit an application
332	within the subsequent academic year for federal approval of a
333	program pursuant to 20 U.S.C. s. 1140.
334	(b) An eligible institution may submit an application to
335	the center for approval pursuant to the requirements of this
336	section for implementation of the FPCTP no later than the
337	academic year immediately following the academic year during
338	which the approval is granted. An eligible institution must
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339	submit a renewal application to the center no later than 3 years
340	following the year during which the approval is initially
341	granted.
342	(c) By August 1 of each year, an eligible institution that
343	has an FPCTP shall submit an annual report to the center which,
344	at a minimum, for the prior academic year, addresses the
345	following performance indicators:
346	1. Efforts to recruit students in the FPCTP and the number
347	of students enrolled in the program.
348	2. Efforts to retain students in the FPCTP and the
349	retention rate of students in the program.
350	3. The completion rate of students enrolled in the FPCTP
351	and related courses, as applicable.
352	4. Transition success of students who complete the FPCTP,
353	as measured by employment rates and salary levels at 1 year and
354	5 years after completion.
355	5. Other performance indicators identified by the center
356	pursuant to subsection (8).
357	(d) An eligible institution shall notify students with
358	intellectual disabilities and their parents of the student
359	eligibility requirements specified in subsection (4) and the
360	scholarship requirements and eligibility requirements specified
361	in subsection (7).
362	(7) FLORIDA POSTSECONDARY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSITION PROGRAM
363	SCHOLARSHIP
364	(a) Beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year, the Florida
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365	Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship is
366	established for students who meet the student eligibility
367	requirements specified in subsection (4), are enrolled in an
368	FPCTP, and are not receiving services that are funded through
369	the Florida Education Finance Program or a scholarship under
370	part III of chapter 1002.
371	(b) To maintain eligibility to receive a scholarship, a
372	student must continue to meet the requirements of paragraph (a)
373	and must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress in the
374	FPCTP, as determined by the eligible institution that the
375	student attends, based on the indicators identified by the
376	center pursuant to subsection (8).
377	(c) Payment of scholarship funds shall be transmitted to
378	the director of the center or his or her designee in advance of
379	the registration period. The director or his or her designee
380	shall disburse the scholarship funds to the eligible
381	institutions that are responsible for awarding the scholarship
382	to students who meet the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b).
383	(d) During each academic term, by a date established by
384	the center, an eligible institution shall report to the center
385	the number and value of all scholarships awarded under this
386	subsection. Each eligible institution shall also report to the
387	center necessary demographic and eligibility data and other data
388	requested by the center for students who received the
389	scholarship awards.
390	(e) By a date annually established by the center, each
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391	eligible institution shall certify to the center the amount of
392	funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to the center
393	any undisbursed advances by June 1 of each year.
394	(f) For the 2016-2017 academic year, the amount of the
395	annual scholarship shall be \$7,000 for each student who meets
396	the eligibility requirements of subsection (4). Beginning in the
397	2017-2018 fiscal year, the funding for the program and the
398	annual amount of the scholarship to be provided to a student who
399	meets the eligibility requirements of subsection (4) shall be
400	the amounts specified in the General Appropriations Act. If
401	appropriated funds in any fiscal year are not adequate to
402	provide the maximum allowable award to each eligible student,
403	the awards may be prorated.
404	(8) ACCOUNTABILITY
405	(a) The center, in collaboration with the Board of
406	Governors and the State Board of Education, shall identify
407	indicators for the satisfactory progress of a student in an
408	FPCTP and for the performance of such programs. Each eligible
409	institution must address the indicators identified by the center
410	in its application for the approval of a proposed program and
411	for the renewal of an FPCTP and in the annual report that the
412	institution submits to the center.
413	(b) By October 1 of each year, the center shall provide to
414	the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
415	House of Representatives, the Chancellor of the State University
416	System, and the Commissioner of Education a report summarizing
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417 information including, but not limited to: 418 The status of the statewide coordination of FPCTPs and 1. 419 the implementation of FPCTPs at eligible institutions including, 420 but not limited to: 421 The number of applications approved and disapproved and a. 422 the reasons for each disapproval and no action taken by the 423 chancellor or the commissioner. 424 The number and value of all scholarships awarded to b. 425 students and undisbursed advances remitted to the center 426 pursuant to subsection (7). 427 2. Indicators identified by the center pursuant to 428 paragraph (a) and the performance of each eligible institution 429 based on the indicators identified in paragraph (6)(c). 430 3. The projected number of students with intellectual 431 disabilities who may be eligible to enroll in the FPCTPs within 432 the next academic year. 433 4. Education programs and services for students with 434 intellectual disabilities which are available at eligible 435 institutions. 436 (c) Beginning in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the center, in 437 collaboration with the Board of Governors, State Board of 438 Education, Higher Education Coordinating Council, and other 439 stakeholders, by December 1 of each year, shall submit to the 440 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the 441 House of Representatives statutory and budget recommendations 442 for improving the implementation and delivery of FPCTPs and

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443	other education programs and services for students with
444	disabilities.
445	(9) RULES.—The Board of Governors and the State Board of
446	Education, in consultation with the center, shall expeditiously
447	adopt any necessary regulations and rules, as applicable, to
448	allow the center to perform its responsibilities pursuant to
449	this section beginning in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.
450	Section 2. Section 1011.78, Florida Statutes, is created
451	to read:
452	1011.78 Standard student attire incentive paymentsThere
453	is created an incentive payment for school districts and charter
454	schools that implement a standard student attire policy for all
455	students in kindergarten through grade 8 in accordance with this
456	section.
457	(1) SHORT TITLE This section may be cited as the
458	"Students Attired for Education (SAFE) Act."
459	(2) PURPOSEThe purpose of a standard student attire
460	policy is to provide a safe environment for students which
461	fosters learning and improves school safety and discipline by:
462	(a) Encouraging students to express their individuality
463	through personality and academic achievements, rather than
464	outward appearance.
465	(b) Enabling students to focus on academics, rather than
466	fashion, because they are able to convey a neat, serious, and
467	studious image.
468	(c) Minimizing disciplinary problems because students are
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469 not distracted by clothing. 470 Reducing the time needed to correct dress code (d) 471 violations through a readily available inventory of compliant 472 attire. 473 (e) Minimizing visible differences between students and 474 eliminating social pressures to wear brand-name clothing or 475 colors to show gang affiliation, thereby easing financial 476 pressures on parents and enhancing school safety. 477 (f) Creating a sense of school pride and belonging. 478 (3) QUALIFICATIONS.-To qualify for the incentive payment, 479 a school district or charter school must, at a minimum, 480 implement a standard attire policy that: 481 (a) Applies to all students in kindergarten through grade 482 8 in the school district or charter school, regardless of 483 individual school grade configurations. 484 (b) Prohibits certain types or styles of clothing and 485 requires solid-colored clothing and fabrics for pants, skirts, 486 shorts, or similar clothing and short- or long-sleeved shirts 487 with collars. 488 (c) Allows reasonable accommodations based on a student's 489 religion, disability, or medical condition. 490 (4) AWARD.-Subject to the appropriation of funds by the 491 Legislature, a qualified school district or charter school shall 492 receive an annual award of not less than \$10 per student in 493 kindergarten through grade 8, as specified in the General 494 Appropriations Act. Before the release of funds, but no later

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495	than September 1 of each year, the district school
496	superintendent or the charter school governing board shall
497	certify to the commissioner that the school district or charter
498	school has implemented a districtwide or schoolwide standard
499	student attire policy, respectively, in accordance with this
500	section. A charter school may also qualify by participating in
501	its sponsor's qualifying policy. The commissioner shall make
502	payment of awards to school districts and charter schools in the
503	order in which certifications are received. As of June 30 of
504	each year, any funds provided pursuant to this section that have
505	not been disbursed to qualified school districts and charter
506	schools revert to the fund from which they were appropriated
507	pursuant to s. 216.301.
508	(5) IMMUNITYA district school board or governing board
509	of a charter school that implements a districtwide or schoolwide
510	standard student attire policy, respectively, is immune from
511	civil liability resulting from adoption of the policy in
512	accordance with this section.
513	Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
514	1001.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
515	1001.43 Supplemental powers and duties of district school
516	boardThe district school board may exercise the following
517	supplemental powers and duties as authorized by this code or
518	State Board of Education rule.
519	(1) STUDENT MANAGEMENTThe district school board may
520	adopt programs and policies to ensure the safety and welfare of
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521 individuals, the student body, and school personnel, which 522 programs and policies may:

523 Require uniforms to be worn by the student body, or (b) 524 impose other dress-related requirements, if the district school 525 board finds that those requirements are necessary for the safety 526 or welfare of the student body or school personnel. However, students may wear sunglasses, hats, or other sun-protective wear 527 528 while outdoors during school hours, such as when students are at 529 recess. A district school board that implements a districtwide 530 standard student attire policy pursuant to s. 1011.78 is 531 eligible to receive incentive payments.

532 Section 4. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (17) of 533 section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.-

(17) FUNDING.-Students enrolled in a charter school, regardless of the sponsorship, shall be funded as if they are in a basic program or a special program, the same as students enrolled in other public schools in the school district. Funding for a charter lab school shall be as provided in s. 1002.32.

540 (g) A charter school that implements a schoolwide standard 541 student attire policy pursuant to s. 1011.78 is eligible to 542 receive incentive payments.

543 Section 5. Section 1002.385, Florida Statutes, is amended 544 to read: 545 1002.385 Florida personal learning scholarship accounts.-

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534

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Florida Personal

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547 Learning Scholarship Accounts Program is established to provide the option for a parent to better meet the individual 548 549 educational needs of his or her eligible child. 550 DEFINITIONS.-As used in this section, the term: (2) 551 (a) "Approved provider" means a provider approved by the 552 Agency for Persons with Disabilities, a health care practitioner 553 as defined in s. 456.001(4), or a provider approved by the 554 department pursuant to s. 1002.66. "Curriculum" means a complete course of study for a 555 (b) 556 particular content area or grade level, including any required 557 supplemental materials and associated online instruction. 558 (C) "Department" means the Department of Education. 559 "Disability" means, for a 3- or 4-year-old child or (d) for a student in kindergarten to grade 12, autism spectrum 560 561 disorder, as defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of 562 Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, published by the American 563 Psychiatric Association s. 393.063(3); cerebral palsy, as 564 defined in s. 393.063(4); Down syndrome, as defined in s. 565 393.063(13); an intellectual disability, as defined in s. 566 393.063(21); Prader-Willi syndrome, as defined in s. 567 393.063(25); or spina bifida, as defined in s. 393.063(36); for 568 a student in kindergarten, being a high-risk child, as defined 569 in s. 393.063(20)(a); muscular dystrophy; and Williams syndrome. 570 "Eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization" (e) 571 or "organization" means a nonprofit scholarship-funding 572 organization that is approved pursuant to s. 1002.395(16) has

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the same meaning as in s. 1002.395.

"Eligible postsecondary educational institution" means 574 (f) 575 a Florida College System institution; τ a state university; τ a 576 school district technical center; $_{\tau}$ a school district adult 577 general education center; an independent college or university 578 that is eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, 579 Florida Resident Access Grant Program under s. 1009.89; $_{\tau}$ or an 580 accredited independent nonpublic postsecondary educational 581 institution, as defined in s. 1005.02, which is licensed to 582 operate in the state pursuant to requirements specified in part 583 III of chapter 1005.

(g) "Eligible private school" means a private school, as defined in s. 1002.01, which is located in this state, which offers an education to students in any grade from kindergarten to grade 12, and which meets <u>the</u> requirements of:

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1. Sections 1002.42 and 1002.421; and

2. A scholarship program under s. 1002.39 or s. 1002.395,
as applicable, if the private school participates in a
scholarship program under s. 1002.39 or s. 1002.395.

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(h) "IEP" means individual education plan.

(i) "Parent" means a resident of this state who is a parent, as defined in s. 1000.21.

(j) "Program" means the Florida Personal LearningScholarship Accounts Program established in this section.

597 (3) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.—A parent of a student with a598 disability may request and receive from the state a Florida

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599 personal learning scholarship account for the purposes specified 600 in subsection (5) if: 601 (a) The student: 1. Is a resident of this state; 602 603 2. Is 3 or 4 years of age on or before September 1 of the year in which the student applies for program participation or 604 605 is eligible to enroll in kindergarten through grade 12 in a 606 public school in this state; 607 Has a disability as defined in paragraph (2)(d); and 3. 608 4. Is the subject of an IEP written in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education or has received a 609 610 diagnosis of a disability as defined in subsection (2) from a 611 physician who is licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 or a psychologist who is licensed under chapter 490 in this state. 612 Beginning January 2015, The parent has applied to an 613 (b) 614 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization to 615 participate in the program by February 1 before the school year in which the student will participate or an alternative date as 616 617 set by the organization for any vacant, funded slots. The 618 request must be communicated directly to the organization in a 619 manner that creates a written or electronic record of the 620 request and the date of receipt of the request. In addition to 621 the application and any documentation required by the 622 organization or by State Board of Education rule, the parent may 623 submit a final verification document pursuant to this paragraph 624 to receive scholarship funds in the student's account before the

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625 department confirms program eligibility pursuant to paragraph 626 (9) (e). The final verification document must consist of one of 627 the following items applicable to the student: 628 1. A completed withdrawal form from the school district, 629 if the student was enrolled in a public school before the 630 determination of program eligibility. 631 2. A letter of admission or enrollment from an eligible 632 private school for the fiscal year in which the student wishes 633 to participate and, if applicable, a copy of the notification 634 from the private school that the student has withdrawn from the 635 John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities 636 Program or the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. 637 3. A copy of the notice of the parent's intent to 638 establish and maintain a home education program required by s. 1002.41(1)(a) or the annual educational evaluation of the 639 640 student in a home education program, which is required by s. 641 1002.41(2) The organization shall notify the district and the 642 department of the parent's intent upon receipt of the parent's 643 request. 644 (4) PROGRAM PROHIBITIONS.-645 (a) A student is not eligible for the program if while he 646 or she is: 647 (a) 1. Enrolled in a public school, including, but not 648 limited to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; the 649 Florida Virtual School; the College-Preparatory Boarding 650 Academy; a developmental research school authorized under s.

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651 1002.32; a charter school authorized under s. 1002.33, s. 652 1002.331, or s. 1002.332; or a virtual education program 653 authorized under s. 1002.45. For purposes of this paragraph, a 654 3- or 4-year-old child who receives services funded through the Florida Education Finance Program is considered to be a student 655 656 enrolled in a public school. Funding provided under this section 657 for a child eligible for enrollment in the Voluntary 658 Prekindergarten Education Program shall constitute funding for 659 the child under part V of this chapter, and no additional 660 funding shall be provided for the child under part V.+

661 (b)2. Enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of 662 providing educational services to youth in the Department of 663 Juvenile Justice commitment programs.+

(c) 3. Receiving a scholarship pursuant to the Florida Tax
 Credit Scholarship Program under s. 1002.395 or the John M.
 McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program under
 s. 1002.39.; or

668 (d) 4. Receiving any other educational scholarship pursuant
 669 to this chapter.

670

(b) A student is not eligible for the program if:

671 1. The student or student's parent has accepted any
672 payment, refund, or rebate, in any manner, from a provider of
673 any services received pursuant to subsection (5);

674 2. The student's participation in the program has been
675 denied or revoked by the commissioner of Education pursuant to
676 subsection (10); or

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677 The student's parent has forfeited participation 3. in the program for failure to comply with requirements pursuant to 678 679 subsection (11). (5) AUTHORIZED USES OF PROGRAM FUNDS.-Program funds must 680 681 be used to meet the individual educational needs of an eligible 682 student and may be spent for the following purposes: 683 (a) Instructional materials, including digital devices, 684 digital periphery devices, and assistive technology devices that 685 allow a student to access instruction or instructional content 686 and training on the use of and maintenance agreements for these 687 devices. 688 (b) Curriculum as defined in paragraph (2)(b). 689 Specialized services by approved providers that are (C) 690 selected by the parent. These specialized services may include, but are not limited to: 691 Applied behavior analysis services as provided in ss. 692 1. 693 627.6686 and 641.31098. Services provided by speech-language pathologists as 694 2. 695 defined in s. 468.1125. 696 3. Occupational therapy services as defined in s. 468.203. 697 4. Services provided by physical therapists as defined in s. 486.021. 698 699 5. Services provided by listening and spoken language 700 specialists and an appropriate acoustical environment for a child who is deaf or hard of hearing and who has received an 701 702 implant or assistive hearing device.

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703 Enrollment in, or tuition or fees associated with (d) 704 enrollment in, a home education program, an eligible private 705 school, an eligible postsecondary educational institution or a 706 program offered by the institution, a private tutoring program authorized under s. 1002.43, a virtual program offered by a 707 708 department-approved private online provider that meets the 709 provider qualifications specified in s. 1002.45(2)(a), the 710 Florida Virtual School as a private paying student, or an 711 approved online course offered pursuant to s. 1003.499 or s. 712 1004.0961.

(e) Fees for nationally standardized, norm-referenced achievement tests, Advanced Placement Examinations, industry certification examinations, assessments related to postsecondary education, or other assessments.

(f) Contributions to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program pursuant to s. 1009.98 <u>or the Florida College</u> <u>Savings Program pursuant to s. 1009.981</u>, for the benefit of the eligible student.

(g) Contracted services provided by a public school or school district, including classes. A student who receives services under a contract under this paragraph is not considered enrolled in a public school for eligibility purposes as specified in subsection (4).

(h) Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services
 provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's
 certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56; a person who holds an

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729	adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57; or a person
730	who has demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge
731	pursuant to s. 1012.56(5). As used in this paragraph, the term
732	"part-time tutoring services" does not qualify as regular school
733	attendance as defined in s. 1003.01(13)(e).
734	(i) Fees for specialized summer education programs.
735	(j) Fees for specialized after-school education programs.
736	(k) Transition services provided by job coaches.
737	(1) Fees for an annual evaluation of educational progress
738	by a state-certified teacher under s. 1002.41(1)(c), if this
739	option is chosen for a home education student.
740	(m) Tuition and fees associated with programs offered by
741	Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program providers approved
742	pursuant to s. 1002.55 and school readiness providers approved
743	pursuant to s. 1002.88.
744	
745	A provider of any services specialized service provider,
746	eligible private school, eligible postsecondary educational
747	institution, private tutoring program provider, online or
748	virtual program provider, public school, school district, or
749	other entity receiving payments pursuant to this subsection may
750	not share, refund, or rebate any moneys from the Florida
751	personal learning scholarship account with the parent or
752	participating student in any manner.
753	(6) TERM OF THE PROGRAMFor purposes of continuity of
754	educational choice and program integrity: $ au$

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755 (a)1. The Program payments made by the state to an 756 organization for a personal learning scholarship account under 757 this section shall continue remain in force until: 758 The parent does not renew program eligibility; a. The organization determines that the student is not 759 b. 760 eligible for program renewal; с. 761 The Commissioner of Education suspends or revokes 762 program participation or use of funds; 763 The student's parent has forfeited participation in the d. 764 program for failure to comply with subsection (11); 765 e. The student enrolls in a public school; or 766 f. The student graduates from high school or attains 22 767 years of age, whichever occurs first a student participating in 768 the program participates in any of the prohibited activities 769 specified in subsection (4), has funds revoked by the 770 Commissioner of Education pursuant to subsection (10), returns 771 to a public school, graduates from high school, or attains 22 772 years of age, whichever occurs first. A participating student who enrolls in a public school or public school program is 773 774 considered to have returned to a public school for the purpose 775 of determining the end of the program's term. 776 2. Reimbursements for program expenditures may continue 777 until the account balance is expended or the account is closed 778 pursuant to paragraph (b). 779 (b)1. A student's personal learning scholarship account 780 must be closed and any remaining funds, including, but not

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781	limited to, contributions made to the Stanley G. Tate Florida
782	Prepaid College Program or earnings from or contributions made
783	to the Florida College Savings Program using program funds
784	pursuant to paragraph (5)(f), shall revert to the state upon:
785	a. Denial or revocation of program eligibility by the
786	commissioner for fraud or abuse, including, but not limited to,
787	the student or student's parent accepting any payment, refund,
788	or rebate, in any manner, from a provider of any services
789	received pursuant to subsection (5); or
790	b. After any period of 3 consecutive years after high
791	school completion or graduation during which the student has not
792	been enrolled in an eligible postsecondary educational
793	institution or a program offered by the institution.
794	2. The commissioner must notify the parent and the
795	organization when a personal learning scholarship account is
796	closed and program funds revert to the state.
797	(7) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS
798	(a)1. <u>The parent of</u> For a student with a disability who
799	does not have an IEP in accordance with subparagraph (3)(a)4. or
800	who seeks a reevaluation of an existing IEP may request an IEP
801	meeting and evaluation from the school district in order to
802	obtain or revise a matrix of services. The school district shall
803	notify a parent who has made a request for an IEP that the
804	district is required to complete the IEP and matrix of services
805	within 30 days after receiving notice of the parent's request.
806	The school district shall conduct a meeting and develop an IEP
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and a matrix of services within 30 days after receipt of the parent's request in accordance with State Board of Education rules. a matrix of services under s. 1011.62(1)(e) and for whom the parent requests a matrix of services, The school district must complete a matrix that assigns the student to one of the levels of service as they existed before the 2000-2001 school year.

814 2.a. Within 10 school days after a school district 815 receives notification of a parent's request for completion of a 816 matrix of services, the school district must notify the 817 student's parent if the matrix of services has not been 818 completed and inform the parent that the district is required to 819 complete the matrix within 30 days after receiving notice of the 820 parent's request for the matrix of services. This notice must 821 include the required completion date for the matrix.

b. The school district shall complete the matrix of
services for a student whose parent has made a request. The
school district must provide the student's parent <u>and the</u>
<u>department</u> with the student's matrix level within 10 <u>calendar</u>
school days after its completion.

b.c. The department shall notify the parent and the
 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization of the
 amount of the funds awarded within 10 days after receiving the
 school district's notification of the student's matrix level.
 c.d. A school district may change a matrix of services

831 <u>c.d.</u> A school district may change a matrix of services 832 only if the change is <u>a result of an IEP reevaluation or</u> to

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833 correct a technical, typographical, or calculation error. (b) For each student participating in the program who 834 835 chooses to participate in statewide, standardized assessments 836 under s. 1008.22 or the Florida Alternate Assessment, the school district in which the student resides must notify the student 837 838 and his or her parent about the locations and times to take all 839 statewide, standardized assessments. 840 (c) For each student participating in the program, a 841 school district shall notify the parent about the availability 842 of a reevaluation at least every 3 years. 843 PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.-An (8) 844 eligible private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and 845 shall: 846 (a) Comply with all requirements for private schools 847 participating in state school choice scholarship programs 848 pursuant to s. 1002.421. 849 (b) Provide to the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 850 organization, upon request, all documentation required for the student's participation, including the private school's and 851 852 student's fee schedules. 853 (c) Be academically accountable to the parent for meeting 854 the educational needs of the student by: 855 At a minimum, annually providing to the parent a 1. 856 written explanation of the student's progress. 857 Annually administering or making provision for students 2. 858 participating in the program in grades 3 through 10 to take one Page 33 of 60

of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the Department of Education or the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22. Students with disabilities for whom standardized testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement. A participating private school shall report a student's scores to the parent.

3. Cooperating with the scholarship student whose parent chooses to have the student participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22 or, if a private school chooses to offer the statewide assessments, administering the assessments at the school.

a. A participating private school may choose to offer and
administer the statewide assessments to all students who attend
the private school in grades 3 through 10.

b. A participating private school shall submit a request in writing to the Department of Education by March 1 of each year in order to administer the statewide assessments in the subsequent school year.

(d) Employ or contract with teachers who have regular and
direct contact with each student receiving a scholarship under
this section at the school's physical location.

(e) Annually contract with an independent certified public accountant to perform the agreed-upon procedures developed under $\frac{s.\ 1002.395(6)(0)}{s.\ 1002.395(6)(n)}$ and produce a report of the results if the private school receives more than \$250,000 in funds from scholarships awarded under this section in the 2014-

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885 2015 state fiscal year or a state fiscal year thereafter. A private school subject to this paragraph must submit the report 886 887 by September 15, 2015, and annually thereafter to the scholarship-funding organization that awarded the majority of 888 the school's scholarship funds. The agreed-upon procedures must 889 890 be conducted in accordance with attestation standards 891 established by the American Institute of Certified Public 892 Accountants.

893

The inability of a private school to meet the requirements of this subsection constitutes a basis for the ineligibility of the private school to participate in the program as determined by the commissioner department.

898 (9) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.-The department 899 shall:

900 (a) Maintain <u>on its website</u> a list of approved providers 901 <u>as required in s. 1002.66</u>, eligible postsecondary educational 902 <u>institutions, eligible private schools, and organizations and</u> 903 <u>may identify or provide links to lists of other approved</u> 904 providers.

905 (b) Require each eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 906 organization to verify eligible expenditures before the 907 distribution of funds for any expenditures made pursuant to 908 paragraphs (5)(a) and (b). Review of expenditures made for 909 services <u>specified</u> in paragraphs (5)(c)-(m) = (5)(c)-(g) may be 910 completed after the purchase is payment has been made.

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911 (c) Investigate any written complaint of a violation of 912 this section <u>by a parent, a student, a private school, a public</u> 913 <u>school or a school district, an organization, a provider, or</u> 914 <u>another appropriate party</u> in accordance with the process 915 established by s. 1002.395(9)(f).

916 Require quarterly reports by an eligible nonprofit (d) 917 scholarship-funding organization, which must, at a minimum, 918 include regarding the number of students participating in the 919 program; the demographics of program participants; the 920 disability category of program participants; the matrix level of 921 services, if known; the program award amount per student; the total expenditures for the purposes specified in subsection 922 923 (5); τ the types of providers of services to students; τ and any 924 other information deemed necessary by the department.

Compare the list of students participating in the 925 (e) 926 program with the public school student enrollment lists, 927 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program enrollment lists, 928 and the list of students participating in school choice 929 scholarship programs established pursuant to this chapter before 930 each scholarship award is provided to the organization, and subsequently throughout the school year, each program payment to 931 932 avoid duplicate payments and confirm program eligibility. A 933 parent who files a final verification pursuant to paragraph 934 (3) (b) shall receive scholarship funds before the department 935 confirms program eligibility. 936 (10) COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.-

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937 The Commissioner of Education: (a) 938 Shall deny, suspend, or revoke a student's 1. 939 participation in the program if the health, safety, or welfare 940 of the student is threatened or fraud is suspected. 941 2. Shall deny, suspend, or revoke an authorized use of 942 program funds if the health, safety, or welfare of the student 943 is threatened or fraud is suspected. 944 3. May deny, suspend, or revoke an authorized use of 945 program funds for material failure to comply with this section 946 and applicable department rules if the noncompliance is 947 correctable within a reasonable period of time. Otherwise, the commissioner shall deny, suspend, or revoke an authorized use 948 949 for failure to materially comply with the law and rules adopted 950 under this section. 951 4. Shall require compliance by the appropriate party by a 952 date certain for all nonmaterial failures to comply with this 953 section and applicable department rules. The commissioner May 954 $\frac{deny_{\tau}}{deny_{\tau}}$ suspend_{τ} or revoke program participation or use of program 955 funds by the student or participation or eligibility of an 956 organization, eligible private school, eligible postsecondary 957 educational institution, approved provider, or other party for a 958 violation of this section. 959 2. May determine the length of, and conditions for 960 lifting, a suspension or revocation specified in this 961 subsection. 962 May recover unexpended program funds or withhold 3. Page 37 of 60

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963 payment of an equal amount of program funds to recover program 964 funds that were not authorized for use. 965 Shall deny or terminate program participation upon a 4. 966 parent's forfeiture of a personal learning scholarship account 967 pursuant to subsection (11) under this section thereafter. 968 In determining whether to $\frac{deny_{I}}{deny_{I}}$ suspend_I or revoke (b) 969 participation or lift a suspension or revocation in accordance 970 with this subsection, the commissioner may consider factors that 971 include, but are not limited to, acts or omissions that by a 972 participating entity which led to a previous suspension denial 973 or revocation of participation in a state or federal program or 974 an education scholarship program; failure to reimburse the 975 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for program 976 funds improperly received or retained by the entity; failure to 977 reimburse government funds improperly received or retained; 978 imposition of a prior criminal sanction related to the person or 979 entity or its officers or employees; imposition of a civil fine 980 or administrative fine, license revocation or suspension, or 981 program eligibility suspension, termination, or revocation 982 related to a person's or an entity's management or operation; or 983 other types of criminal proceedings in which the person or 984 entity or its officers or employees were found quilty of, 985 regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere 986 or guilty to, any offense involving fraud, deceit, dishonesty, 987 or moral turpitude.

988

(11) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM

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989 PARTICIPATION.-A parent who applies for program participation 990 under this section is exercising his or her parental option to 991 determine the appropriate placement or the services that best 992 meet the needs of his or her child. The scholarship award for a 993 student is based on a matrix that assigns the student to support 994 Level III services. If a parent receives chooses to request and 995 receive an IEP and a matrix of services from the school district 996 pursuant to subsection (7), the amount of the payment shall be 997 adjusted as needed, when the school district completes the 998 matrix.

999 (a) To <u>satisfy or maintain program eligibility, including</u> 1000 <u>eligibility to receive and spend program payments</u> enroll an 1001 eligible student in the program, the parent must sign an 1002 agreement with the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 1003 organization and annually submit a notarized, sworn compliance 1004 statement to the organization to:

1005 1. Affirm that the student is enrolled in a program that 1006 meets regular school attendance requirements as provided in s. 1007 1003.01(13)(b)-(d).

1008 2. <u>Affirm that</u> Use the program funds <u>are used</u> only for 1009 authorized purposes <u>serving the student's educational needs</u>, as 1010 described in subsection (5).

10113. Affirm that the parent is responsible for the education1012of his or her student by, as applicable: takes all appropriate1013standardized assessments as specified in this section.

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Requiring the student to If the parent enrolls the

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1015 child in an eligible private school, the student must take an 1016 assessment <u>in accordance with paragraph (8)(c);</u> selected by the 1017 private school pursuant to s. 1002.395(7)(e). 1018 b. Providing an If the parent enrolls the child in a home 1019 education program, the parent may choose to participate in an 1020 assessment as part of the annual evaluation <u>in accordance with</u> 1021 provided for in s. 1002.41(1)(c); or.

1022c. Requiring the child to take any pre- and post-1023assessments selected by the provider if the child is 4 years of1024age and is enrolled in a program provided by an eligible1025Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider. A student1026with disabilities for whom a pre- and post-assessment is not1027appropriate is exempt from this requirement. A participating1028provider shall report a student's scores to the parent.

1029 4. Notify the school district that the student is 1030 participating in the Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts if 1031 the parent chooses to enroll in a home education program as 1032 provided in s. 1002.41.

1033 5. Request participation in the program by the date 1034 established by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 1035 organization.

1036 <u>4.6.</u> Affirm that the student remains in good standing with 1037 the provider or school if those options are selected by the 1038 parent.

1039 7. Apply for admission of his or her child if the private
1040 school option is selected by the parent.

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1041	8. Annually renew participation in the program.
1042	Notwithstanding any changes to the student's IEP, a student who
1043	was previously eligible for participation in the program shall
1044	remain eligible to apply for renewal as provided in subsection
1045	(6).
1046	9. Affirm that the parent will not transfer any college
1047	savings funds to another beneficiary.
1048	10. Affirm that the parent will not take possession of any
1049	funding provided by the state for the Florida Personal Learning
1050	Scholarship Accounts.
1051	11. Maintain a portfolio of records and materials which
1052	must be preserved by the parent for 2 years and be made
1053	available for inspection by the district school superintendent
1054	or the superintendent's designee upon 15 days' written notice.
1055	This paragraph does not require the superintendent to inspect
1056	the portfolio. The portfolio of records and materials must
1057	consist of:
1058	a. A log of educational instruction and services which is
1059	made contemporaneously with delivery of the instruction and
1060	services and which designates by title any reading materials
1061	used; and
1062	b. Samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks, or
1063	creative materials used or developed by the student.
1064	(b) The parent must file an application for initial
1065	program participation with an organization by the dates
1066	established pursuant to this section.
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1067 The parent must notify the school district that the (C) 1068 student is participating in the Personal Learning Scholarship 1069 Program if the parent chooses to enroll the student in a home 1070 education program as provided in s. 1002.41. This notification 1071 is not in lieu of the required notification a parent must submit 1072 to the district when establishing a home education program 1073 pursuant to s. 1002.41(1)(a). 1074 The parent must enroll his or her child in a program (d) 1075 from a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider 1076 authorized under s. 1002.55, a school readiness provider 1077 authorized under s. 1002.88, or an eligible private school if 1078 either option is selected by the parent. 1079 The parent must annually renew participation in the (e) 1080 program. Notwithstanding any changes to the student's IEP, a 1081 student who was previously eligible for participation in the 1082 program shall remain eligible to apply for renewal. However, for 1083 a high-risk child to continue to participate in the program in 1084 the school year after he or she reaches 6 years of age, the 1085 child's application for renewal of program participation must 1086 contain documentation that the child has a disability defined in 1087 paragraph (2) (d) other than high-risk status. 1088 (f) (b) The parent is responsible for procuring the 1089 services necessary to educate the student. When the student 1090 receives a personal learning scholarship account, the district 1091 school board is not obligated to provide the student with a free 1092 appropriate public education. For purposes of s. 1003.57 and the

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1093 Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act, a participating 1094 student has only those rights that apply to all other 1095 unilaterally parentally placed students, except that, when 1096 requested by the parent, school district personnel must develop 1097 an individual education plan or matrix level of services.

1098 <u>(g) (c)</u> The parent is responsible for the payment of all 1099 eligible expenses in excess of the amount of the personal 1100 learning scholarship account in accordance with the terms agreed 1101 to between the parent and the providers.

(h) The parent may not transfer any prepaid college plan or college savings plan funds contributed pursuant to paragraph (5) (f) to another beneficiary while the plan contains funds contributed pursuant to this section.

1106 (i) The parent may not receive a payment, refund, or 1107 rebate from an approved provider of any services under this 1108 program.

1110 A parent who fails to comply with this subsection forfeits the 1111 personal learning scholarship account.

1112 (12)OBLIGATIONS OF SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS 1113 ADMINISTRATION OF PERSONAL LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS. - An 1114 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization 1115 participating in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program established under s. 1002.395 may establish personal learning 1116 scholarship accounts for eligible students by: 1117 1118 Receiving applications and determining student (a)

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1119 eligibility in accordance with the requirements of this section. 1120 The organization shall notify the department of the applicants 1121 for the program by March 1 before the school year in which the 1122 student intends to participate. When an application is approved 1123 received, the scholarship funding organization must provide the 1124 department with information on the student to enable the 1125 department to determine report the student for funding in accordance with subsection (13). 1126

(b) Notifying parents of their receipt of a scholarship on a first-come, first-served basis, based upon the funds provided for this program in the General Appropriations Act.

(c) Establishing a date <u>pursuant to paragraph (3)(b)</u> by which a parent must confirm initial or continuing participation in the program and confirm the establishment or continuance of a personal learning scholarship account.

1134 (d) <u>Reviewing applications and awarding scholarship funds</u> 1135 <u>to approved applicants using the following priorities:</u>

1. Renewing students from the previous school year;

1137 2. Students retained on the previous school year's wait
1138 list;

3. Newly approved applicants; and

4. Late-filed applicants.

1141

1139

1140

1136

1142 An approved student who does not receive a scholarship must be

1143 placed on the wait list in the order in which his or her

1144 application is approved. The Establishing a date and process by

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1145 which students on the wait list or subsequent late-filing applicants may be allowed to participate in the program during 1146 1147 the fiscal school year, within the amount of funds provided for 1148 this program in the General Appropriations Act. A student who 1149 does not receive a scholarship within the fiscal year shall be 1150 retained on the wait list for the subsequent year. 1151 Establishing and maintaining separate accounts for (e) each eligible student. For each account, the organization must 1152 maintain a record of accrued interest that is retained in the 1153 1154 student's account and available only for authorized program 1155 expenditures. 1156 (f) Verifying qualifying educational expenditures pursuant 1157 to the requirements of paragraph $(9)(b) \frac{(8)(b)}{(2)}$. Returning any remaining program unused funds to the 1158 (q) 1159 department pursuant to paragraph (6) (b) when the student is no 1160 longer eligible for a personal scholarship learning account. 1161 Notifying the parent about the availability of, and (h) 1162 the requirements associated with, requesting an initial IEP or 1163 IEP reevaluation every 3 years for each student participating in 1164 the program. 1165 (i) Notifying the department of any violation of this 1166 section. 1167 Documenting each scholarship student's eligibility for (j) 1168 a fiscal year before granting a scholarship for that fiscal year 1169 pursuant to paragraph (3)(b). 1170 (13) FUNDING AND PAYMENT.-

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1171 (a)1. The maximum funding amount granted for an eligible student with a disability, pursuant to subsection (3), shall be equivalent to the base student allocation in the Florida Education Finance Program multiplied by the appropriate cost factor for the educational program which would have been provided for the student in the district school to which he or she would have been assigned, multiplied by the district cost differential.

1179 2. In addition, an amount equivalent to a share of the 1180 guaranteed allocation for exceptional students in the Florida 1181 Education Finance Program shall be determined and added to the 1182 amount in subparagraph 1. The calculation shall be based on the 1183 methodology and the data used to calculate the guaranteed 1184 allocation for exceptional students for each district in chapter 1185 2000-166, Laws of Florida. Except as provided in subparagraph 1186 3., the calculation shall be based on the student's grade, the 1187 matrix level of services, and the difference between the 2000-1188 2001 basic program and the appropriate level of services cost 1189 factor, multiplied by the 2000-2001 base student allocation and the 2000-2001 district cost differential for the sending 1190 1191 district. The calculated amount must also include an amount 1192 equivalent to the per-student share of supplemental academic instruction funds, instructional materials funds, technology 1193 1194 funds, and other categorical funds as provided in the General 1195 Appropriations Act.

1196

Except as otherwise provided in subsection (7), the 3.

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1197 calculation for all students participating in the program shall 1198 be based on the matrix that assigns the student to support Level 1199 III of services. If a parent chooses to request and receive a 1200 matrix of services from the school district, when the school 1201 district completes the matrix, the amount of the payment shall 1202 be adjusted as needed.

(b) The amount of the awarded funds shall be 90 percent of
the calculated amount. <u>One hundred percent of the funds</u>
<u>appropriated for the program shall be released to the department</u>
at the beginning of the first quarter of each fiscal year.

1207 (C) Upon notification from the organization that a parent 1208 has filed a final verification document pursuant to paragraph 1209 (3) (b) or upon notification from the organization that a 3- or 1210 4-year-old child's application has been approved for the 1211 program, the department shall release the student's scholarship 1212 funds to the organization to be deposited into the student's 1213 account an eligible student's graduation from an eligible 1214 postsecondary educational institution or after any period of 4 1215 consecutive years after high school graduation in which the 1216 student is not enrolled in an eligible postsecondary educational 1217 institution, the student's personal learning scholarship account 1218 shall be closed, and any remaining funds shall revert to the 1219 state.

1220 (d) For initial eligibility for the program, students 1221 determined eligible by the organization for a personal learning 1222 scholarship amount by:

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1223	1. September 1 shall receive 100 percent of the total
1224	awarded funds.
1225	2. November 1 shall receive 75 percent of the total
1226	awarded funds.
1227	3. February 1 shall receive 50 percent of the total
1228	awarded funds.
1229	4. April 1 shall receive 25 percent of the total awarded
1230	funds.
1231	(e) Accrued interest in the student's account is in
1232	addition to, and not part of, the awarded funds. Program funds
1233	include both the awarded funds and accrued interest.
1234	(f) (d) The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
1235	organization may shall develop a system for payment of benefits
1236	by electronic funds transfer, including, but not limited to,
1237	debit cards, electronic payment cards, or any other means of
1238	electronic payment that the department deems to be commercially
1239	viable or cost-effective. <u>A student's scholarship award may not</u>
1240	be reduced for debit card or electronic payment fees.
1241	Commodities or services related to the development of such a
1242	system shall be procured by competitive solicitation unless they
1243	are purchased from a state term contract pursuant to s. 287.056.
1244	(g) In addition to funds appropriated for scholarship
1245	awards and subject to a separate, specific legislative
1246	appropriation, an organization may receive an amount equivalent
1247	to not more than 3 percent of the amount of each scholarship
1248	award from state funds for administrative expenses if the

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1249	organization has operated as a nonprofit entity for at least the
1250	preceding 3 fiscal years and did not have any findings of
1251	material weakness or material noncompliance in its most recent
1252	audit under s. 1002.395(6)(m). Such administrative expenses must
1253	be reasonable and necessary for the organization's management
1254	and distribution of scholarships under this section. Funds
1255	authorized under this paragraph may not be used for lobbying or
1256	political activity or expenses related to lobbying or political
1257	activity. An organization may not charge an application fee for
1258	a scholarship. Administrative expenses may not be deducted from
1259	funds appropriated for scholarship awards.
1260	<u>(h)</u> Moneys received pursuant to this section do not
1261	constitute taxable income to the <u>qualified student or</u> parent of
1262	the qualified student.
1263	(14) OBLIGATIONS OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
1264	(a) The Auditor General shall conduct an annual financial
1265	and operational audit of accounts and records of each cligible
1266	scholarship-funding organization that participates in the
1267	program. As part of this audit, the Auditor General shall
1268	verify, at a minimum, the total amount of students served and
1269	<u>the</u> eligibility of reimbursements made by <u>the</u> each eligible
1270	nonprofit scholarship-funding organization and transmit that
1271	information to the department. The Auditor General shall provide
1272	the commissioner with a copy of each annual operational audit
1273	performed pursuant to this subsection within 10 days after the
1274	audit is finalized.

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(b) The Auditor General shall notify the department of any
eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization that fails
to comply with a request for information.

(15) OBLIGATIONS RELATED TO APPROVED PROVIDERS.-The Department of Health, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, and the Department of Education shall work with an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for easy or automated access to lists of licensed providers of services specified in paragraph (5)(c) to ensure efficient administration of the program.

1285 (16) LIABILITY.—The state is not liable for the award or 1286 any use of awarded funds under this section.

(17) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—This section does not expand the regulatory authority of this state, its officers, or any school district to impose additional regulation on participating private schools, <u>independent</u> nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions, and private providers beyond those reasonably necessary to enforce requirements expressly set forth in this section.

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

1297 (19) IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL
1298 YEAR.-Notwithstanding the provisions of this section related to
1299 notification and eligibility timelines, an eligible nonprofit
1300 scholarship-funding organization may enroll parents on a rolling

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1301 schedule on a first-come, first-served basis, within -the amount 1302 of funds provided in the General Appropriations Act. 1303 Section 6. Paragraph (j) of subsection (6) and paragraphs 1304 (a), (b), and (f) of subsection (16) of section 1002.395, 1305 Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 1306 1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.-1307 (6) OBLIGATIONS OF ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS. - An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 1308 1309 organization: 1310 (j)1. May use up to 3 percent of eligible contributions 1311 received during the state fiscal year in which such 1312 contributions are collected for administrative expenses if the 1313 organization has operated as an eligible nonprofit scholarship-1314 funding organization under this section for at least the 1315 preceding 3 state fiscal years and did not have any negative 1316 financial findings of material weakness or material 1317 noncompliance in its most recent audit under paragraph (m). Such 1318 administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary for the 1319 organization's management and distribution of eligible contributions under this section. No funds authorized under this 1320 1321 subparagraph shall be used for lobbying or political activity or 1322 expenses related to lobbying or political activity. Up to one-1323 third of the funds authorized for administrative expenses under this subparagraph may be used for expenses related to the 1324 1325 recruitment of contributions from taxpayers. If An eligible 1326 nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may not charge

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1327 charges an application fee for a scholarship, the application 1328 fee must be immediately refunded to the person that paid the fee 1329 if the student is not enrolled in a participating school within 1330 12 months.

Must expend for annual or partial-year scholarships an 1331 2. 1332 amount equal to or greater than 75 percent of the net eligible 1333 contributions remaining after administrative expenses during the state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected. No 1334 more than 25 percent of such net eligible contributions may be 1335 1336 carried forward to the following state fiscal year. All amounts 1337 carried forward, for audit purposes, must be specifically 1338 identified for particular students, by student name and the name 1339 of the school to which the student is admitted, subject to the 1340 requirements of ss. 1002.22 and 1002.221 and 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, 1341 and the applicable rules and regulations issued pursuant 1342 thereto. Any amounts carried forward shall be expended for 1343 annual or partial-year scholarships in the following state 1344 fiscal year. Net eligible contributions remaining on June 30 of 1345 each year that are in excess of the 25 percent that may be carried forward shall be transferred to other eligible nonprofit 1346 1347 scholarship-funding organizations to provide scholarships for 1348 eligible students. All transferred funds must be deposited by 1349 each eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization 1350 receiving such funds into its scholarship account. All 1351 transferred amounts received by any eligible nonprofit 1352 scholarship-funding organization must be separately disclosed in

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1353 the annual financial audit required under paragraph (m) returned to the State Treasury for deposit in the General Revenue Fund. 1354 1355 Must, before granting a scholarship for an academic 3. 1356 year, document each scholarship student's eligibility for that 1357 academic year. A scholarship-funding organization may not grant 1358 multiyear scholarships in one approval process. 1359 1360 Information and documentation provided to the Department of Education and the Auditor General relating to the identity of a 1361 1362 taxpayer that provides an eligible contribution under this 1363 section shall remain confidential at all times in accordance 1364 with s. 213.053. 1365 NONPROFIT SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS; (16)1366 APPLICATION.-In order to participate in the scholarship program 1367 created under this section, a charitable organization that seeks 1368 to be a nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must submit

1369 an application for initial approval or renewal to the Office of 1370 Independent Education and Parental Choice no later than 1371 September 1 of each year before the school year for which the 1372 organization intends to offer scholarships.

1373 1374 (a) An application for initial approval must include:

A copy of the organization's incorporation documents
 and registration with the Division of Corporations of the
 Department of State.

1377 2. A copy of the organization's Internal Revenue Service
1378 determination letter as a s. 501(c)(3) not-for-profit

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1379 organization.

1380 3. A description of the organization's financial plan that
1381 demonstrates sufficient funds to operate throughout the school
1382 year.

1383 4. A description of the geographic region that the
1384 organization intends to serve and an analysis of the demand and
1385 unmet need for eligible students in that area.

1386

5. The organization's organizational chart.

1387 6. A description of the criteria and methodology that the 1388 organization will use to evaluate scholarship eligibility.

13897. A description of the application process, including1390 deadlines and any associated fees.

1391 8. A description of the deadlines for attendance1392 verification and scholarship payments.

1393 9. A copy of the organization's policies on conflict of1394 interest and whistleblowers.

1395 10. A copy of a surety bond or letter of credit to secure 1396 the faithful performance of the obligations of the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization in accordance with 1397 this section in an amount equal to 25 percent of the scholarship 1398 1399 funds anticipated for each school year or \$100,000, whichever is 1400 greater. The surety bond or letter of credit must specify that 1401 any claim against the bond or letter of credit may be made only 1402 by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization to provide scholarships to and on behalf of students who would have 1403 1404 had scholarships funded if it were not for the diversion of

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1405 funds giving rise to the claim against the bond or letter of 1406 credit. 1407 (b) In addition to the information required by 1408 subparagraphs (a)1.-9., an application for renewal must include: 1409 1. A surety bond or letter of credit to secure the 1410 faithful performance of the obligations of the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization in accordance with 1411 1412 this section equal to the amount of undisbursed donations held 1413 by the organization based on the annual report submitted 1414 pursuant to paragraph (6) (m). The amount of the surety bond or 1415 letter of credit must be at least \$100,000, but not more than 1416 \$25 million. The surety bond or letter of credit must specify 1417 that any claim against the bond or letter of credit may be made 1418 only by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization 1419 to provide scholarships to and on behalf of students who would 1420 have had scholarships funded if it were not for the diversion of 1421 funds giving rise to the claim against the bond or letter of 1422 credit. 2. 1423 The organization's completed Internal Revenue Service 1424 Form 990 submitted no later than November 30 of the year before 1425 the school year that the organization intends to offer the 1426 scholarships, notwithstanding the September 1 application 1427 deadline. 3. A copy of the statutorily required audit to the 1428 1429 Department of Education and Auditor General. 1430 4. An annual report that includes:

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1434

a. The number of students who completed applications, by
county and by grade.
b. The number of students who were approved for

1435 c. The number of students who received funding for 1436 scholarships within each funding category, by county and by 1437 grade.

scholarships, by county and by grade.

1438 d. The amount of funds received, the amount of funds
1439 distributed in scholarships, and an accounting of remaining
1440 funds and the obligation of those funds.

e. A detailed accounting of how the organization spent the administrative funds allowable under paragraph (6)(j).

All remaining funds held by a nonprofit scholarship-1443 (f) 1444 funding organization that is disapproved for participation must 1445 be transferred revert to the Department of Revenue for 1446 redistribution to other eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 1447 organizations to provide scholarships for eligible students. All 1448 transferred funds must be deposited by each eligible nonprofit 1449 scholarship-funding organization receiving such funds into its 1450 scholarship account. All transferred amounts received by any 1451 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must be 1452 separately disclosed in the annual financial audit required 1453 under subsection (6). Section 7. Paragraph (aa) is added to subsection (4) of 1454

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section 1009.971, Florida Statutes, to read:

1009.971 Florida Prepaid College Board.-

1457 FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE BOARD; POWERS AND DUTIES.-The (4)1458 board shall have the powers and duties necessary or proper to 1459 carry out the provisions of ss. 1009.97-1009.988, including, but 1460 not limited to, the power and duty to: 1461 (aa) Adopt rules relating to the purchase and use of a 1462 prepaid college plan authorized under s. 1009.98 or a college 1463 savings plan authorized under s. 1009.981 for the Florida 1464 Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts Program pursuant to s. 1465 1002.385, which may include, but need not be limited to: 1466 1. The use of such funds for postsecondary education 1467 programs for students with disabilities; 1468 2. Effective procedures that allow program funds to be 1469 used in conjunction with other funds used by a parent in the 1470 purchase of a prepaid college plan or a college savings plan; 1471 3. The tracking and accounting of program funds separately 1472 from other funds contributed to a prepaid college plan or a 1473 college savings plan; 1474 4. The reversion of program funds, including, but not 1475 limited to, earnings from contributions to the Florida College 1476 Savings Plan; 1477 5. The use of program funds only after private payments 1478 have been used for prepaid college plan or college savings plan 1479 expenditures; 1480 6. Contracting with each eligible nonprofit scholarship-1481 funding organization to establish mechanisms to implement s. 1482 1002.385, including, but not limited to, identifying the source

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1483 of funds being deposited in the plans; and 1484 The development of a written agreement that defines the 7. 1485 owner and beneficiary of an account and outlines 1486 responsibilities for the use of the advance payment contract 1487 funds or savings program funds. Section 8. Subsection (11) is added to section 1009.98, 1488 1489 Florida Statutes, to read: 1490 1009.98 Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program.-1491 (11) IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES.-1492 (a) A prepaid college plan may be purchased, accounted 1493 for, used, and terminated as provided in s. 1002.385. 1494 (b) A qualified beneficiary may apply the benefits of an 1495 advance payment contract toward the program fees of a program 1496 designed for students with disabilities conducted by a state 1497 postsecondary institution. A transfer authorized under this 1498 subsection may not exceed the redemption value of the advance 1499 payment contract at a state postsecondary institution or the 1500 number of semester credit hours contracted on behalf of a qualified beneficiary. A qualified beneficiary may not be 1501 1502 changed while a prepaid college plan contains funds contributed 1503 under s. 1002.385. 1504 Section 9. Subsection (10) is added to section 1009.981, 1505 Florida Statutes, to read: 1506 1009.981 Florida College Savings Program.-1507 (10) IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES.-1508 A college savings plan may be purchased, accounted (a) Page 58 of 60

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1509	for, used, and terminated as provided in s. 1002.385.
1510	(b) A designated beneficiary may apply the benefits of a
1511	participation agreement toward the program fees of a program
1512	designed for students with disabilities conducted by a state
1513	postsecondary institution. A designated beneficiary may not be
1514	changed while a college savings plan contains funds contributed
1515	under s. 1002.385.
1516	Section 10. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year:
1517	(1) The sum of \$71.2 million in recurring funds from the
1518	General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the Department of
1519	Education for scholarship awards under the Personal Learning
1520	Scholarship Accounts Program. In addition to the funds
1521	appropriated for the scholarship awards, the sum of \$2,136,000
1522	in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is appropriated
1523	to the Department of Education for reasonable and necessary
1524	administrative expenses for each scholarship-funding
1525	organization's management and distribution of scholarship awards
1526	under the program; however, the amount paid to each scholarship-
1527	funding organization may not exceed 3 percent of the amount of
1528	each scholarship award.
1529	(2) The sum of \$14 million in recurring funds from the
1530	General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the Department of
1531	Education for incentive payments for the Standard Student Attire
1532	Incentive Program.
1533	(3) The sum of \$8 million in recurring funds from the
1534	General Revenue Fund is appropriated for the Florida
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1535	Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program to be
1536	administered by the Florida Center for Students with Unique
1537	Abilities at the University of Central Florida, as follows:
1538	(a) The sum of \$1.5 million shall be provided to the
1539	Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities for costs
1540	solely associated with the center serving as the statewide
1541	coordinating center for the program.
1542	(b) The sum of \$3 million shall be distributed for startup
1543	and enhancement grants to eligible institutions pursuant to s.
1544	1004.6495(5)(b)5., Florida Statutes.
1545	(c) The sum of \$3.5 million shall be distributed as
1546	Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program
1547	scholarships for students who are enrolled in eligible programs.
1548	Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

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