

Tab 1	SB 1470 by Burgess; Similar to CS/H 01403 School Safety					
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220728	A	S	L	AED, Burgess	Delete L.85 - 577:	03/21 05:25 PM
162312	AA	S		AED, Burgess	btw L.401 - 402:	03/24 09:42 AM
485440	AA	S	WD	AED, Burgess	After L.518:	03/24 10:28 AM
698062	AA	S		AED, Burgess	After L.518:	03/24 10:53 AM

Tab 2	SB 1472 by Burgess; Compare to CS/H 01403 Public Records/School Security Guards					
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Tab 3	SB 1618 by Calatayud; Compare to H 00355 Prekindergarten Through Grade 12 Education					
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847128	A	S	L	AED, Calatayud	btw L.505 - 506:	03/24 08:30 AM
300346	A	S	LWD	AED, Calatayud	btw L.685 - 686:	03/24 08:58 AM

Tab 4	CS/SB 1058 by GO, Gruters; Similar to CS/H 00549 Gulf of America					
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The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON PRE-K - 12

EDUCATION

Senator Burgess, Chair
Senator Pizzo, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Monday, March 24, 2025

TIME: 1:30—3:30 p.m.

PLACE: *Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building*

MEMBERS: Senator Burgess, Chair; Senator Pizzo, Vice Chair; Senators Bradley, Calatayud, Fine, Gaetz, Jones, Osgood, Simon, and Yarborough

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 1470 Burgess (Compare H 969, H 1403, S 1310, Linked S 1472)	School Safety; Requiring a sheriff to establish a school guardian program if a school board contracts for the use of security guards; requiring the Office of Safe Schools to create and maintain a list of exceptions to school safety requirements under certain circumstances; revising school safety requirements that must be followed by a school district or charter school governing board; requiring that a person who serves as a school security guard be approved by the sheriff, etc. ED 03/11/2025 Favorable AED 03/24/2025 FP	
2	SB 1472 Burgess (Linked S 1470)	Public Records/School Security Guards; Providing that certain information relating to school security guards held by the Department of Law Enforcement, a law enforcement agency, a school district, or a charter school is exempt from public records requirements; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity, etc. ED 03/11/2025 Favorable AED 03/24/2025 FP	

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education
Monday, March 24, 2025, 1:30—3:30 p.m.

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
3	SB 1618 Calatayud (Compare H 355, H 1255, H 1309, S 442, S 1624)	Prekindergarten Through Grade 12 Education; Removing the Florida School for Competitive Academics from audit requirements; removing the Florida School for Competitive Academics from specified classification and pay plans; removing the Florida School for Competitive Academics from the definition of a public employer; prohibiting the expenditure of funds by public schools, charter schools, school districts, charter school administrators, or direct-support organizations to purchase membership in, or goods or services from, any organization that discriminates on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or religion, etc. ED 03/11/2025 Favorable AED 03/24/2025 FP	
4	CS/SB 1058 Governmental Oversight and Accountability / Gruters (Similar CS/H 549)	Gulf of America; Requiring state agencies to update geographic materials to reflect the new federal designation of the “Gulf of Mexico” as the “Gulf of America”; requiring that specified materials and collections adopted or acquired by district school boards and charter school governing boards on or after a specified date reflect the new federal designation of the “Gulf of Mexico” as the “Gulf of America”, etc. GO 03/11/2025 Fav/CS AED 03/24/2025 RC	
Other Related Meeting Documents			

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

BILL: SB 1470

INTRODUCER: Senator Burgess

SUBJECT: School Safety

DATE: March 21, 2025

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Brick	Bouck	ED	Favorable
2.	Gray	Elwell	AED	Pre-meeting
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 1470 strengthens school safety measures, enhances behavioral threat management protocols, expands oversight of school security personnel, and clarifies campus security requirements. Specifically, the bill:

- Aligns the training and certification requirements for school security guards with those for school guardians and requires that all security guards be trained and approved by a sheriff.
- Expands participation in the school security guard program to private schools, ensuring they meet the same training and screening requirements as public schools.
- Enhances reporting requirements for school security guards and safe-school officers, requiring employment and disciplinary actions to be reported to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).
- Mandates that security guards submit the results of the required psychological evaluation to the sheriff for review.
- Requires the Office of Safe Schools (OSS) to create and maintain a list of security exceptions for situations where schools cannot safely or reasonably comply with locked campus requirements.
- Clarifies that locked campus requirements apply only during school supervision hours, rather than whenever students are present.
- Expands the use of firearm detection canines by authorizing school districts, in addition to law enforcement agencies, to employ them for school security.
- Establishes a formal partnership between OSS and the Florida Association of School Safety Specialists (FS3) to develop training and certification programs for school safety personnel.

This bill does not have a fiscal impact to state revenues or expenditures. **See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.**

The bill takes effect July 1, 2025

II. Present Situation:

Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program

School Guardian Training

Florida law requires sheriffs to assist district school boards, charter school governing boards, and private schools in exercising options for safe-school officers. Each sheriff must provide access to the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises.

A sheriff who establishes a guardian program must consult with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) on programmatic guiding principles, practices, and resources, and is responsible for certifying school employees as school guardians if they meet statutory qualifications, including:

- Holding a license to carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm.
- Completing a 144-hour training program, consisting of 12 hours of training to improve the school guardian's knowledge and skills necessary to respond to and de-escalate incidents on school premises and 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission-certified instructors.
- Passing a psychological evaluation.
- Submitting to and passing an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests.
- Successfully completing ongoing annual training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification.¹

A sheriff who conducts the training or waives training requirements must issue a school guardian certificate and maintain detailed records of training, inspections, and certifications.²

Permitless Carry and Guardian Training Eligibility

A sheriff may only certify school employees as school guardians if they hold a concealed weapon or concealed firearm license under s. 790.06, F.S.³ However, in 2023, Florida enacted permitless concealed carry under s. 790.01(1), F.S., allowing individuals to carry a concealed firearm without obtaining a license under s. 790.06, F.S.⁴ Current law does not explicitly authorize sheriffs to provide guardian training to individuals who are legally permitted to carry under Chapter 790, F.S., without a license.

¹ Section 30.15(1), F.S.

² *Id.* authorizes a sheriff to waive the guardian training requirements for a person who meets specified statutory criminal justice training standards and law enforcement qualifications.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Section 790.01(1), F.S.

Sheriff and School Guardian Reporting Requirements

Sheriff Reporting Responsibilities

A sheriff who issues a school guardian certificate must report to FDLE the name, date of birth, and certification date of the school guardian within 30 days. Additionally, each sheriff must submit quarterly reports to FDLE detailing:

- Upcoming school guardian training schedules.
- Training dates, locations, and registration contacts.
- Class capacity for training programs.

The FDLE must publish and update these reports at least quarterly on its website.

Sheriffs who fail to comply with these reporting requirements are ineligible to receive reimbursement from the Department of Education (DOE) for school guardian training expenses. However, upon submission of the required reports, sheriffs regain eligibility.⁵

School District, Charter School, and Private School Reporting Requirements

By February 1 and September 1 of each school year, each school district, charter school, and private school must report to the FDLE:

- The name, date of birth, and appointment date of each school guardian.
- The date of separation for any school guardian no longer serving in that capacity.

Failure to comply prohibits the school from operating a school guardian program in the following school year unless missing information is submitted.⁶

The FDLE Responsibilities and Enforcement

The FDLE must maintain a statewide list of all school guardians. This list must include:

- The guardian's name, certification date, and appointment date.
- The name of the appointing school district, charter school, or private school.
- Any additional information regarding misconduct or firearm discharges, except those occurring during training.
- The date a guardian separated from their appointment, if applicable.⁷

The FDLE must remove from the list any school guardian whose training has expired.

By March 1 and October 1 of each school year, the FDLE must notify the Department of Education of any sheriff, school district, charter school, or private school that has failed to comply with these reporting requirements.

⁵ Section 30.15, F.S.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

The FDLE is authorized to adopt rules to implement these reporting requirements and may require additional identifying information as necessary to ensure accurate record-keeping of school guardians.⁸

Currently, 53 counties participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program.⁹

Behavioral Threat Management and School Safety Oversight

Florida law establishes the Office of Safe Schools (OSS) within the DOE to serve as the central authority for school safety, overseeing training standards, best practices, and compliance measures.¹⁰

The OSS develops, administers, and ensures compliance with Florida's statewide behavioral threat management framework, which includes a standardized threat assessment process, a digital reporting portal, and oversight of school-based and district-level threat management teams.¹¹

The OSS is also required to develop and implement a School Safety Specialist Training Program for school safety specialists, based on national and state best practices on school safety and security and must include active shooter training.¹²

Behavioral Threat Management Operational Process

The OSS is responsible for developing a statewide behavioral threat management operational process to assist school districts, charter school governing boards, and individual schools in identifying, assessing, managing, and monitoring potential threats. This process includes:

- Establishing and defining the duties of threat management teams.
- Developing criteria for behavioral risk and threat assessment.
- Implementing intervention, school support, and community services procedures.
- Providing guidelines for law enforcement intervention and risk management procedures.
- Establishing monitoring mechanisms for ongoing threats and interventions.
- Requiring schools to use the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument to coordinate interventions for students who may pose a threat.

Each school district, charter school governing board, and individual school must use the statewide behavioral threat management operational process upon its availability.¹³

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Florida Department of Education, *Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, & Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program*, <https://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/guardian-program.html> (last visited Mar. 14, 2025).

¹⁰ Section 1001.212, F.S.

¹¹ Florida Department of Education, *Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Manual, Rule 6A-1.0019, F.A.C.*, available at <https://flrules.org/gateway/ruleno.asp?id=6A-1.0019>.

¹² Section 1001.212(4), F.S.

¹³ Section 1001.212(11)(a), F.S.

Florida-Specific Behavioral Threat Assessment Instrument

The OSS is required to develop the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument, which school districts, charter schools, and governing boards must use to evaluate student threats and coordinate intervention services. The assessment instrument:

- Includes a standardized threat assessment report containing documentation of evaluations, interventions, and ongoing monitoring.
- Establishes procedures for assessing student, family, school, and social dynamics when determining threat levels.
- Outlines requirements for school responses, law enforcement engagement, and mental health provider coordination in response to threats.
- Is integrated into the statewide digital threat management portal, where records are retained in accordance with State Board of Education (SBE) rules.¹⁴

Threat Management Portal and Data Access Restrictions

The OSS is responsible for developing, maintaining, and administering a statewide digital threat management portal to support behavioral threat assessment and intervention efforts. The portal digitizes the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument and is used by school districts, charter schools, and school governing boards for reporting, documentation, and coordination of student threat assessments.¹⁵

Florida law strictly regulates access to records maintained in the portal:

- The OSS and its system administrators may not access a threat assessment report, its corresponding documentation, or any other information stored in the portal.
- School districts and charter school governing boards may not access education records within the portal unless authorized by SBE rule.
- Parents may access their own child's education records in the portal but are not permitted direct access to the portal itself.
- The portal must have security controls that alert system administrators to any unauthorized access attempts.

Florida law further requires:

- Education records stored in the portal to be retained, maintained, and transferred only in compliance with SBE rule.
- A quarterly portal access review audit process to be developed and implemented by the OSS.
- Annual role-based training for authorized users of the portal to be provided by the OSS beginning August 1, 2025.
- Any unauthorized access, use, or release of an education record in the portal to be punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000.¹⁶

¹⁴ Section 1001.212(11)(b), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 1001.212(11)(c), F.S.

¹⁶ *Id.*

Federal and State Privacy Protections for Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, is the primary federal law governing access to student education records. FERPA prohibits the disclosure of personally identifiable information (PII) from student education records without prior written parental consent, unless an exception applies.¹⁷

FERPA applies to any educational institution receiving federal funds, including Florida's public schools, charter schools, and state education agencies.¹⁸ Education records include records that are directly related to a student and maintained by an educational agency or institution.¹⁹

Florida law further aligns with FERPA by stating that education records may not be disclosed without consent except as authorized by FERPA or other federal regulations.²⁰

Exceptions to FERPA's General Prohibition on Disclosure

State Program Audits and Compliance Monitoring

FERPA authorizes the disclosure of student records without parental consent to state and local educational authorities for the purpose of audits, program evaluations, and compliance monitoring related to state-supported education programs.²¹ This exception could permit the OSS to access threat assessment records if the access is necessary to monitor compliance with state safety policies.

Student Safety and Health Exceptions

FERPA's health or safety emergency exception allows schools to disclose student education records without parental consent when necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.²² Disclosure under this provision must be limited to appropriate parties, such as law enforcement, school officials, or state safety agencies, who require the information to address an imminent threat.²³

This exception may justify the OSS's access to student threat assessment records if the access is necessary to protect student safety and prevent school violence. However, disclosures under the health or safety emergency exception must be limited to the duration of the emergency, and routine access to records would not be justified under this exception alone.²⁴

Florida Association of School Safety Specialists

The Florida Association of School Safety Specialists (FS3) is a statewide organization formed in 2023 to support continuous improvement in school safety and security. FS3 brings together

¹⁷ 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. § 99.30.

¹⁸ 34 C.F.R. § 99.1.

¹⁹ 34 C.F.R. § 99.3.

²⁰ Section 1002.221, F.S.

²¹ 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. § 99.31.

²² 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. § 99.36.

²³ 34 C.F.R. § 99.36(b).

²⁴ 34 C.F.R. § 99.36(c).

school safety specialists, mental health coordinators, and district threat management coordinators who are responsible for implementing and overseeing school security policies, emergency preparedness, and threat assessment procedures.²⁵

FS3 provides resources, training, and professional development to professionals tasked with protecting students and staff from threats, emergencies, and other critical incidents. FS3 collaborates with school districts, law enforcement agencies, and state policymakers to promote best practices in school safety and threat management.²⁶

District School Board Responsibilities for School Safety

Each district school board is required to provide for the control, safety, and welfare of students on school campuses, including implementing security measures to prevent violence and unauthorized access. Each district school superintendent must establish policies and procedures for preventing violence on school grounds, including assessing and intervening with individuals who may pose a threat.²⁷

Florida law also establishes specific locked campus requirements to regulate access to school buildings, classrooms, and campus gates. Each school district and charter school governing board must comply with statewide school safety requirements, which mandate:

- Locking all gates and access points that restrict ingress to or egress from a school campus when students are on campus, unless actively staffed, permitted under a shared-use agreement, or exempted by the school safety specialist based on other security measures.
- Keeping all school classroom doors and instructional spaces locked when occupied by students, except between class periods or when actively staffed at the door.
- Securing all campus access doors, gates, and entry points to school buildings at all times to prevent unauthorized ingress, unless a person is actively entering or exiting, or an exemption has been documented by the school safety specialist.
- Clearly marking the safest areas for sheltering in place within each classroom and instructional space, with students being notified of these locations within the first 10 days of the school year.²⁸

Enforcement and Compliance

Each school district and charter school must document compliance with these requirements through the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT),²⁹ maintained by the OSS. The OSS is authorized to conduct compliance visits to verify whether school safety specialists have appropriately documented exemptions or security adjustments.³⁰

²⁵ Florida Association of School Safety Specialists (FS3), *About Us* (2023), <https://www.fl3.org/about> (last visited Mar. 4, 2025).

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ Section 1006.07, F.S.

²⁸ Section 1006.07(6), F.S.

²⁹ Section 1006.1493, F.S. The Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) is a statewide risk assessment and compliance monitoring system used by school districts and charter schools to evaluate school safety, identify security vulnerabilities, and document compliance with statutory safety requirements.

³⁰ Section 1001.212(14), F.S.

Safe-School Officer Requirements

Florida law requires each public school, including charter schools, to have at least one safe-school officer assigned to its facility. School districts may partner with law enforcement agencies or private security agencies to meet this requirement through any combination of the following safe-school officer options:

- School resource officers (sworn law enforcement officers).
- School safety officers (sworn law enforcement officers who are employed by the school district).
- School guardians (trained school personnel or volunteers who complete guardian program training).
- School security guards (contracted private security personnel meeting state training and screening requirements).³¹

School Security Guards and Required Screening

A school district or charter school governing board may contract with a licensed security agency to employ a school security guard to fulfill the safe-school officer requirement. To serve in this role, an individual must:³²

- Hold a valid Class “D” (unarmed security) and Class “G” (armed security) license under Chapter 493, F.S.³³
- Complete 144 hours of required guardian program training.³⁴
- Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a licensed psychologist, with the results submitted to the sheriff’s office, school district, or charter school governing board.
- Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests, following state drug-free workplace regulations and applicable school district policies.
- Complete ongoing annual training, weapon inspections, and firearm qualifications, providing documentation to the appropriate contracting entity.³⁵

Additionally, contracts between a school district, charter school, or private security agency must specify who is responsible for training, inspection, and record maintenance related to school security guard qualifications.³⁶

Florida Safe Schools Canine Program

Florida law establishes the Florida Safe Schools Canine Program under the OSS within the DOE to support the use of firearm detection canines in K-12 schools. The program was created to:

- Encourage partnerships between schools, businesses, and law enforcement agencies to fund the acquisition, training, and care of firearm detection canines.

³¹ Section 1006.12, F.S.

³² Section 1006.12(4), F.S.

³³ Section 493.6101(18), F.S.

³⁴ Section 30.15(1), F.S.

³⁵ Section 1006.12, F.S.

³⁶ *Id.*

- Enhance school safety by increasing the presence of firearm detection canines in schools, reinforcing public confidence in law enforcement's role in school security.³⁷

A firearm detection canine is defined as any canine that is owned or the service of which is employed by a law enforcement agency for use in K-12 schools for the primary purpose of detecting firearms and ammunition.³⁸ These canines must be trained to interact with children and may also be trained as animal-assisted therapy canines.³⁹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill strengthens school safety measures, enhances behavioral threat management protocols, expands oversight of school security personnel, and clarifies campus security requirements.

Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program

The bill amends s. 30.15, F.S., to modify training, certification, and oversight requirements for school guardians and school security guards. Specifically, the bill:

- Aligns the training and certification requirements for school security guards with those for school guardians, establishing consistent standards across both roles.
- Requires a sheriff to establish a school guardian program if a school board, charter school, or private school contracts for the use of school security guards.
- Authorizes private schools to contract for school security guards and allows a sheriff to establish a guardian program to provide training for private school security guards.
- Clarifies that security agencies are responsible for all training and screening-related costs for school security guards, which may not be waived by sheriffs, preventing the use of state funds for private security agency expenses.
- Requires sheriffs to maintain documentation of training, certification, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification records for each certified school security guard.
- Specifies that a school security guard who has completed the guardian training program is not required to complete another guardian training program unless there has been at least a one-year break in appointment as a school guardian or employment as a school security guard.
- Authorizes a sheriff to provide guardian training to individuals who are legally permitted to possess or carry a concealed firearm under Florida law, aligning with the state's permitless carry provisions.
- Requires a sheriff to provide guardian training only to individuals who have already satisfied all background screening, psychological evaluation, and drug test requirements.
- Requires a sheriff to issue a school security guard certificate to individuals who meet all statutory screening, training, and experience requirements and to maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, training, certification, and qualification records for each certified school security guard.

³⁷ Section 1006.121(1), F.S.

³⁸ Section 1006.121(2), F.S.

³⁹ Section 1006.121(3), F.S.

Sheriff and School Guardian Reporting Requirements

To streamline reporting processes and enhance oversight, the bill aligns school security guard reporting requirements with those for school guardians. Specifically, the bill:

- Aligns school security guard reporting and recordkeeping requirements with those for school guardians and mandates that security agencies report to the FDLE the date a school security guard was last employed in a school.
- Specifies that if no guardian or security guard training sessions are scheduled, the sheriff is not required to submit a quarterly training report to the FDLE.
- Removes outdated reporting requirements for sheriffs, school districts, charter schools, and private schools regarding school guardian certifications and appointments.

Behavioral Threat Management and School Safety Oversight

The bill amends s. 1001.212, F.S., to modify the duties of the OSS related to threat assessment processes and security exceptions. Specifically, the bill:

- Clarifies that the OSS is responsible for maintaining the statewide behavioral threat management operational process and the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.
- Authorizes the State Board of Education to establish in rule when the OSS or its system administrators may access a threat assessment report, related documentation, or any other information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument maintained in the portal. Access must comply with state and federal privacy laws.
- Requires the OSS to create and maintain a list of exceptions, with examples, for situations where a school cannot safely or reasonably comply with locked door, gate, or access point requirements.

Florida Association of School Safety Specialists

Additionally, the bill requires the OSS, in partnership with FS3, to develop a framework for school safety training and certification. The bill requires the OSS to:

- Recommend a structure for initial and advanced training and certification for school safety specialists.
- Develop additional professional learning opportunities for school safety personnel.
- Identify and analyze research and best practices in school safety.
- Administer school safety grants to improve school security efforts.
- Provide policy recommendations to improve school safety requirements.

The OSS must submit its recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by September 1, 2025.

District School Board Responsibilities for School Safety

The bill amends s. 1006.07, F.S., to modify locked campus and building requirements to apply only during school supervision hours rather than whenever students are present. It also clarifies when certain access points may remain unlocked. Specifically, the bill:

- Authorizes an exception to the requirement that campus areas and school buildings remain locked, permitting an access point to be unlocked if another closed and locked gate or access point separates it from areas occupied by students for campus areas, or if another closed and locked door, gate, or access point prevents access to a school building.
- Defines "school supervision hours" as the hours of the school day plus a reasonable time immediately before and after school when student supervision is available, as determined by school district policy.
- Clarifies that the exception allowing an access point to remain unlocked when it is actively staffed applies not only to campus entry points but also to school buildings when staffed by school personnel.
- Allows school campus gates, classroom doors, and other access points to remain unlocked if the school safety specialist, or their designee, documents in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal that the access point qualifies for an exception recognized by the OSS. The bill authorizes the OSS to conduct compliance visits to review documented exceptions.

Safe-School Officer Requirements

The bill amends s. 1006.12, F.S., to expand participation in the school security guard program and increase oversight of security guard training, certification, and reporting requirements. Specifically, the bill:

- Authorizes private schools to contract with security agencies for school security guards.
- Requires private schools contracting for security guards to adhere to all training and screening requirements applicable to public schools.
- Requires that all school security guards be trained by a sheriff pursuant to the training requirements of the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program.
- Mandates that security guards be approved by the sheriff of each county in which the school security guard will be assigned to a school before being assigned to a school in that county.
- Requires that school security guards submit the results of the required psychological evaluation to the sheriff for review.
- Mandates that all ongoing training, weapon inspections, and firearm qualifications for school security guards be conducted by a sheriff or through a sheriff-approved program.

The bill adds private school administrators to the notification requirements concerning safe-school officer misconduct and firearm discharges, supporting uniform reporting across all schools utilizing safe-school officers. The bill requires the OSS to provide the FDLE with any information it receives from a district school superintendent or charter school administrator, private school administrator, or respective designee concerning a school security guard who:

- Is dismissed for misconduct or is otherwise disciplined.
- Discharges his or her firearm in the exercise of the school security guard's duties, other than for training purposes.

Florida Safe Schools Canine Program

The bill expands the definition of the term "firearm detection canine" in s. 1006.121(2), F.S., to authorize school districts, rather than just law enforcement agencies, to employ firearm detection canines and specify that only sworn law enforcement officers may use the canines in K-12 schools.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

This bill does not have a fiscal impact on state expenditures.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 30.15, 1001.212, 1006.07, 1006.12, and 1006.121.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.



220728

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

The Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education (Burgess)
recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 85 - 577

and insert:

guard, but such charges may not exceed the actual cost incurred
by the sheriff to provide the training.

c. A private school in a school district that has not
voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may
request that the sheriff in the county of the private school
establish a guardian program for the purpose of training private



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school employees or school security guards. If the county sheriff denies the request, the private school may contract with a sheriff from another county who has established a guardian program under subparagraph 2. to provide such training. The private school must notify the sheriff in the private school's county of the contract with a sheriff from another county before its execution. The private school or security agency is responsible for all training and screening-related costs for a school guardian program. The sheriff providing such training must ensure that any moneys paid by a private school or security agency are not commingled with any funds provided by the state to the sheriff as reimbursement for screening-related and training-related costs of any school district or charter school employee.

d. The training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b. is a standardized statewide curriculum, and each sheriff providing such training shall adhere to the course of instruction specified in that sub-subparagraph. This subparagraph does not prohibit a sheriff from providing additional training. A school guardian or school security guard who has completed the training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b. may not be required to attend another sheriff's training program pursuant to that sub-subparagraph unless there has been at least a 1-year break in his or her appointment as a guardian or employment by a security agency as a school security guard in a school.

e. The sheriff conducting the training pursuant to subparagraph 2. for school district and charter school employees will be reimbursed for screening-related and training-related



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costs and for providing a one-time stipend of \$500 to each school guardian who participates in the school guardian program.

f. The sheriff may waive the training and screening-related costs for a private school for a school guardian program. Funds provided pursuant to sub-subparagraph e. may not be used to subsidize any costs that have been waived by the sheriff. The sheriff may not waive the training and screening-related costs required to be paid by a security agency for initial training or ongoing training of a school security guard.

g. A person who is certified and in good standing under the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, who meets the qualifications established in s. 943.13, and who is otherwise qualified for the position of a school guardian or school security guard may be certified as a school guardian or school security guard by the sheriff without completing the training requirements of sub-subparagraph 2.b. However, a person certified as a school guardian or school security guard under this sub-subparagraph must meet the requirements of sub-subparagraphs 2.c.-e.

2. A sheriff who establishes a program shall consult with the Department of Law Enforcement on programmatic guiding principles, practices, and resources, and shall certify as school guardians, without the power of arrest, school employees, as specified in s. 1006.12(3), or shall certify as school security guards those persons employed by a security agency who meet the criteria specified in s. 1006.12(4), and who:

a. Hold a valid license issued under s. 790.06 or are otherwise eligible to possess or carry a concealed firearm under chapter 790.



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b. After satisfying the requirements of s. 1006.12(7),
complete a 144-hour training program, consisting of 12 hours of
training to improve the school guardian's knowledge and skills
necessary to respond to and de-escalate incidents on school
premises and 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and
proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and
Training Commission-certified instructors, which must include:

(I) Eighty hours of firearms instruction based on the
Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law
Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least
10 percent but no more than 20 percent more rounds fired than
associated with academy training. Program participants must
achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.

(II) Sixteen hours of instruction in precision pistol.

(III) Eight hours of discretionary shooting instruction
using state-of-the-art simulator exercises.

(IV) Sixteen hours of instruction in active shooter or
assailant scenarios.

(V) Eight hours of instruction in defensive tactics.

(VI) Four hours of instruction in legal issues.

c. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a
psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the
Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the
evaluation to the sheriff's office. The Department of Law
Enforcement is authorized to provide the sheriff's office with
mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this
paragraph.

d. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent
random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s.



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112.0455 and the sheriff's office.

e. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual basis.

The sheriff who conducts the guardian training or waives the training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g. shall issue a school guardian certificate to persons who meet the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of the sheriff, and shall maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification, inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian certified by the sheriff. A person who is certified under this paragraph may serve as a school guardian under s. 1006.12(3) only if he or she is appointed by the applicable school district superintendent, charter school principal, or private school head of school. A sheriff who conducts the training for a school security guard or waives the training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g. and determines that the school security guard has met all the requirements of s. 1006.12(4) shall issue a school security guard certificate to persons who meet the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of the sheriff and shall maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, training, certification, and qualification records for each school security guard certified by the sheriff.

3.a.~~(1)~~ Within 30 days after issuing a school guardian or school security guard certificate, the sheriff who issued the certificate must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and certification date of the school



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guardian or school security guard.

~~(II) By September 1, 2024, each sheriff who issued a school guardian certificate must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and certification date of each school guardian who received a certificate from the sheriff.~~

b.~~(I)~~ By February 1 and September 1 of each school year, each school district, charter school, employing security agency, and private school must report in the manner prescribed to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and appointment date of each person appointed as a school guardian or employed as a school security guard. The school district, charter school, employing security agency, and private school must also report in the manner prescribed to the Department of Law Enforcement the date each school guardian or school security guard separates from his or her appointment as a school guardian or employment as a school security guard in a school.

~~(II) By September 1, 2024, each school district, charter school, and private school must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and initial and end-of-appointment dates, as applicable, of each person appointed as a school guardian.~~

c. The Department of Law Enforcement shall maintain a list of each person appointed as a school guardian or certified as a school security guard in the state. The list must include the name and certification date of each school guardian and school security guard and the date the person was appointed as a school guardian or certified as a school security guard, including the name of the school district, charter school, or private school



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in which the school guardian is appointed, or the employing security agency of a school security guard, any information provided pursuant to s. 1006.12(5), and, if applicable, the date such person separated from his or her appointment as a school guardian or the last date a school security guard served in a school as of the last reporting date. The Department of Law Enforcement shall remove from the list any person whose training has expired pursuant to sub-subparagraph 1.d.

d. Each sheriff shall ~~must~~ report on a quarterly basis to the Department of Law Enforcement the schedule for upcoming school guardian trainings, to include guardian trainings for school security guards, including the dates of the training, the training locations, a contact person to register for the training, and the class capacity. If no trainings are scheduled, the sheriff is not required to report to the Department of Law Enforcement. The Department of Law Enforcement shall publish on its website a list of the upcoming school guardian trainings. The Department of Law Enforcement shall ~~must~~ update such list quarterly.

e. A sheriff who fails to report the information required by this subparagraph may not receive reimbursement from the Department of Education for school guardian trainings. Upon the submission of the required information, a sheriff is deemed eligible for such funding and is authorized to continue to receive reimbursement for school guardian training.

f. A school district, charter school, ~~or~~ private school, or employing security agency that fails to report the information required by this subparagraph is prohibited from operating ~~may not operate~~ a school guardian program or employing school



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185 security guards in for the following school year, unless the
186 missing school district, charter school, or private school has
187 submitted the required information is provided.

188 g. By March 1 and October 1 of each school year, the
189 Department of Law Enforcement shall notify the Department of
190 Education of any sheriff, school district, charter school, or
191 private school that has not complied with the reporting
192 requirements of this subparagraph.

193 h. The Department of Law Enforcement may adopt rules to
194 implement the requirements of this subparagraph, including
195 requiring additional reporting information only as necessary to
196 uniquely identify each school guardian and school security guard
197 reported.

198 Section 2. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (11)
199 and subsection (17) of section 1001.212, Florida Statutes, are
200 amended to read:

201 1001.212 Office of Safe Schools.—There is created in the
202 Department of Education the Office of Safe Schools. The office
203 is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education. The
204 office shall serve as a central repository for best practices,
205 training standards, and compliance oversight in all matters
206 regarding school safety and security, including prevention
207 efforts, intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness
208 planning. The office shall:

209 (11) Develop a statewide behavioral threat management
210 operational process, a Florida-specific behavioral threat
211 assessment instrument, and a threat management portal.

212 (a)1. ~~By December 1, 2023,~~ The office shall maintain the
213 ~~develop a~~ statewide behavioral threat management operational



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process to guide school districts, schools, charter school governing boards, and charter schools through the threat management process. The process must be designed to identify, assess, manage, and monitor potential and real threats to schools. This process must include, but is not limited to:

- a. The establishment and duties of threat management teams.
- b. Defining behavioral risks and threats.
- c. The use of the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument developed pursuant to paragraph (b) to evaluate the behavior of students who may pose a threat to the school, school staff, or other students and to coordinate intervention and services for such students.
- d. Upon the availability of the threat management portal developed pursuant to paragraph (c), the use, authorized user criteria, and access specifications of the portal.
- e. Procedures for the implementation of interventions, school support, and community services.
- f. Guidelines for appropriate law enforcement intervention.
- g. Procedures for risk management.
- h. Procedures for disciplinary actions.
- i. Mechanisms for continued monitoring of potential and real threats.
- j. Procedures for referrals to mental health services identified by the school district or charter school governing board pursuant to s. 1012.584(4).
- k. Procedures and requirements necessary for the creation of a threat assessment report, all corresponding documentation, and any other information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument under paragraph (b).



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2. ~~Upon availability,~~ Each school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school shall ~~must~~ use the statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

3. The office shall provide training to all school districts, schools, charter school governing boards, and charter schools on the statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

4. The office shall coordinate the ongoing development, implementation, and operation of the statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

(b)1. ~~By August 1, 2023,~~ The office shall maintain the ~~develop a~~ Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument for school districts, schools, charter school governing boards, and charter schools to use to evaluate the behavior of students who may pose a threat to the school, school staff, or students and to coordinate intervention and services for such students. The Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument must include, but is not limited to:

a. An assessment of the threat, which includes an assessment of the student, family, and school and social dynamics.

b. An evaluation to determine whether a threat exists and if so, the type of threat.

c. The response to a threat, which includes the school response, the role of law enforcement agencies in the response, and the response by mental health providers.

d. Ongoing monitoring to assess implementation of threat management and safety strategies.

e. Ongoing monitoring to evaluate interventions and support



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provided to the students.

f. A standardized threat assessment report, which must include, but need not be limited to, all documentation associated with the evaluation, intervention, management, and any ongoing monitoring of the threat.

2. A report, all corresponding documentation, and any other information required by the instrument in the threat management portal under paragraph (c) is an education record and may not be retained, maintained, or transferred, except in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

3. ~~Upon availability,~~ Each school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school shall ~~must~~ use the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

4. The office shall provide training for members of threat management teams established under s. 1006.07(7) and for all school districts and charter school governing boards regarding the use of the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

(c)1. By August 1, 2025, the office shall develop, host, maintain, and administer a threat management portal that will digitize the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument for use by each school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school. The portal will also facilitate the electronic threat assessment reporting and documentation as required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument to evaluate the behavior of students who may pose a threat to the school, school staff, or students and to coordinate intervention and services for such students. The portal may not provide the office with access to



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the portal unless authorized in accordance with State Board of Education rule. The portal must include, but need not be limited to, the following functionalities:

a. Workflow processes that align with the statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

b. Direct data entry and file uploading as required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

c. The ability to create a threat assessment report as required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

d. The ability of authorized personnel to add to or update a threat assessment report, all corresponding documentation, or any other information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

e. The ability to create and remove connections between education records in the portal and authorized personnel.

f. The ability to grant access to and securely transfer any education records in the portal to other schools or charter schools in the district.

g. The ability to grant access to and securely transfer any education records in the portal to schools and charter schools not in the originating district.

h. The ability to retain, maintain, and transfer education records in the portal in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

i. The ability to restrict access to, entry of, modification of, and transfer of education records in the portal to a school district, school, charter school governing board, or charter school and authorized personnel as specified by the



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statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

j. The ability to designate school district or charter school governing board system administrators who may grant access to authorized school district and charter school governing board personnel and school and charter school system administrators.

k. The ability to designate school or charter school system administrators who may grant access to authorized school or charter school personnel.

1. The ability to notify the office's system administrators and school district or charter school governing board system administrators of attempts to access any education records by unauthorized personnel.

2. Upon availability, each school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school shall use the portal.

3. A threat assessment report, including, but not limited to, all corresponding documentation, and any other information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument which is maintained in the portal, is an education record and may not be retained, maintained, or transferred, except in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

4. The office and the office system administrators may not have access to a threat assessment report, all corresponding documentation, and any other information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument which is maintained in the portal, except in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

5. A school district or charter school governing board may not have access to the education records in the portal, except



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in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

6. The parent of a student may access his or her student's education records in the portal in accordance with State Board of Education rule, but may not have access to the portal.

7. The office shall develop and implement a quarterly portal access review audit process.

8. Upon availability, each school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school shall comply with the quarterly portal access review audit process developed by the office.

9. By August 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the office shall provide role-based training to all authorized school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school personnel.

10. Any individual who accesses, uses, or releases any education record contained in the portal for a purpose not specifically authorized by law commits a noncriminal infraction, punishable by a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

(17) Convene a workgroup of stakeholders, including, but not limited to, postsecondary institutions, law enforcement, fire and EMS, emergency management, school facilities staff, school safety specialists, school administrators, superintendents, school-based mental health professionals, and threat management practitioners. The workgroup shall make recommendations for the establishment of a Florida Institute of School Safety, including programs and functions to enhance school safety. The workgroup shall submit the findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than



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~~January 1, 2026 By December 1, 2024, evaluate the methodology for the safe schools allocation in s. 1011.62(12) and, if necessary, make recommendations for an alternate methodology to distribute the remaining balance of the safe schools allocation as indicated in s. 1011.62(12).~~

Section 3. Paragraph (f) of subsection (6) of section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (h) is added to that subsection, to read:

1006.07 District school board duties relating to student discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the attendance and control of students at school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the welfare of students, including:

(6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—Each district school superintendent shall establish policies and procedures for the prevention of violence on school grounds, including the assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the school community.

(f) *School safety requirements.*—~~By August 1, 2024,~~ Each school district and charter school governing board shall comply with the following school safety requirements:

1. All gates or other access points that restrict ingress to or egress from the exclusive zone of a school campus shall remain closed and locked during school supervision hours. For the purposes of this section, the term "exclusive zone" means the area within a gate or door allowing access to the interior perimeter of a school campus beyond a single point of entry. The term "school supervision hours" means the hours of the school



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day plus the reasonable time immediately before and after school during which student supervision is available per school district policy ~~when students are on campus~~. A gate or ~~other campus~~ access point to the exclusive zone may only ~~not~~ be open or unlocked during school supervision hours if one of the following conditions is met, ~~regardless of whether it is during normal school hours, unless:~~

a. It is attended or actively staffed ~~by a person~~ when students are on campus;

b. The use complies ~~is in accordance~~ with a shared use agreement pursuant to s. 1013.101;

c. Another closed and locked gate or access point separates the open or unlocked gate from areas occupied by students; or

~~d.e.~~ The school safety specialist, or his or her designee, has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the gate or other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon other safety measures at the school. The office may conduct a compliance visit pursuant to s. 1001.212(14) to review if such determination is appropriate.

This subparagraph does not apply to the nonexclusive zone of a school campus. The term "nonexclusive zone" means the area outside of the exclusive zone but contained on school property. Nonexclusive zones may include, but are not limited to, such spaces as parking lots, athletic fields and stadiums, mechanical buildings, playgrounds, bus ramps, agricultural spaces, and other areas that do not give direct, unimpeded access to the exclusive zone.



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2.a. During school supervision hours, all school classrooms and other instructional spaces must be locked to prevent ingress when occupied by students, except between class periods when students are moving between classrooms or other instructional spaces. If a classroom or other instructional space door must be left unlocked or open for any other reason ~~other than between class periods when students are moving between classrooms or other instructional spaces,~~ the door must be actively staffed by a person standing or seated at the door.

b. Instructional spaces for career and technical education which are designed as open areas for which compliance with the requirements of sub-subparagraph a. affects the health and safety of students may be exempted from compliance with that sub-subparagraph by the school safety specialist. For such a space to be exempt, the school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must document in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the instructional space is exempt from these requirements due to negative impacts to student health and safety and the presence of other safety measures at the school which prevent egress from the instructional space to hallways or other classrooms or instructional spaces.

c. Common areas on a school campus, including, but not limited to, cafeterias, auditoriums, and media centers, which are used for instructional time or student testing must meet the requirements of sub-subparagraph a. only when such areas are being used for instructional time or student testing.

3. For schools that do not have a secure exclusive zone, all campus access doors, gates, and other access points that



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allow ingress to or egress from a school building shall remain closed and locked during school supervision hours ~~at all times~~ to prevent unauthorized access, except when:

a. ingress, unless A person is actively entering or exiting the door, gate, or other access point;

b. The door, gate, or access point is actively staffed by school personnel to prevent unauthorized entry; or

c. The school safety specialist, or his or her designee, has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the open and unlocked door, gate, or other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon other safety measures at the school. The office may conduct a compliance visit pursuant to s. 1001.212(14) to review if such determination is appropriate. All campus access doors, gates, and other access points may be electronically or manually controlled by school personnel to allow access by authorized visitors, students, and school personnel.

4. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces must clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in each classroom or other instructional space where students must shelter in place during an emergency. Students must be notified of these safe areas within the first 10 days of the school year. If it is not feasible to clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in a classroom or other instructional space, the school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must document such determination in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools, identifying where affected students must shelter in place. The office shall



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assist the school safety specialist with compliance during the inspection required under s. 1001.212(14).

Persons who are aware of a violation of this paragraph must report the violation to the school principal. The school principal must report the violation to the school safety specialist no later than the next business day after receiving such report. If the person who violated this paragraph is the school principal or charter school administrator, the report must be made directly to the district school superintendent or charter school governing board, as applicable.

(h) Provision of school safety protocols and policies.—Each substitute teacher must be provided with all school safety protocols and policies before beginning his or her first day of substitute teaching at a school.

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

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 7 - 34

and insert:

costs; prohibiting such costs from exceeding a specified amount; requiring a sheriff who conducts training for security guards or who waives certain training requirements for a person and makes a certain determination to issue a school security guard certificate; requiring the sheriff to maintain specified documentation; deleting an obsolete requirement for a sheriff to report information relating to school guardians to the Department of Law



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Enforcement; deleting an obsolete requirement for a school district, charter school, or private school to report information relating to a school guardian to the Department of Law Enforcement; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1001.212, F.S.; requiring the Office of Safe Schools to convene a workgroup of specified entities; requiring the workgroup to make recommendations for the establishment of a Florida Institute of School Safety; requiring the workgroup to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by a certain date; deleting a requirement for the office to evaluate the methodology for the safe school allocation; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.; revising school safety requirements that must be followed by a school district or charter school governing board; defining the terms "exclusive zone," "school supervision hours," and "nonexclusive zone"; providing certain exceptions to the safety requirements; providing applicability; providing an exemption for certain instructional spaces; specifying requirements for common areas; requiring substitute teachers to be provided all school safety protocols and policies; amending s. 1006.12,



162312

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

The Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education (Burgess)
recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment to Amendment (220728) (with directory and
title amendments)**

Between lines 401 and 402
insert:

(4) EMERGENCY DRILLS; EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.—

(f) The Department of Education shall establish a
centralized system to integrate all panic alert systems and
digital school maps used by public schools, charter schools, and
other educational institutions. The system must:



162312

11 1. Receive and process alerts from department-approved
12 panic alert systems.

13 2. Integrate digital maps to provide real-time situational
14 awareness to law enforcement and emergency responders.

15 3. Store and provide access to historical alert data for
16 authorized state agencies.

17 (g) Each public and charter school shall connect its panic
18 alert system to the centralized system. Panic alert systems must
19 be interoperable with the centralized system to ensure seamless
20 communication with law enforcement and emergency responders.
21 Digital maps required under s. 1013.13 must also be integrated
22 into the system to support emergency response.

23
24 ===== D I R E C T O R Y C L A U S E A M E N D M E N T =====

25 And the directory clause is amended as follows:

26 Delete lines 394 - 395

27 and insert:

28 1006.07, Florida Statutes, is amended, paragraph (h) is added to
29 that subsection, and paragraphs (f) and (g) are added to
30 subsection (4) of that section, to read:

31
32 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

33 And the title is amended as follows:

34 Delete line 546

35 and insert:

36 allocation; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.; requiring the
37 Department of Education to establish a centralized
38 system to integrate all panic alert systems and
39 digital school maps used by specified entities;



162312

40

providing requirements for the system; revising school



485440

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: WD	.	
03/24/2025	.	
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The Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education (Burgess)
recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment to Amendment (220728) (with title
amendment)**

After line 518
insert:

Section 4. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the sum of
\$450,000 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is
appropriated to the Department of Education to implement the
requirements under s. 1006.07(6)(f) and (g), Florida Statutes,
as amended by this act.



485440

11
12 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====
13 And the title is amended as follows:
14 Between lines 555 and 556
15 insert:
16 providing an appropriation;



698062

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

The Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education (Burgess)
recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment to Amendment (220728) (with title
amendment)**

After line 518
insert:

Section 4. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the sum of
\$450,000 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is
appropriated to the Department of Education to implement the
requirements under s. 1006.07(4)(f) and (g), Florida Statutes,
as amended by this act.



698062

11

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

13 And the title is amended as follows:

14 Between lines 555 and 556

15 insert:

16 providing an appropriation;

By Senator Burgess

23-01031-25

20251470__

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to school safety; amending s. 30.15,
 3 F.S.; requiring a sheriff to establish a school
 4 guardian program if a school board contracts for the
 5 use of security guards; providing that the security
 6 agency is responsible for training and screening
 7 costs; requiring a sheriff who conducts training for
 8 security guards or who waives certain training
 9 requirements for a person and makes a certain
 10 determination to issue a school security guard
 11 certificate; requiring the sheriff to maintain
 12 specified documentation; deleting an obsolete
 13 requirement for a sheriff to report information
 14 relating to school guardians to the Department of Law
 15 Enforcement; deleting an obsolete requirement for a
 16 school district, charter school, or private school to
 17 report information relating to a school guardian to
 18 the Department of Law Enforcement; conforming
 19 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
 20 1001.212, F.S.; requiring the Office of Safe Schools to
 21 create and maintain a list of exceptions to school
 22 safety requirements under certain circumstances;
 23 deleting a requirement for the office to evaluate the
 24 methodology for the safe school allocation; requiring
 25 the office to partner with the Florida Association of
 26 School Safety Specialists to recommend a structure to
 27 provide training and certification for school safety
 28 specialists; requiring the office to make specified
 29 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

23-01031-25

20251470__

30 a specified date; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.; revising
 31 school safety requirements that must be followed by a
 32 school district or charter school governing board;
 33 defining the term "school supervision hours";
 34 providing certain exceptions; amending s. 1006.12,
 35 F.S.; requiring that a person who serves as a school
 36 security guard be approved by the sheriff; providing
 37 that the sheriff's approval authorizes the school
 38 security guard to work at any school in the county;
 39 requiring the Office of Safe Schools to provide to the
 40 Department of Law Enforcement certain information
 41 relating to a school security guard; amending s.
 42 1006.121, F.S.; revising the definition of the term
 43 "firearm detection canine"; providing an effective
 44 date.
 45
 46 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 47
 48 Section 1. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section
 49 30.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 50 30.15 Powers, duties, and obligations.—
 51 (1) Sheriffs, in their respective counties, in person or by
 52 deputy, shall:
 53 (k) Assist district school boards and charter school
 54 governing boards in complying with, or private schools in
 55 exercising options in, s. 1006.12. A sheriff shall ~~must~~, at a
 56 minimum, provide access to a Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and
 57 Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to aid in the prevention or
 58 abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises, as

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

23-01031-25

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required under this paragraph. Persons certified as school guardians pursuant to this paragraph have no authority to act in any law enforcement capacity except to the extent necessary to prevent or abate an active assailant incident.

1.a. If a local school board has voted by a majority to implement a guardian program or has contracted for the use of school security guards to satisfy the requirements of s. 1006.12, the sheriff in that county must ~~shall~~ establish a guardian program to provide training for school guardians or school security guards, pursuant to subparagraph 2., to school employees, either directly or through a contract with another sheriff's office that has established a guardian program.

b. A charter school governing board in a school district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may request the sheriff in the county to establish a guardian program for the purpose of training the charter school employees or school security guards consistent with the requirements of subparagraph 2. If the county sheriff denies the request, the charter school governing board may contract with a sheriff that has established a guardian program to provide such training. The charter school governing board must notify the superintendent and the sheriff in the charter school's county of the contract prior to its execution. The security agency employing a school security guard is responsible for all training and screening-related costs for a school security guard.

c. A private school in a school district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may

23-01031-25

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request that the sheriff in the county of the private school establish a guardian program for the purpose of training private school employees or school security guards. If the county sheriff denies the request, the private school may contract with a sheriff from another county who has established a guardian program under subparagraph 2. to provide such training. The private school must notify the sheriff in the private school's county of the contract with a sheriff from another county before its execution. The private school or security agency is responsible for all training and screening-related costs for a school guardian program. The sheriff providing such training must ensure that any moneys paid by a private school or security agency are not commingled with any funds provided by the state to the sheriff as reimbursement for screening-related and training-related costs of any school district or charter school employee.

d. The training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b. is a standardized statewide curriculum, and each sheriff providing such training shall adhere to the course of instruction specified in that sub-subparagraph. This subparagraph does not prohibit a sheriff from providing additional training. A school guardian or school security guard who has completed the training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b. may not be required to attend another sheriff's training program pursuant to that sub-subparagraph unless there has been at least a 1-year break in his or her appointment as a guardian or employment by a security agency as a school security guard in a school.

e. The sheriff conducting the training pursuant to

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117 subparagraph 2. for school district and charter school employees
 118 will be reimbursed for screening-related and training-related
 119 costs and for providing a one-time stipend of \$500 to each
 120 school guardian who participates in the school guardian program.

121 f. The sheriff may waive the training and screening-related
 122 costs for a private school for a school guardian program. Funds
 123 provided pursuant to sub-subparagraph e. may not be used to
 124 subsidize any costs that have been waived by the sheriff. The
 125 sheriff may not waive the training and screening-related costs
 126 required to be paid by a security agency for initial training or
 127 ongoing training of a school security guard.

128 g. A person who is certified and in good standing under the
 129 Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, who
 130 meets the qualifications established in s. 943.13, and who is
 131 otherwise qualified for the position of a school guardian or
 132 school security guard may be certified as a school guardian or
 133 school security guard by the sheriff without completing the
 134 training requirements of sub-subparagraph 2.b. However, a person
 135 certified as a school guardian or school security guard under
 136 this sub-subparagraph must meet the requirements of sub-
 137 subparagraphs 2.c.-e.

138 2. A sheriff who establishes a program shall consult with
 139 the Department of Law Enforcement on programmatic guiding
 140 principles, practices, and resources, and shall certify as
 141 school guardians, without the power of arrest, school employees,
 142 as specified in s. 1006.12(3), or shall certify as school
 143 security guards those persons employed by a security agency who
 144 meet the criteria specified in s. 1006.12(4), and who:

145 a. Hold a valid license issued under s. 790.06 or are

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146 otherwise eligible to possess or carry a concealed firearm under
 147 chapter 790.

148 b. After satisfying the requirements of s. 1006.12(7),
 149 complete a 144-hour training program, consisting of 12 hours of
 150 training to improve the school guardian's knowledge and skills
 151 necessary to respond to and de-escalate incidents on school
 152 premises and 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and
 153 proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and
 154 Training Commission-certified instructors, which must include:

155 (I) Eighty hours of firearms instruction based on the
 156 Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law
 157 Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least
 158 10 percent but no more than 20 percent more rounds fired than
 159 associated with academy training. Program participants must
 160 achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.

161 (II) Sixteen hours of instruction in precision pistol.

162 (III) Eight hours of discretionary shooting instruction
 163 using state-of-the-art simulator exercises.

164 (IV) Sixteen hours of instruction in active shooter or
 165 assailant scenarios.

166 (V) Eight hours of instruction in defensive tactics.

167 (VI) Four hours of instruction in legal issues.

168 c. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a
 169 psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the
 170 Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the
 171 evaluation to the sheriff's office. The Department of Law
 172 Enforcement is authorized to provide the sheriff's office with
 173 mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this
 174 paragraph.

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d. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s. 112.0455 and the sheriff's office.

e. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual basis.

The sheriff who conducts the guardian training or waives the training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g. shall issue a school guardian certificate to persons who meet the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of the sheriff, and shall maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification, inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian certified by the sheriff. A person who is certified under this paragraph may serve as a school guardian under s. 1006.12(3) only if he or she is appointed by the applicable school district superintendent, charter school principal, or private school head of school. A sheriff who conducts the training for a school security guard or waives the training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g. and determines that the school security guard has met all the requirements of s. 1006.12(4) shall issue a school security guard certificate to persons who meet the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of the sheriff and shall maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, training, certification, and qualification records for each school security guard certified by the sheriff.

3.a.(f) Within 30 days after issuing a school guardian or school security guard certificate, the sheriff who issued the

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certificate must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and certification date of the school guardian or school security guard.

~~(II) By September 1, 2024, each sheriff who issued a school guardian certificate must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and certification date of each school guardian who received a certificate from the sheriff.~~

b.(f) By February 1 and September 1 of each school year, each school district, charter school, employing security agency, and private school must report in the manner prescribed to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and appointment date of each person appointed as a school guardian or employed as a school security guard. The school district, charter school, employing security agency, and private school must also report in the manner prescribed to the Department of Law Enforcement the date each school guardian or school security guard separates from his or her appointment as a school guardian or employment as a school security guard in a school.

~~(II) By September 1, 2024, each school district, charter school, and private school must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and initial and end-of-appointment dates, as applicable, of each person appointed as a school guardian.~~

c. The Department of Law Enforcement shall maintain a list of each person appointed as a school guardian or certified as a school security guard in the state. The list must include the name and certification date of each school guardian and school security guard and the date the person was appointed as a school

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 guardian or certified as a school security guard, including the
 name of the school district, charter school, or private school
 in which the school guardian is appointed, or the employing
security agency of a school security guard, any information
 provided pursuant to s. 1006.12(5), and, if applicable, the date
 such person separated from his or her appointment as a school
 guardian or the last date a school security guard served in a
school as of the last reporting date. The Department of Law
 Enforcement shall remove from the list any person whose training
 has expired pursuant to sub-subparagraph 1.d.

d. Each sheriff shall ~~must~~ report on a quarterly basis to
 the Department of Law Enforcement the schedule for upcoming
 school guardian trainings, to include guardian trainings for
school security guards, including the dates of the training, the
 training locations, a contact person to register for the
 training, and the class capacity. If no trainings are scheduled,
the sheriff is not required to report to the Department of Law
Enforcement. The Department of Law Enforcement shall publish on
 its website a list of the upcoming school guardian trainings.
 The Department of Law Enforcement shall ~~must~~ update such list
 quarterly.

e. A sheriff who fails to report the information required
 by this subparagraph may not receive reimbursement from the
 Department of Education for school guardian trainings. Upon the
 submission of the required information, a sheriff is deemed
 eligible for such funding and is authorized to continue to
 receive reimbursement for school guardian training.

f. A school district, charter school, ~~or~~ private school, or
employing security agency that fails to report the information

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 required by this subparagraph is prohibited from operating ~~may~~
~~not operate~~ a school guardian program or employing school
security guards in ~~for~~ the following school year, unless the
~~missing school district, charter school, or private school has~~
~~submitted the required~~ information is provided.

g. By March 1 and October 1 of each school year, the
 Department of Law Enforcement shall notify the Department of
 Education of any sheriff, school district, charter school, or
 private school that has not complied with the reporting
 requirements of this subparagraph.

h. The Department of Law Enforcement may adopt rules to
 implement the requirements of this subparagraph, including
 requiring additional reporting information only as necessary to
 uniquely identify each school guardian and school security guard
 reported.

Section 2. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (11)
 and subsection (17) of section 1001.212, Florida Statutes, are
 amended, and subsection (18) is added to that section, to read:

1001.212 Office of Safe Schools.—There is created in the
 Department of Education the Office of Safe Schools. The office
 is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education. The
 office shall serve as a central repository for best practices,
 training standards, and compliance oversight in all matters
 regarding school safety and security, including prevention
 efforts, intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness
 planning. The office shall:

(11) Develop a statewide behavioral threat management
 operational process, a Florida-specific behavioral threat
 assessment instrument, and a threat management portal.

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291 (a)1. ~~By December 1, 2023,~~ The office shall maintain the
 292 ~~develop a~~ statewide behavioral threat management operational
 293 process to guide school districts, schools, charter school
 294 governing boards, and charter schools through the threat
 295 management process. The process must be designed to identify,
 296 assess, manage, and monitor potential and real threats to
 297 schools. This process must include, but is not limited to:
 298 a. The establishment and duties of threat management teams.
 299 b. Defining behavioral risks and threats.
 300 c. The use of the Florida-specific behavioral threat
 301 assessment instrument developed pursuant to paragraph (b) to
 302 evaluate the behavior of students who may pose a threat to the
 303 school, school staff, or other students and to coordinate
 304 intervention and services for such students.
 305 d. Upon the availability of the threat management portal
 306 developed pursuant to paragraph (c), the use, authorized user
 307 criteria, and access specifications of the portal.
 308 e. Procedures for the implementation of interventions,
 309 school support, and community services.
 310 f. Guidelines for appropriate law enforcement intervention.
 311 g. Procedures for risk management.
 312 h. Procedures for disciplinary actions.
 313 i. Mechanisms for continued monitoring of potential and
 314 real threats.
 315 j. Procedures for referrals to mental health services
 316 identified by the school district or charter school governing
 317 board pursuant to s. 1012.584(4).
 318 k. Procedures and requirements necessary for the creation
 319 of a threat assessment report, all corresponding documentation,

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320 and any other information required by the Florida-specific
 321 behavioral threat assessment instrument under paragraph (b).
 322 2. ~~Upon availability,~~ Each school district, school, charter
 323 school governing board, and charter school shall ~~must~~ use the
 324 statewide behavioral threat management operational process.
 325 3. The office shall provide training to all school
 326 districts, schools, charter school governing boards, and charter
 327 schools on the statewide behavioral threat management
 328 operational process.
 329 4. The office shall coordinate the ongoing development,
 330 implementation, and operation of the statewide behavioral threat
 331 management operational process.
 332 (b)1. ~~By August 1, 2023,~~ The office shall maintain the
 333 ~~develop a~~ Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment
 334 instrument for school districts, schools, charter school
 335 governing boards, and charter schools to use to evaluate the
 336 behavior of students who may pose a threat to the school, school
 337 staff, or students and to coordinate intervention and services
 338 for such students. The Florida-specific behavioral threat
 339 assessment instrument must include, but is not limited to:
 340 a. An assessment of the threat, which includes an
 341 assessment of the student, family, and school and social
 342 dynamics.
 343 b. An evaluation to determine whether a threat exists and
 344 if so, the type of threat.
 345 c. The response to a threat, which includes the school
 346 response, the role of law enforcement agencies in the response,
 347 and the response by mental health providers.
 348 d. Ongoing monitoring to assess implementation of threat

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management and safety strategies.

e. Ongoing monitoring to evaluate interventions and support provided to the students.

f. A standardized threat assessment report, which must include, but need not be limited to, all documentation associated with the evaluation, intervention, management, and any ongoing monitoring of the threat.

2. A report, all corresponding documentation, and any other information required by the instrument in the threat management portal under paragraph (c) is an education record and may not be retained, maintained, or transferred, except in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

3. ~~Upon availability,~~ Each school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school shall ~~must~~ use the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

4. The office shall provide training for members of threat management teams established under s. 1006.07(7) and for all school districts and charter school governing boards regarding the use of the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

(c)1. By August 1, 2025, the office shall develop, host, maintain, and administer a threat management portal that will digitize the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument for use by each school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school. The portal will also facilitate the electronic threat assessment reporting and documentation as required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument to evaluate the behavior of students who may pose a threat to the school, school staff, or

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students and to coordinate intervention and services for such students. The portal may not provide the office with access to the portal unless authorized in accordance with State Board of Education rule. The portal must include, but need not be limited to, the following functionalities:

a. Workflow processes that align with the statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

b. Direct data entry and file uploading as required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

c. The ability to create a threat assessment report as required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

d. The ability of authorized personnel to add to or update a threat assessment report, all corresponding documentation, or any other information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument.

e. The ability to create and remove connections between education records in the portal and authorized personnel.

f. The ability to grant access to and securely transfer any education records in the portal to other schools or charter schools in the district.

g. The ability to grant access to and securely transfer any education records in the portal to schools and charter schools not in the originating district.

h. The ability to retain, maintain, and transfer education records in the portal in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

i. The ability to restrict access to, entry of, modification of, and transfer of education records in the portal

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to a school district, school, charter school governing board, or charter school and authorized personnel as specified by the statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

j. The ability to designate school district or charter school governing board system administrators who may grant access to authorized school district and charter school governing board personnel and school and charter school system administrators.

k. The ability to designate school or charter school system administrators who may grant access to authorized school or charter school personnel.

1. The ability to notify the office's system administrators and school district or charter school governing board system administrators of attempts to access any education records by unauthorized personnel.

2. Upon availability, each school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school shall use the portal.

3. A threat assessment report, including, but not limited to, all corresponding documentation, and any other information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument which is maintained in the portal, is an education record and may not be retained, maintained, or transferred, except in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

4. The office and the office system administrators may not have access to a threat assessment report, all corresponding documentation, and any other information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument which is maintained in the portal, except in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

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5. A school district or charter school governing board may not have access to the education records in the portal, except in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

6. The parent of a student may access his or her student's education records in the portal in accordance with State Board of Education rule, but may not have access to the portal.

7. The office shall develop and implement a quarterly portal access review audit process.

8. Upon availability, each school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school shall comply with the quarterly portal access review audit process developed by the office.

9. By August 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the office shall provide role-based training to all authorized school district, school, charter school governing board, and charter school personnel.

10. Any individual who accesses, uses, or releases any education record contained in the portal for a purpose not specifically authorized by law commits a noncriminal infraction, punishable by a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

(17) By August 1, 2025, create and maintain a list of exceptions, with examples, to the requirements of s. 1006.07(6)(f)1., 2., and 3. for special circumstances and conditions in which a school is not able to safely or reasonably comply with the requirements for locked doors, gates, and access points included therein ~~By December 1, 2024, evaluate the methodology for the safe schools allocation in s. 1011.62(12) and, if necessary, make recommendations for an alternate methodology to distribute the remaining balance of the safe~~

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~~schools allocation as indicated in s. 1011.62(12).~~

(18) In partnership with the Florida Association of School Safety Specialists, recommend a structure to provide initial and advanced training and certification for school safety specialists, develop additional professional learning opportunities, identify research and best practices in school safety, administer school safety grants, and provide policy recommendations to improve school safety requirements. Such recommendations must be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than September 1, 2025.

Section 3. Paragraph (f) of subsection (6) of section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.07 District school board duties relating to student discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the attendance and control of students at school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the welfare of students, including:

(6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—Each district school superintendent shall establish policies and procedures for the prevention of violence on school grounds, including the assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the school community.

(f) *School safety requirements.*—~~By August 1, 2024,~~ Each school district and charter school governing board shall comply with the following school safety requirements:

1. All gates or other access points that restrict ingress to or egress from a school campus shall remain closed and locked

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when students are on campus during school supervision hours. For the purposes of this section, "school supervision hours" means the hours of the school day plus the reasonable time immediately before and after school during which student supervision is available per school district policy. A gate or ~~other campus~~ access point may only not be open or unlocked during school supervision hours if one of the following conditions is met, ~~regardless of whether it is during normal school hours, unless:~~

a. It is attended or actively staffed ~~by a person~~ when students are on campus;

b. The use complies ~~is in accordance~~ with a shared use agreement pursuant to s. 1013.101;

c. Another closed and locked gate or access point separates the open or unlocked gate from areas occupied by students; or

~~d.e.~~ The school safety specialist, or his or her designee, has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the gate or ~~other~~ access point is exempt from not subject to this requirement based upon other safety measures in place at the school or an exception recognized by the office pursuant to s. 1001.212(17). The office may conduct a compliance visit pursuant to s. 1001.212(14) to review if such determination is appropriate.

2. During school supervision hours, all school classrooms and other instructional spaces must be locked to prevent ingress when occupied by students, except between class periods when students are moving between classrooms or other instructional spaces, unless the school safety specialist, or his or her designee, has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment

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Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the open and unlocked door, gate, or other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon an exception recognized by the office pursuant to s. 1001.212(17). If a classroom or other instructional space door must be left unlocked or open for any other reason other than between class periods when students are moving between classrooms or other instructional spaces, the door must be actively staffed by a person standing or seated at the door. The office may conduct a compliance visit pursuant to s. 1001.212(14) to review if a documented exception is appropriate.

3. Unless another closed and locked door, gate, or access point prevents access to a specific school building's entry, all campus access doors, gates, and other access points that allow ingress to or egress from a school building shall remain closed and locked during school supervision hours at all times to prevent unauthorized access, except when: ingress, unless

a. A person is actively entering or exiting the door, gate, or other access point;

b. The door, gate, or access point is actively staffed by school personnel to prevent unauthorized entry; or

c. The school safety specialist, or his or her designee, has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the open and unlocked door, gate, or other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon other safety measures at the school or an exception recognized by the office pursuant to s. 1001.212(17). The office may conduct a compliance visit pursuant to s. 1001.212(14) to review if such determination is

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appropriate. All campus access doors, gates, and other access points may be electronically or manually controlled by school personnel to allow access by authorized visitors, students, and school personnel.

4. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces must clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in each classroom or other instructional space where students must shelter in place during an emergency. Students must be notified of these safe areas within the first 10 days of the school year. If it is not feasible to clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in a classroom or other instructional space, the school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must document such determination in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools, identifying where affected students must shelter in place. The office shall assist the school safety specialist with compliance during the inspection required under s. 1001.212(14).

Persons who are aware of a violation of this paragraph must report the violation to the school principal. The school principal must report the violation to the school safety specialist no later than the next business day after receiving such report. If the person who violated this paragraph is the school principal or charter school administrator, the report must be made directly to the district school superintendent or charter school governing board, as applicable.

Section 4. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 1006.12, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1006.12 Safe-school officers at each public school.—For the

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protection and safety of school personnel, property, students, and visitors, each district school board and school district superintendent shall partner with law enforcement agencies or security agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility within the district, including charter schools. A district school board shall ~~must~~ collaborate with charter school governing boards to facilitate charter school access to all safe-school officer options available under this section. The school district may implement any combination of the options in subsections (1)-(4) to best meet the needs of the school district and charter schools.

(4) SCHOOL SECURITY GUARD.—A school district, ~~or~~ charter school governing board, or private school, as authorized under s. 1002.42(20), may contract with a security agency as defined in s. 493.6101(18) to employ as a school security guard an individual who holds a Class "D" and Class "G" license pursuant to chapter 493, provided the following training and contractual conditions are met:

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

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

2. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the evaluation to the sheriff's office and, school district, ~~or~~ charter school governing board, private school, or employing security agency as applicable. The Department of Law Enforcement

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is authorized to provide the sheriff's office, school district, ~~or~~ charter school governing board, private school, or employing security agency with mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this paragraph.

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

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

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

(b) The contract between a security agency and a school district, private school, or a charter school governing board regarding requirements applicable to school security guards serving in the capacity of a safe-school officer for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section must ~~shall~~ define the entity or entities responsible ~~for training and the responsibilities~~ for maintaining records relating to training,

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inspection, and firearm qualification.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 1006.121, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.121 Florida Safe Schools Canine Program.—

(2) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term "firearm detection canine" means any canine that is owned or the service of which is employed by a law enforcement agency or school district for use by a sworn law enforcement officer in K-12 schools for the primary purpose of aiding in the detection of firearms and ammunition.

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

BILL: SB 1472

INTRODUCER: Senator Burgess

SUBJECT: Public Records/School Security Guards

DATE: March 21, 2025

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Brick	Bouck	ED	Favorable
2.	Gray	Elwell	AED	Pre-meeting
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 1472, which is linked to the passage of SB 1470 (2025), amends s. 30.15, F.S., to create an exemption from public records requirements for any information held by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), a law enforcement agency, a school district, or a charter school that is reported to the FDLE under SB 1470 and would identify whether an individual has been certified to serve as a school security guard. This public record exemption supports the existing public record exemption for information that is held by a law enforcement agency, school district, or charter school that would identify whether a particular individual has been appointed as a safe-school officer at a public school, charter school, or private school. The list required to be maintained by the FDLE under SB 1470 could identify a school security guard if not exempt from disclosure.

The bill provides that the public record exemption is a public necessity because disclosure of the identity of a school security guard could affect his or her ability to adequately respond to an active assailant situation.

The bill establishes a public records exemption subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act, with an automatic repeal date of October 2, 2030, unless reenacted by the Legislature. Additionally, the bill extends the sunset date for the exemption protecting school guardian certification information from October 2, 2029, to October 2, 2030.

The bill will become effective on the same date that SB 1470 (2025) or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes law.

This bill does not have a fiscal impact to state revenues or expenditures. **See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.**

II. Present Situation:

Access to Public Records - Generally

The Florida Constitution provides that the public has the right to inspect or copy records made or received in connection with official governmental business. The right to inspect or copy applies to the official business of any public body, officer, or employee of the state, including all three branches of state government, local governmental entities, and any person acting on behalf of the government.¹

Additional requirements and exemptions related to public records are found in various statutes and rules, depending on the branch of government involved. For instance, section 11.0431, F.S., provides public access requirements for legislative records. Relevant exemptions are codified in s. 11.0431(2)-(3), F.S., and adopted in the rules of each house of the legislature.² Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.420 governs public access to judicial branch records.³ Lastly, chapter 119, F.S., known as the Public Records Act, provides requirements for public records held by executive agencies.

Executive Agency Records – The Public Records Act

The Public Records Act provides that all state, county and municipal records are open for personal inspection and copying by any person, and that providing access to public records is the duty of each agency.⁴

Section 119.011(12), F.S., defines “public records” to include:

All documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, data processing software, or other material, regardless of the physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connections with the transaction of official business by any agency.

The Florida Supreme Court has interpreted this definition to encompass all materials made or received by an agency in connection with official business that are used to “perpetuate, communicate, or formalize knowledge of some type.”⁵

The Florida Statutes specify conditions under which public access to public records must be provided. The Public Records Act guarantees every person’s right to inspect and copy any public

¹ FLA. CONST. art. I, s. 24(a).

² See Rule 1.48, *Rules and Manual of the Florida Senate*, (2022-2024) and Rule 14.1, *Rules of the Florida House of Representatives*, (2022-2024)

³ *State v. Wooten*, 260 So. 3d 1060 (Fla. 4th DCA 2018).

⁴ Section 119.01(1), F.S. Section 119.011(2), F.S., defines “agency” as “any state, county, district, authority, or municipal officer, department, division, board, bureau, commission, or other separate unit of government created or established by law including, for the purposes of this chapter, the Commission on Ethics, the Public Service Commission, and the Office of Public Counsel, and any other public or private agency, person, partnership, corporation, or business entity acting on behalf of any public agency.”

⁵ *Shevin v. Byron, Harless, Schaffer, Reid and Assoc., Inc.*, 379 So. 2d 633, 640 (Fla. 1980).

record at any reasonable time, under reasonable conditions, and under supervision by the custodian of the public record.⁶ A violation of the Public Records Act may result in civil or criminal liability.⁷

The Legislature may exempt public records from public access requirements by passing a general law by a two-thirds vote of both the House and the Senate.⁸ The exemption must state with specificity the public necessity justifying the exemption and must be no broader than necessary to accomplish the stated purpose of the exemption.⁹

General exemptions from the public records requirements are contained in the Public Records Act.¹⁰ Specific exemptions often are placed in the substantive statutes relating to a particular agency or program.¹¹

When creating a public records exemption, the Legislature may provide that a record is “exempt” or “confidential and exempt.” There is a difference between records the Legislature has determined to be exempt from the Public Records Act and those which the Legislature has determined to be exempt from the Public Records Act *and confidential*. Records designated as “confidential and exempt” are not subject to inspection by the public and may only be released under the circumstances defined by statute.¹² Records designated as “exempt” may be released at the discretion of the records custodian under certain circumstances.¹³

Open Government Sunset Review Act

The provisions of s. 119.15, F.S., known as the Open Government Sunset Review Act¹⁴ (the Act), prescribe a legislative review process for newly created or substantially amended¹⁵ public records or open meetings exemptions, with specified exceptions.¹⁶ The Act requires the repeal of such exemption on October 2 of the fifth year after creation or substantial amendment, unless the Legislature reenacts the exemption.¹⁷

⁶ Section 119.07, F.S.

⁷ Section 119.10, F.S.

⁸ FLA. CONST. art. I, s. 24(c).

⁹ *Id. See, e.g., Halifax Hosp. Medical Center v. News-Journal Corp.*, 724 So. 2d 567 (Fla. 1999) (holding that a public meetings exemption was unconstitutional because the statement of public necessity did not define important terms and did not justify the breadth of the exemption); *Baker County Press, Inc. v. Baker County Medical Services, Inc.*, 870 So. 2d 189 (Fla. 1st DCA 2004) (holding that a statutory provision written to bring another party within an existing public records exemption is unconstitutional without a public necessity statement).

¹⁰ *See, e.g., s. 119.071(1), F.S.*

¹¹ *See, e.g., s. 213.053(2), F.S.*

¹² *WFTV, Inc. v. The Sch. Bd. of Seminole County*, 874 So. 2d 48, 53 (Fla. 5th DCA 2004).

¹³ *Williams v. City of Minneola*, 575 So. 2d 683 (Fla. 5th DCA 1991).

¹⁴ Section 119.15, F.S.

¹⁵ An exemption is considered to be substantially amended if it is expanded to include more records or information or to include meetings as well as records. Section 119.15(4)(b), F.S.

¹⁶ Section 119.15(2), F.S., provides that exemptions required by federal law or applicable solely to the Legislature or the State Court System are not subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act.

¹⁷ Section 119.15(3), F.S.

The Act provides that a public records or open meetings exemption may be created or maintained only if it serves an identifiable public purpose and is no broader than is necessary.¹⁸ An exemption serves an identifiable purpose if it meets one of the following purposes *and* the Legislature finds that the purpose of the exemption outweighs open government policy and cannot be accomplished without the exemption:

- It allows the state or its political subdivisions to effectively and efficiently administer a governmental program, and administration would be significantly impaired without the exemption;
- It protects sensitive, personal information, the release of which would be defamatory, cause unwarranted damage to the good name or reputation of the individual, or would jeopardize the individual's safety. If this public purpose is cited as the basis of an exemption, however, only personal identifying information is exempt; or
- It protects information of a confidential nature concerning entities, such as trade or business secrets.¹⁹

The Act also requires specified questions to be considered during the review process.

The specified questions are:

- What specific records or meetings are affected by the exemption?
- Whom does the exemption uniquely affect, as opposed to the general public?
- What is the identifiable public purpose or goal of the exemption?
- Can the information contained in the records or discussed in the meeting be readily obtained by alternative means? If so, how?
- Is the record or meeting protected by another exemption?
- Are there multiple exemptions for the same type of record or meeting that it would be appropriate to merge?²⁰

In examining an exemption, the Act directs the Legislature to question the purpose and necessity of reenacting the exemption.

If the exemption is continued and expanded, then a public necessity statement and a two-thirds vote for passage are required.²¹ If the exemption is continued without substantive changes or if the exemption is continued and narrowed, then a public necessity statement and a two-thirds vote for passage are *not* required. If the Legislature allows an exemption to expire, the previously exempt records will remain exempt unless otherwise provided by law.²²

Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program

Sheriffs are required to assist district school boards, charter school governing boards, and private schools in exercising options for safe-school officers. A sheriff is required to provide access to a Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises.

¹⁸ Section 119.15(6)(b), F.S.

¹⁹ Section 119.15(6)(b), F.S.

²⁰ Section 119.15(6)(a), F.S.

²¹ See *generally* s. 119.15, F.S.

²² Section 119.15(7), F.S.

A sheriff who establishes a Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program is required to consult with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) on programmatic guiding principles, practices, and resources, and certify as school guardians, school employees who:

- Hold a license to carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm.
- Complete a 144-hour training program, consisting of 12 hours of training on incident de-escalation and 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission-certified instructors.
- Pass a psychological evaluation.
- Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests.
- Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual basis.

The sheriff who conducts the guardian training is required to issue a school guardian certificate to individuals who meet these requirements and maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification, inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian certified by the sheriff.²³

Sheriff Reporting Responsibilities

A sheriff who issues a school guardian certificate must report to the FDLE the name, date of birth, and certification date of the school guardian within 30 days.

Additionally, each sheriff must submit quarterly reports to the FDLE detailing:

- Upcoming school guardian training schedules.
- Training dates, locations, and registration contacts.
- Class capacity for training programs.

The FDLE must publish and update these reports at least quarterly on its website.

Sheriffs who fail to comply with these reporting requirements are ineligible to receive reimbursement from the Department of Education (DOE) for school guardian training expenses. However, upon submission of the required reports, sheriffs regain eligibility.²⁴

School District, Charter School, and Private School Reporting Requirements

By February 1 and September 1 of each school year, each school district, charter school, and private school must report to the FDLE:

- The name, date of birth, and appointment date of each school guardian.
- The date of separation for any school guardian no longer serving in that capacity.

Failure to comply prohibits the school from operating a school guardian program in the following school year unless missing information is submitted.²⁵

²³ Section 30.15(1), F.S.

²⁴ Section 30.15(1)(k), F.S.

²⁵ *Id.*

The FDLE Responsibilities and Enforcement

The FDLE must maintain a statewide list of all school guardians. This list must include:

- The guardian's name, certification date, and appointment date.
- The name of the appointing school district, charter school, or private school.
- Any additional information regarding misconduct or firearm discharges, except those occurring during training.
- The date a guardian separated from their appointment, if applicable.

The FDLE must remove from the list any school guardian whose training has expired.

By March 1 and October 1 of each school year, the FDLE must notify the Department of Education of any sheriff, school district, charter school, or private school that has failed to comply with these reporting requirements.

The FDLE is authorized to adopt rules to implement these reporting requirements and may require additional identifying information as necessary to ensure accurate record-keeping of school guardians.²⁶

Any information held by the FDLE, a law enforcement agency, a school district, or a charter school that would identify whether a person has been certified to serve as a school guardian is exempt from disclosure requirements. The exemption will be repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.²⁷

Safe-School Officer Requirement

Florida law requires each district school board and school district superintendent to partner with law enforcement and security agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility within the district by implementing one or more safe-school officer options which best meet the needs of the school district and charter schools. These options include:

- Establishing a School Resource Officer (SRO) program through a cooperative agreement with law enforcement agencies. SROs are certified law enforcement officers.
- Commissioning one or more school safety officers. School safety officers are certified law enforcement officers who are employed by either a law enforcement agency or by the district school board.
- Participating in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program.
- Contracting with a security agency to employ as a school security guard an individual who holds a Class “D” and Class “G” license and completes the same training and evaluation requirements as a school guardian.²⁸

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ Section 30.15(6), F.S.

²⁸ Section 1006.12, F.S.

Additionally, a private school may partner with a law enforcement agency or a security agency to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers.²⁹ Any information that would identify whether a particular individual has been assigned a safe-school officer at a private school and that is held by a law enforcement agency is exempt from public records disclosure requirements.³⁰

Currently, 53 counties participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program.³¹

SB 1470 School Safety (2025)

SB 1470 (2025), to which this bill is linked, aligns school security guard reporting and recordkeeping requirements with those for school guardians and mandates that security agencies report to the FDLE the date a school security guard was last employed in a school.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill, which is linked to the passage of SB 1470 (2025), amends s. 30.15, F.S., to create an exemption from public records requirements for any information held by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) or a law enforcement agency, school district, or charter school and reported to the FDLE that would identify whether an individual has been certified to serve as a school security guard. This public record exemption supports the existing public record exemption for information that is held by a law enforcement agency, school district, or charter school that would identify whether a particular individual has been appointed as a safe-school officer at a public school, charter school, or private school. The list required to be maintained by the FDLE under SB 1470, if not protected, could identify a school security guard.

This exemption is consistent with existing protections for other safe-school officers and expands those protections to individuals serving as school security guards.

The bill states that the public record exemption is necessary because disclosing the identity of a school security guard could compromise their ability to respond effectively to an active assailant situation. Specifically, the bill provides that it is a public necessity that any information held by the FDLE, a district school board, a charter school governing board, or a sheriff a list of certified school security guard that may identify whether an individual has been certified to serve as a school security guard be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), F.S., and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution.

The bill affirms that school security and student safety are fundamental state priorities and emphasizes the importance of protecting the safety of current and former school security guards. The bill states that school security guards serve a critical role as safe-school officers and first responders, and their presence on school grounds serves as a deterrent against incidents threatening the lives of students and school personnel.

²⁹ Section 1006.12(18), F.S.

³⁰ Section 1002.42(20), F.S.

³¹ Florida Department of Education, *Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, & Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program*, <https://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/guardian-program.stml> (last visited Mar. 15, 2025).

The bill further specifies that disclosure of the identity of persons certified as school security guards might undermine such deterrence and may compromise their safety along with the safety of students. The public disclosure of such information would also adversely affect their ability to adequately respond to an active assailant incident, as an assailant might be alerted in advance that a particular individual is certified as a school security guard.

The bill also states that school security guards who have been appointed to that position might leave their appointment for a period of time while maintaining their certification, and, thereafter, be reappointed at a future date. The bill provides that the safety of such persons would be compromised if their status as school security guards became public record by virtue of their continued certification. The bill accordingly provides that it is necessary to protect the identity of persons certified as school security guards from public records requirements to effectively and efficiently implement the purpose and intent of school security guard programs.

The bill establishes a public records exemption subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act, with an automatic repeal date of October 2, 2030, unless reenacted by the Legislature. Additionally, the bill extends the sunset date for the exemption protecting school guardian certification information from October 2, 2029, to October 2, 2030.

The bill will become effective on the same date that SB 1470 (2025) or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

Vote Requirement

Article I, s. 24(c) of the State Constitution requires a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting for final passage of a bill creating or expanding an exemption to the public records requirements. This bill enacts a new exemption for information that would identify an individual who has been certified to serve as a school guardian, thus, the bill requires a two-thirds vote to be enacted.

Public Necessity Statement

Article I, s. 24(c) of the State Constitution requires a bill creating or expanding an exemption to the public records requirements to state with specificity the public necessity justifying the exemption. Section 2 of the bill contains a statement of public necessity for the exemption.

Breadth of Exemption

Article I, s. 24(c) of the State Constitution requires an exemption to the public records requirements to be no broader than necessary to accomplish the stated purpose of the law. The purpose of the law is to protect information that would identify whether an individual has been certified to serve as a school security guard. This bill exempts only information held by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) or a law enforcement agency, school district, or charter school that would identify whether an individual has been certified to serve as a school security guard from the public records disclosure requirements. The exemption does not appear to be broader than necessary to accomplish the purpose of the law.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

This bill does not have an impact on state revenues or expenditures.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 30.15 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

By Senator Burgess

23-00209A-25

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public records; amending s. 30.15, F.S.; providing that certain information relating to school security guards held by the Department of Law Enforcement, a law enforcement agency, a school district, or a charter school is exempt from public records requirements; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity; providing a contingent effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 30.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

30.15 Powers, duties, and obligations.—

(6) Any information held by the Department of Law Enforcement, a law enforcement agency, a school district, or a charter school which ~~that~~ would identify whether a person has been certified to serve as a school guardian or school security guard is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This subsection is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2030 ~~2029~~, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that any information held by the Department of Law Enforcement, a law enforcement agency, a school district, or a charter school which would identify whether an individual has

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been certified to serve as a school security guard is exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. School security and student safety are fundamental priorities in this state, as is the safety of people serving or who have served as school security guards. School security guards serve a critical role as safe-school officers and first responders, and their presence on school grounds serves as a deterrent against incidents threatening the lives of students and school personnel. Disclosure of the identity of persons certified as school security guards might undermine such deterrence and may compromise their safety along with the safety of students. The public disclosure of such information would also adversely affect their ability to respond adequately to an active assailant incident, as an assailant might be alerted in advance that a particular individual is certified as a school security guard. Furthermore, school security guards who have been appointed to that position might leave their appointment for a period of time while maintaining their certification and, thereafter, be reappointed at a future date. The safety of such persons would be compromised if their status as school security guards became public record by virtue of their continued certification. Accordingly, it is necessary to protect the identity of persons certified as school security guards from public records requirements in order to implement effectively and efficiently the purpose and intent of school security guard programs.

Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that SB 1470 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension

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59 | thereof and becomes a law.

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

BILL: SB 1618

INTRODUCER: Senator Calatayud

SUBJECT: Prekindergarten Through Grade 12 Education

DATE: March 21, 2025

REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. <u>Palazes</u>	<u>Bouck</u>	<u>ED</u>	Favorable
2. <u>Gray</u>	<u>Elwell</u>	<u>AED</u>	Pre-meeting
3. _____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SB 1618 makes several changes to Florida's prekindergarten through grade 12 education system.

For the Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program, the bill:

- Removes the 70 percent cap on the hours authorized to be reported for funding prior to withdrawing from a VPK program for good cause and reenrolling in another VPK program.
- Repeals the Council for Early Grades Success.
- Removes authorization for the Department of Education (DOE) to recommend to the State Board of Education (SBE) that a provider be permitted to maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care status in certain circumstances.

For state academic standards and required instruction, the bill:

- Requires the state academic standards documents to contain only standards and benchmarks.
- Requires the DOE, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, to revise the state agricultural standards.

For reading, the bill:

- Specifies requirements for personnel who provide intensive reading interventions and requires reading interventions to incorporate evidence-based strategies identified by Just Read, Florida!
- Requires that districts provide a description of how the district prioritizes the assignment of highly effective teachers to kindergarten to grade two.
- Authorizes the use of unpaid or paid hours that a high school student devotes to tutoring in the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence can count toward meeting community service requirements for high school graduation and the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

For instructional personnel, the bill:

- Authorizes the use of a valid certificate issued by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) as a direct pathway to a professional certificate.
- Authorizes lab schools and charter school consortia who meet certain criteria to the entities eligible to submit to the DOE a nominee for the Teacher of the Year award.

Additionally, the bill:

- Revises the definition and requirements for emergency opioid antagonists.
- Specifies that school board policy on corporal punishment must include parent permission.
- Prohibits public schools, charter schools, school districts, charter school administrators, or direct-support organizations from using funds on certain items.
- Repeals the Florida School for Competitive Academics.
- Removes the Commissioner of Education's authority to determine if schools have maximized their efforts to include minority persons and persons of lower socioeconomic status on their school advisory councils.
- Adds requirements relating to the costs of postsecondary education to the one-half credit of financial literacy credit required for high school graduation.
- Authorizes the SBE to join or establish a national consortium to develop advanced courses.
- Specifies only certain instructional personnel can qualify for bonuses under the School Recognition award.
- Clarifies that an owner or operator of a private scholarship school is subject to state screening requirements for employment in positions that may require direct contact with students.
- Clarifies that general background screening exemptions do not apply to public school and private scholarship school employees in positions that may require direct contact with a student.

The bill is effective July 1, 2025, except as otherwise specified.

This bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact. **See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.**

II. Present Situation:

The present situation for the relevant portions of the bill is discussed under the Effect of Proposed Changes section of this bill analysis.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program

Present Situation

Florida's Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK) Program

The VPK program prepares children for success in school and in life. Implemented in 2005, the program is a free, high-quality, education program available to all four-year-old children residing

in the state.¹ Each child who resides in Florida who attains the age of four years on or before September 1 of the school year is eligible for the VPK Program during either that school year or the following school year. Parents of four-year-olds with birthdays from February 2 through September 1 may wait to enroll their child the following year when they are five.² The child remains eligible until the child is admitted to kindergarten, or unless the child has attained the age of six years by February 1 of any school year.³ In 2023-2024, there were 155,275 children enrolled with 6,247 providers in Florida's VPK program.⁴

Parents of each child eligible for a VPK program in Florida may enroll their child in one of the following programs:

- A school-year prekindergarten program delivered by an approved private prekindergarten provider.
- A school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a public school.
- A summer prekindergarten program delivered by a public school or private prekindergarten provider.
- A specialized instructional services program for children who have disabilities, if the child has been evaluated and determined as eligible and has a current individual educational plan developed by the local school board.⁵

Funding for Florida's VPK Program

A full-time equivalent student in the VPK program is calculated as follows:

- For a student in a school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a private prekindergarten provider: 540 instructional hours.
- For a student in a school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a public school: 540 instructional hours.
- For a student in a summer prekindergarten program delivered by a public school or private prekindergarten provider: 300 instructional hours.⁶

A child who, for any of the prekindergarten programs, has not completed more than 70 percent of the hours authorized to be reported for funding may withdraw from the program for good cause and reenroll in one of the programs. The total funding for a child who reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause may not exceed one full-time equivalent student. A child who has not substantially completed any of the prekindergarten programs may withdraw from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the child's or parent's control, reenroll in one of the summer programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time equivalent student in the summer program.⁷

A child may be granted a good cause exemption if:

¹ FLA. CONST., Art. IX, s. 1.

² Florida Department of Education, *Division of Early Learning, Annual Report 2023-2024*, available at: <https://www.fldoe.org/file/20628/2324-DEL-AnnualReport.pdf> (last visited Mar. 15, 2025).

³ Section 1002.53(2), F.S.

⁴ Florida Department of Education, *Division of Early Learning, Annual Report 2023-2024*, available at: <https://www.fldoe.org/file/20628/2324-DEL-AnnualReport.pdf> (last visited Mar. 15, 2025).

⁵ Section 1002.53(3), F.S.

⁶ Section 1002.71(2), F.S.

⁷ Section 1002.71(4), F.S.

- The illness of the child, an individual living in the child's household, an individual which the child's parent is responsible for caring for, or the child's parent, sibling, grandparent, stepparent, step-sibling, or step-grandparent.
- A disagreement between the parent and the provider concerning policies, practices, or procedures at the provider's VPK program.
- A change in the child's residence.
- A change in the employment schedule or place of employment of the child's parent.
- The VPK program provider's inability to meet the child's health, behavioral, or educational needs.
- The termination of the child's class before 70 percent of the VPK program instructional hours are delivered.
- The child is dismissed by a VPK program provider for failure to comply with the provider's attendance policy.
- The VPK program provider's designation as a provider on probation.

A child may be granted an exemption for an extreme hardship if:

- The illness of the child, a family member which the child's parent is responsible for caring for, or of the child's parent, as documented in writing by a licensed physician if it would result in the child being absent for more than 30 percent of the number of hours in the program type in which the child is enrolled.
- The termination of the child's VPK program class as a result of the VPK program provider's removal from eligibility to offer the VPK program, as documented by the early learning coalition.
- The parent's inability to meet the basic needs of the child, including, but not limited to, a lack of food, shelter, clothing, or transportation, as documented in writing by a federal, state, or local governmental official.
- The VPK program provider's inability to meet the child's educational needs due to the child's learning or developmental disability, as documented by a federal, state, or local governmental official.
- The VPK program provider's inability to meet the child's health needs as documented by a licensed or a federal, state, or local governmental official.
- Displacement of the child from his or her place of residence, or closure of the child's VPK program provider as a result of a state of emergency as declared by a federal, state, or local government official.
- A temporary or permanent change in parent custody or guardianship, supported by legal documentation such as a court order or official documentation from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or DCF contracted agency. This includes an at-risk childcare authorization that documents the guardianship change.⁸

Gold Seal Quality Care Program

The Department of Education (DOE) administers the Gold Seal Quality Care program (Gold Seal program). Established in 1996,⁹ the Gold Seal program recognizes childcare facilities and family day care homes that have gone above the required minimum licensing standards to

⁸ Rule 6M-8.210, F.A.C.

⁹ Ch. 96-175, s. 72, L.O.F.

become accredited by recognized agencies whose standards reflect quality in the level of care and supervision provided to children. The Gold Seal program is not an accreditation, but a designation. The Gold Seal program offers various advantages to participating providers, including tax exemptions on certain educational materials and property taxes, as well as increased reimbursement rates for School Readiness (SR) providers.¹⁰ To obtain and maintain a designation as a Gold Seal program provider, a childcare facility, large family childcare home, or family day care home must have:

- No class I¹¹ violations within preceding two years.
- Less than three class II¹² violations within the preceding two years.
- Less than three class III¹³ violations within the preceding two years that were not corrected within one year.
- If the DOE determines through a formal process that a provider has been in business for at least five years and has no other class I violations recorded, the DOE may recommend to the State Board of Education (SBE) that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care status.¹⁴

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year:¹⁵

- There were 16 Gold Seal approved accrediting associations.
- There were 1,861 Gold Seal designated childcare providers, of which 1,519 were contracted for SR and 1,591 were contracted for VPK.
- There were 23 providers removed from the Gold Seal program due to licensing regulation violations.

The Council for Early Grades Success

The Council for Early Grades Success (Council) was created in 2021 within the DOE.¹⁶ The Council is responsible for reviewing the implementation of training for and outcomes from the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program to provide recommendations to the DOE that support grade three students reading at or above grade level. The Council, at a minimum, is responsible for:

- Providing recommendations on the implementation of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program, including reviewing any procurement solicitation documents and criteria before being published.

¹⁰ Florida Department of Education, *Division of Early Learning, Annual Report 2023-2024*, available at: <https://www.fldoe.org/file/20628/2324-DEL-AnnualReport.pdf> (last visited Mar. 15, 2025).

¹¹ Class “I” violations are those conditions or occurrences related to the operation and maintenance of a provider or to the care of clients which the agency determines present an imminent danger to the clients of the provider or a substantial probability that death or serious physical or emotional harm would result therefrom. Section 408.813, F.S.

¹² Class “II” violations are those conditions or occurrences related to the operation and maintenance of a provider or to the care of clients which the agency determines directly threaten the physical or emotional health, safety, or security of the clients, other than class I violations. *Id.*

¹³ Class “III” violations are those conditions or occurrences related to the operation and maintenance of a provider or to the care of clients which the agency determines indirectly or potentially threaten the physical or emotional health, safety, or security of clients, other than class I or class II violations. *Id.*

¹⁴ Section 1002.945 (4), F.S.

¹⁵ Florida Department of Education, *Division of Early Learning, Annual Report 2023-2024*, available at: <https://www.fldoe.org/file/20628/2324-DEL-AnnualReport.pdf> (last visited March 15, 2025).

¹⁶ Section 65, ch. 2021-10, L.O.F.

- Developing training plans and timelines for such training.
- Identifying appropriate personnel, processes, and procedures required for the administration of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program.
- Providing input on the methodology for calculating the VPK accountability program.¹⁷
- Working with the department to review the methodology for determining a child's kindergarten readiness.
- Reviewing data on age-appropriate learning gains by grade level that a student would need to attain to demonstrate proficiency in reading by grade three.
- Continually reviewing anonymized data from the results of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program for students in the VPK Program through grade three to help inform recommendations to the department that support practices that will enable grade three students to read at or above grade level.¹⁸

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends s. 1002.71, F.S., to remove the 70 percent cap on the hours authorized to be reported for funding for a child who withdraws from a VPK program for good cause and reenrolls in another VPK program. The bill maintains that the total funding for a VPK student who reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause may not exceed one full-time equivalent student. Similarly, the bill also specifies that a child who has not completed any portion of the program, no matter the number of hours, of a VPK program may withdraw from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the child's or parent's control, reenroll in one of the summer programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time equivalent student in the summer program for which the child is reenrolled.

The bill amends s. 1002.945, F.S., to remove the authority of the DOE to determine through a formal process that because a provider has been in business for at least five years and has no other class I violations recorded, the DOE may recommend to the SBE that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care status.

The bill repeals s. 1008.2125, F.S., to remove the Council for Early Grades Success. The bill also amends s. 1002.68, F.S., to remove the requirement that the DOE consult with the Council for Early Grades Success prior to adopting, in SBE rule, the methodology related to the VPK accountability system and differential payments.

Student Academic Standards

Present Situation

State Academic Standards

Florida's state academic standards establish the core content of the curricula to be taught and specify the core content knowledge and skills that K-12 public school students are expected to acquire. Standards must be rigorous and relevant and provide for the logical, sequential

¹⁷ Rule 6M-8.622, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider Performance Metric and Designation, was adopted by the State Board of Education on August 21, 2024 and went into effect September 9, 2024.

¹⁸ Section 1008.2125(1)(a), F.S.

progression of core curricular content that incrementally increases a student’s core content knowledge and skills over time.¹⁹

The Commissioner of Education (commissioner) is required to develop and submit proposed revisions to the standards for review and comment by Florida educators, school administrators, representatives of the Florida College System institutions and state universities who have expertise in the content knowledge and skills necessary to prepare a student for postsecondary education and careers, a representative from the Department of Commerce, business and industry leaders for in-demand careers, and the public.²⁰ The state academic standards are required to meet the following requirements:

- English Language Arts standards are required to establish specific curricular content for, at a minimum, reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language.
- Science standards are required to establish specific curricular content for, at a minimum, the nature of science, earth and space science, physical science, and life science.
- Mathematics standards are required to establish specific curricular content for, at a minimum, algebra, geometry, statistics and probability, number and quantity, functions, and modeling.
- Social Studies standards are required to establish specific curricular content for, at a minimum, geography, United States and world history, government, civics, humanities, economics, and financial literacy.
- Visual and performing arts, physical education, health, and foreign language standards are required to establish specific curricular content and include distinct grade-level expectations for the core content knowledge.²¹

Florida uses a unique coding scheme that is defined by five-character positions in alphanumeric code: The subject, grade level, strand, standard and benchmark. The strand is a focal group of related standard, standards are overarching criteria for the grade level or grade band, and the benchmark is a specific expectation for the grade level or grade band that falls within the standard. An example of a standard is provided below:²²

K-8 Example

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Grade Level</i>	<i>Strand</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Benchmark</i>
SC.	4.	CO.	1.	2
Science	Grade 4	Computing Components	Introduce foundational computer literacy skills.	Create and edit multimedia artifacts using digital tools.

Within the approved state academic standards documents, the Department of Education includes clarifications that are added to standards to guide teachers in the integration of those standards within instruction. For example, in the Computational Thinking and Reasoning Standards for the

¹⁹ Section 1003.41(1), F.S.

²⁰ Section 1003.41(3), F.S.

²¹ Section 1003.41(2), F.S.

²² Florida Department of Education, *Florida’s State Academic Standards Computer Science 2024* (2024), available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/20758/urlt/7-3.pdf> (last visited Mar. 17, 2025),

Computer Science Standards, there are seven standards, and each of the seven standards has a clarification for how that standard should be integrated into instruction.²³

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends s. 1003.41, F.S., to require that new and revised standards documents submitted to the State Board of Education must only consist of academic standards and benchmarks. The bill also requires the commissioner to submit all revised standards documents to the SBE for approval no later than July 1, 2026. By removing the benchmark clarifications statements, educators will have more flexibility in how they incorporate the standards into their instruction.

Agricultural Education

Present Situation

Required Instruction

The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 education system is to allow its students to increase their proficiency by allowing them the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through rigorous and relevant learning opportunities.²⁴ Each district school board must provide appropriate instruction to ensure that students meet State Board of Education (SBE) adopted standards in the following subject areas: reading and other language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign languages, health and physical education, and the arts.²⁵

Instructional staff of public schools, subject to the rules of the SBE and the district school board, must provide instruction in:

- The history and content of the Declaration of Independence.
- The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the provisions of the Constitution of the United States.
- The arguments in support of adopting our republican form of government.
- Flag education, including proper flag display and flag salute.
- The elements of civil government.
- The history of the United States.
- The history of the Holocaust.
- The history of African Americans.
- The history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- The elementary principles of agriculture.
- The effects of alcoholic and intoxicating liquors and beverages and narcotics.
- Kindness to animals.
- The history of the state.
- The conservation of natural resources.
- Comprehensive age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate K-12 instruction on health education and life skills.

²³ Florida Department of Education, *Florida's State Academic Standards Computer Science 2024* (2024), available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/20758/urlt/7-3.pdf> (last visited Mar. 17, 2025),

²⁴ Section 1000.03(4), F.S.

²⁵ Section 1003.42(1), F.S.

- The study of Hispanic contributions to the United States.
- The study of women's contributions to the United States.
- The nature and importance of free enterprise to the United States economy.
- Civic and character education.
- The sacrifices that veterans and Medal of Honor recipients have made serving the country.²⁶

Agricultural Education in Florida

To help support students interested in the agricultural industry in Florida, the Florida Department of Education (DOE) created nine middle school courses focused on careers in the agricultural field, ranging from the “Exploration of Agriscience” to the “Introduction to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.” At the secondary level, the DOE created 18 courses and programs ranging from “Agricultural Biotechnology” to “Food Science Applications.”²⁷ In the 2022-2023 school year, there were 640 Secondary CTE Programs in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. Additionally, there are several benchmarks related to the impact agriculture has had on society:

- Compare the lifestyles of hunter-gatherers with those of settlers of early agricultural communities.²⁸
- Explain how the physical landscape has affected the development of agriculture and industry in the ancient world.²⁹
- Describe how the developments of agriculture and metallurgy related to settlement, population growth, and the emergence of civilization.³⁰
- Describe the agricultural and technological innovations that led to industrialization in Great Britain and its subsequent spread to continental Europe, the United States, and Japan.³¹

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends s. 1003.42, F.S., to expand the requirements of the elementary principles of agriculture to include the history of agriculture both nationally and specifically in Florida, the economic and societal impact of agriculture, and the various agricultural industry sectors. The change expands the current instruction of how agriculture impacts Florida, our economy, and society. The bill also requires the DOE, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Science to

²⁶ Section 1003.42(2), F.S.

²⁷ Florida Department of Education, *2024-25 CTE Curriculum Frameworks: Agriculture Food & Natural Resources*, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-tech-edu/curriculum-frameworks/2024-25-frameworks/agriculture-food-natural-resources.stml>, (last visited Mar. 17, 2025).

²⁸ Florida Department of Education, *Florida's State Academic Standards Social Studies 2024* (2024) at 56, available at https://cpalmsmediaproduct.blob.core.windows.net/uploads/docs/standards/best/ss/ss_standardsbook_bc_240417_finalada.pdf, (last visited Mar. 17, 2025). This standard is included in Grade 6 World History.

²⁹ Florida Department of Education, *Florida's State Academic Standards Social Studies 2024* (2024) at 64, available at https://cpalmsmediaproduct.blob.core.windows.net/uploads/docs/standards/best/ss/ss_standardsbook_bc_240417_finalada.pdf, (last visited Mar. 17, 2025). This standard is included in Grade 6 Geography.

³⁰ Florida Department of Education, *Florida's State Academic Standards Social Studies 2024* (2024) at 56, available at https://cpalmsmediaproduct.blob.core.windows.net/uploads/docs/standards/best/ss/ss_standardsbook_bc_240417_finalada.pdf, (last visited Mar. 17, 2025). This standard is included in Grade 6 World History.

³¹ Florida Department of Education, *Florida's State Academic Standards Social Studies 2024* (2024) at 132, available at https://cpalmsmediaproduct.blob.core.windows.net/uploads/docs/standards/best/ss/ss_standardsbook_bc_240417_finalada.pdf, (last visited Mar. 17, 2025). This standard is included in Grades 9-12 World History.

prepare and offer standards and a curriculum and may seek input from state or nationally recognized agricultural educational organizations. The bill also authorizes the DOE to contract with state or nationally recognized agricultural educational organizations to develop training for instructional personnel and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support the developed curriculum.

Reading

Present Situation

Comprehensive System of Reading Intervention

Each school district is required to implement a system of comprehensive reading instruction for students enrolled in prekindergarten through grade 12 and certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy.³² Students with a substantial deficiency are defined as:

- A voluntary prekindergarten student in early literacy skills who scores below the tenth (10th) percentile or is unable to complete the practice items at the middle or end of the year test administration of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system.
- A kindergarten through grade three student in reading if:
 - The student is identified as in need of Tier 3 interventions³³. or
 - For kindergarten, the student scores below the tenth (10th) percentile or is unable to complete the practice items on the designated grade-level assessment at the beginning, middle, or end of the year test administration of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system.
 - b. For grades one and two, the student scores below the tenth (10th) percentile or is unable to complete the practice items on the designated grade-level assessment for the specified test administration of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system. or
 - c. For grade three, the student scores below the twentieth (20th) percentile at the beginning or middle of the year test administration of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system.
 - A student in grade three scores a Level 1 on the end-of-year statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) assessment.³⁴

The comprehensive reading instruction plan may include all district schools, including charter schools, unless a charter school elects to submit a plan independently from the school district.³⁵ The plan may include the following components:

- Additional time per day of evidence-based intensive reading instruction for kindergarten through grade 12 students, which may be delivered during or outside of the regular school day.
- Highly qualified reading coaches, who must be endorsed in reading, to specifically support classroom teachers in making instructional decisions based on progress monitoring data and

³² Section 1003.4201, F.S.

³³ Intensive, Individualized Instruction/Interventions (Tier 3): provides explicit, systematic, individualized instruction based on student need, one-on-one or very small group instruction with more guided practice, immediate corrective feedback, and frequent progress monitoring; and occurs in addition to core instruction and Tier 2 interventions.

³⁴ Rule 6A-6.053, F.A.C.

³⁵ Section 1003.4201(1), F.S.

improve classroom teacher delivery of effective reading instruction, reading intervention, and reading in the content areas based on student need.

- Professional learning to help instructional personnel and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida Education Finance Program earn a certification, a credential, an endorsement, or an advanced degree in scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instruction.
- Summer reading camps, using only classroom teachers or other district personnel who possess a micro-credential³⁶ in reading or are certified or endorsed in reading consistent for all students in kindergarten through grade five exhibiting a reading deficiency as determined by district and state assessments.
- Incentives for instructional personnel and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida Education Finance Program who possess a reading certification or endorsement or micro-credential and provide educational support to improve student literacy.
- Tutoring in reading.³⁷

Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Act

In 2021, the Florida Legislature established the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence (RAISE) program within the DOE.³⁸ The RAISE program provides instructional supports to school districts, school administrators, and instructional personnel in implementing evidence-based reading instruction and interventions in order to improve student reading achievement.³⁹

Under the RAISE program, the DOE must establish 20 literacy support regions and regional support teams in Florida to assist schools in improving low reading scores.⁴⁰ Eligible schools include:

- Schools serving students in kindergarten through grade five where 50 percent of the students score below a Level 3 on the statewide, standardized ELA assessment for any grade level. and
- Schools where 50 percent or more of students in kindergarten through grade three are not on track to pass the grade three ELA assessment based on data from the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system.⁴¹

As part of the RAISE program, the DOE must establish a tutoring program and develop training to prepare eligible high school students to tutor students in kindergarten through grade three. If high school students serve as a tutor in the RAISE program, they:

- May earn up to three elective credits for high school graduation based on the verified number of hours the student spends tutoring under the program.

³⁶ To earn an early literacy micro-credential a teacher must demonstrate competency in diagnosing literacy difficulties and determining the appropriate range of literacy interventions based upon the age and literacy deficiency of the student and how use evidence-based instructional and intervention practices grounded in the science of reading, including strategies identified by the Just Read, Florida! Office.

³⁷ Section 1003.4201(2), F.S.

³⁸ Section 1008.365, F.S.

³⁹ Section 1008.365(2), F.S.

⁴⁰ Section 1008.365(3), F.S.

⁴¹ Section 1008.365(4), F.S.

- May use unpaid hours devoted to tutoring may be counted toward meeting community service requirements for high school graduation and community service requirements for participation in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.⁴²

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends s. 1003.4201, F.S., to authorize school districts to include in their comprehensive reading instruction plan intensive reading interventions, which must be delivered by instructional personnel who possess an early literacy micro-credential or personnel certified or endorsed in reading, and which must include specified evidence-based strategies. The bill also requires that instructional personnel who possess an early literacy micro-credential and who deliver intensive reading interventions are supervised by an educator who is certified or endorsed in reading. The bill defines “supervised” as able, through telecommunication or in person, to communicate and consult with, and receive direction from. The bill also authorizes districts to include a description of how the district prioritizes the assignment of highly effective teachers in grades kindergarten through grade two.

The bill amends s. 1008.365, F.S., to allow high school students who are tutors in the RAISE program to use either paid or unpaid hours, to count towards the volunteer service or paid work hours requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program.

High School Graduation Requirements

Present Situation

To earn a standard high school diploma a student must complete 24 credits, an International Baccalaureate curriculum, or an Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum.⁴³

The 24-credit option for a standard diploma includes:

- Four credits in ELA I, II, III, and IV.
- Four credits in mathematics, including one in Algebra I and one in Geometry.
- Three credits in science, two of which must have a laboratory component and one of which must include Biology I.
- Three credits in social studies including one credit in United States History, one credit in World History, one-half credit in economics, and one-half credit in United States Government.
- One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or career and technical education.
- One credit in physical education which includes the integration of health.
- Seven and one-half credits in electives.
- One-half credit in personal financial literacy.

The one-half credit in personal financial literacy must include instruction in all of the following:

- Types of bank accounts offered, opening and managing a bank account, and assessing the quality of a depository institution’s services.
- Balancing a checkbook.

⁴² Section 1008.365(8), F.S.

⁴³ Section 1003.4282(1), F.S.

- Basic principles of money management, such as spending, credit, credit scores, and managing debt, including retail and credit card debt.
- Completing a loan application.
- Receiving an inheritance and related implications.
- Basic principles of personal insurance policies.
- Computing federal income taxes.
- Local tax assessments.
- Computing interest rates by various mechanisms.
- Simple contracts.
- Contesting an incorrect billing statement.
- Types of savings and investments.
- State and federal laws concerning finance.⁴⁴

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends s. 1003.4282, F.S., to require that the one-half credit in financial literacy instruction includes the costs of postsecondary education, cost of attendance, completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, scholarships and grants, and student loans.

Articulated Accelerated Mechanisms

Present Situation

High school students in Florida have a variety of avenues by which they can earn college credit. These opportunities, known as articulated acceleration mechanisms, shorten the time necessary for a student to complete the requirements for a high school diploma and a postsecondary degree. These mechanisms also allow Florida schools to increase the depth of study in a particular subject and expand available curricular options.⁴⁵

Programs that provide high school students with the opportunity to earn college credit include, but are not limited to, dual enrollment and early admission, credit by examination, advanced placement, the IB Program, and the AICE Program. Credit earned through the Florida Virtual School also provides additional opportunities for early graduation and acceleration.⁴⁶

The Department of Education (DOE) annually identifies and publishes the minimum scores, maximum credit, and course or courses for which credit is to be awarded for each College Level Examination Program (CLEP) subject examination, College Board Advanced Placement Program examination, AICE examination, IB examination, Excelsior College subject examination, Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) subject standardized test, and Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT). In addition, the DOE also identifies courses in the general education core curriculum of each state university and FCS institution for which credit is to be granted. The DOE is also authorized to partner with an

⁴⁴ Section 1003.4282(3), F.S.

⁴⁵ Section 1007.27(1), F.S.

⁴⁶ *Id.*

independent third-party testing or assessment organization to develop assessments that measure competencies consistent with general education core courses.⁴⁷

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends s. 1007.27, F.S., to authorize the SBE and the Board of Governors to join or establish a national consortium as an alternative method to develop courses for secondary students that align with general education core course competencies, and to implement advanced placement courses.

The Florida School for Competitive Academics

Present Situation

Established in 2023, The Florida School for Competitive Academics (FSCA) was scheduled to open in the 2024-2025 school year to students in grades six through 12 and located in Alachua County.⁴⁸ The FSCA was created for the primary purpose of providing a rigorous academic curriculum, and the secondary purpose was to prepare students for regional, state, and national academic competitions in all areas of study, including, but not limited to, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The FSCA's mission was to provide students who met selective admissions requirements with an environment that would foster high academic engagement and advanced understanding of subject areas, develop productive work habits, build resiliency, connect students with industry leaders, and promote civic leadership.⁴⁹

The FSCA was to be operated by a board of trustees composed of seven members appointed by the Governor to four-year terms and confirmed by the Senate. The FSCA Board of Trustees had full power and authority to:

- Adopt rules to implement provisions of the law relating to the operation of the FSCA. The rules had to be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval or disapproval.
- Appoint a principal, administrators, teachers, and other employees.
- Remove principals, administrators, teachers, and other employees at the discretion of the board.
- Determine eligibility of students and procedures for admission.
- Provide for the proper keeping of accounts and records and for budgeting funds.
- Receive gifts, donations, and bequests of money or property, real or personal, tangible or intangible, from any person, firm, corporation, or other legal entity for the use and benefit of the school.
- Recommend to the Legislature that the school become a residential public school.
- Perform every other matter requisite to the proper management, maintenance, support, and control of the school at the highest efficiency economically possible.
- Prepare and submit legislative budget requests.⁵⁰

⁴⁷ Section 1007.27(2), F.S.

⁴⁸ Ch. 2023-245, Laws of Fla.

⁴⁹ Section 1002.351(2), F.S.

⁵⁰ Section 1002.351(3), F.S.

The FSCA was a public school but, like charter schools, was exempt from all statutes in the education code except:

- Statutes pertaining to the student assessment program and school grading system.
- Statutes pertaining to the provision of services to students with disabilities.
- Statutes pertaining to civil rights, including, but not limited to, statutes relating to discrimination.
- Statutes pertaining to student health, safety, and welfare.⁵¹

The FSCA was scheduled to open beginning in the 2024-2025 school year; however, the school was never officially opened.

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill repeals ss.1002.351, 1011.58, and 1011.59, F.S., to remove the Florida School for Competitive Academics.

The bill also conforms cross-references related to FSCA activities and requirements in ss. 11.45, 216.251, 447.203, 1004.04, 1001.20, 1002.394, and 1002.395, F.S.

District and School Advisory Councils

Present Situation

Each district school board must establish an advisory council for each school in the district and develop procedures for the election and appointment of advisory council members. The school advisory council is the sole body responsible for final decision-making at the school relating to the implementation of school improvement and education accountability.⁵²

The advisory councils must consist of the principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers,⁵³ education support employees,⁵⁴ students, parents, and other business and community citizens who are representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school. Career center and high school advisory councils must include students, and middle and junior high school advisory councils may include students. School advisory councils of career centers and adult education centers are not required to include parents as members. Council members representing teachers, education support employees, students, and parents must be elected by their respective peer groups at the school in a fair and equitable manner.⁵⁵

The district school board must review the membership composition of each advisory council. If the district school board determines that the membership elected by the school is not

⁵¹ Section 1002.351(8), F.S.

⁵² Section 1001.452(1), F.S.

⁵³ Section 1001.452(1), F.S. (flush left provision at the end of the paragraph). For the purposes of school advisory councils and district advisory councils, the term “teacher” includes classroom teachers, certified student services personnel, and media specialists.

⁵⁴ *Id.* For the purposes of school advisory councils and district advisory councils, “education support employee” means any person employed by a school who is not defined as instructional or administrative personnel and whose duties require 20 or more hours in each normal working week.

⁵⁵ Section 1001.452(1), F.S.

representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school, the district school board must appoint additional members to achieve proper representation. The Commissioner of Education must determine if schools have maximized their efforts to include minority persons and persons of lower socioeconomic status on their advisory council.⁵⁶

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends s. 1001.452, F.S., to remove the authority of the Commissioner of Education to determine if schools have maximized their efforts to include minorities and persons of lower socioeconomic status on their advisory council. The bill maintains the requirement that the district school board review the membership composition of each advisory council and appoint additional members if the elected school advisory council is not representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school.

Parental Rights

Present Situation

K-12 Student and Parent Rights

Parents of public school students are required to receive from school districts accurate and timely information regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. Students and parents are afforded numerous statutory rights, including, but not limited to:

- A high-quality system of education, one that allows students the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education;
- Attendance;
- Issues surrounding health;
- Discipline;
- Safety;
- Educational Choice;
- Issues relating to Students with Disabilities and Blind Students;
- Issues relating to Limited English Proficient Students;
- Students with deficiencies in Math and Reading;
- Pledge of Allegiance;
- Student Records, Report Cards and Student Progress Reports;
- School Accountability and Improvement Rating Reports;
- Athletics and Extracurricular Activities;
- Instructional Materials;
- Juvenile Justice Programs;
- Parental Input and Meetings; and
- Transportation.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ *Id.* (flush left provision at the end of the paragraph).

⁵⁷ Section 1002.20, F.S.

Opioid Antagonists

In 2022, public schools were authorized to purchase a supply of the opioid antagonist, naloxone, from an approved wholesale distributor, in the event of a student opioid overdose.⁵⁸ School districts are required to maintain the naloxone in a secure location and the school district employee who administers the opioid antagonist in compliance with state law is immune from civil liability.

Opioid receptor antagonists block one or more of the opioid receptors in the central or peripheral nervous system. The two most commonly used centrally acting opioid receptor antagonists are naloxone and naltrexone. Naloxone comes in intravenous, intramuscular, and intranasal formulations and is FDA-approved for the use in an opioid overdose and the reversal of respiratory depression associated with opioid use. Naltrexone is available in both oral and long-acting injectable formulations and is FDA-approved for the treatment of opioid and/or alcohol maintenance treatment. The most commonly used peripheral opioid receptor antagonist is methylnaltrexone, which is a potent competitive antagonist acting at the digestive tract and is also FDA-approved for the treatment of opioid-induced constipation.⁵⁹

Corporal Punishment

District school boards have the option of administering corporal punishment and must establish a policy authorizing the use of corporal punishment as a form of discipline, which must be reviewed every three years. The district school board is required to take public testimony in establishing or reviewing the policy authorizing corporal punishment.⁶⁰ If the school board has a corporal punishment policy it must incorporate that:

- The use of corporal punishment must be approved by the principal before it is used, but approval is not necessary for each specific instance in which it is used. The principal is required to prepare guidelines for administering such punishment that must identify the types of punishable offenses, the conditions under which the punishment is administered, and the specific personnel on the school staff authorized to administer the punishment.
- A teacher or principal may administer corporal punishment only in the presence of another adult who is informed beforehand, and in the student's presence, of the reason for the punishment.
- A teacher or principal who has administered corporal punishment shall, upon request, provide the student's parent with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of the other adult who was present.⁶¹

⁵⁸ Ch. 2022-28, L.O.F. A wholesale distributor means a person, other than a manufacturer, a manufacturer's co-licensed partner, a third-party logistics provider, or a repackager, who is engaged in wholesale distribution.

⁵⁹ *Opioid Antagonists*, Theriot, Jonathan, et. al., (last updated July 23, 2023), available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK537079/#:~:text=3%5D%5B4%5D-.The%20two%20most%20commonly%20used%20centrally%20acting%20opioid%20receptor%20antagonists,depression%20associated%20with%20opioid%20use>. (last visited Mar 17, 2025).

⁶⁰ Section 1002.20(4), F.S.

⁶¹ Section 1003.32(1), F.S.

In the 2023-2024 school year, there were 516 incidents of corporal punishment in 17 school districts.⁶²

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends s. 1002.20, F.S., to modify provisions related to opioid antagonists and corporal punishment in schools. The bill expands the opioid antagonist for purchase by district school boards to specify any emergency opioid antagonist approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), rather than only naloxone.

The bill also requires that if a district school board has a policy authorizing corporal punishment, the policy must include a requirement for parental consent. The policy may specify that parent consent is provided for the entire school year or before each administration of corporal punishment.

The bill amends s. 1002.33, F.S., to require charter schools to comply with the requirements of corporal punishment.

Prohibited Expenditures

Present Situation

Florida Educational Equity Act

The “Florida Educational Equity Act” (FEEA) prohibits discrimination in any program or employment condition on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or marital status against a student or an employee in the state system of public K-20 education.

The FEEA specifies, in part, that:

- No individual may, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or marital status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any public K-20 education program or activity, or in any employment conditions or practices, conducted by a public educational institution that receives or benefits from federal or state financial assistance.
- The criteria for admission to a program or course may not have the effect of restricting access by persons of a particular race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or marital status.⁶³

Included in the prohibition on discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex is subjecting any student or employee to training or instruction that espouses, promotes, advances, inculcates, or compels such student or employee to believe any of the following concepts:

- Members of one race, color, national origin, or sex are morally superior to members of another race, color, national origin, or sex.
- A person, by virtue of his or her race, color, national origin, or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.

⁶² Florida Department of Education, *Discipline Data, 2023-24*, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/file/18612/2324DisciplineReport.xlsx>, (last visited Mar. 17, 2025)

⁶³ Section 1000.05(2), F.S.

- A person's moral character or status as either privileged or oppressed is necessarily determined by his or her race, color, national origin, or sex.
- Members of one race, color, national origin, or sex cannot and should not attempt to treat others without respect to race, color, national origin, or sex.
- A person, by virtue of his or her race, color, national origin, or sex, bears responsibility for, or should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment because of, actions committed in the past by other members of the same race, color, national origin, or sex.
- A person, by virtue of his or her race, color, national origin, or sex, should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment to achieve diversity, equity, or inclusion.
- A person, by virtue of his or her race, color, sex, or national origin, bears personal responsibility for and must feel guilt, anguish, or other forms of psychological distress because of actions, in which the person played no part, committed in the past by other members of the same race, color, national origin, or sex.⁶⁴

Florida College System institution and State University System Prohibited Expenditures

A Florida College System (FCS) institution, state university, FCS institution direct-support organization, or state university direct-support organization may not expend any funds, regardless of source, to purchase membership in, or goods and services from, any organization that discriminates on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or religion.⁶⁵

An FCS institution, state university, FCS institution direct-support organization, or state university direct-support organization may not expend any state or federal funds to promote, support, or maintain any programs or campus activities that:

- Violate Florida's Educational Equity Act
- Advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, or promote or engage in political or social activism, as defined by rules of the State Board of Education and regulations of the Board of Governors.⁶⁶

The requirements for prohibited expenditures do not apply to student fees to support student-led organizations regardless of any speech or expressive activity by such organizations, but the public funds must be allocated to student-led organizations pursuant to written policies or regulations of each FCS institution or state university.⁶⁷ The requirements also do not apply to programs, campus activities, or functions required for compliance with general or federal laws or regulations; for obtaining or retaining institutional or discipline-specific accreditation; or for access programs for military veterans, Pell Grant recipients, first generation college students, nontraditional students, "2+2" transfer students from the FCS, students from low-income families, or students with unique abilities.⁶⁸

⁶⁴ Section 1005.05(4), F.S.

⁶⁵ Section 1004.06(1), F.S.

⁶⁶ Section 1004.06(2), F.S.

⁶⁷ *Id.* Flush left

⁶⁸ Section 1004.06(3)

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill creates s. 1001.325, F.S., to align the expenditure restrictions across different educational institutions. Specifically, it aligns the existing limitations on prohibited expenditures for Florida College System (FCS) institutions and state universities with the purchasing requirements for schools and school districts. The bill specifies that a public school, charter school, school district, charter school administrator, or direct-support organization may not expend any funds, regardless of source, to purchase membership in, or goods and services from, any organization that discriminates on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or religion. The bill also prohibits a public school, charter school, school district, charter school administrator, or direct-support organization from expending any state or federal funds to promote, support, or maintain any programs or campus activities that:

- Violate Florida's Educational Equity Act; or
- Advocate for or promote or engage in political or social activism, as defined by rules of the State Board of Education (SBE).

The bill exempts from prohibited expenditure requirements student fees to support student-led organizations regardless of any speech or expressive activity by such organizations that would otherwise violate the above provisions, but the public funds must be allocated to student-led organizations pursuant to written policies or regulations of the school or district in which the student is enrolled, as applicable. The bill does not prohibit programs, campus activities or functions required for compliance with general or federal laws or regulations, for obtaining or retaining accreditation, or for continuing to receive state funds with the approval of either the SBE or the department.

The bill requires the SBE to adopt rules to implement these requirements.

Florida School Recognition Funding***Present Situation***

The Florida School Recognition Program provides public recognition and financial awards to faculty and staff at schools sustaining high student performance by receiving a school grade of "A" or showing substantial improvement in student performance by improving a letter grade.

Schools that receive financial awards depend on the availability of funds appropriated and the number and size of schools selected to receive an award. The school recognition funds must be distributed to the school's fiscal agent and placed in the school's account and must be used for purposes listed in statute as determined jointly by the school's staff and school advisory council. If school staff and the school advisory council cannot reach agreement by February 1, the awards must be equally distributed to all classroom teachers currently teaching in the school.

The school recognition award funding must be used for the following:

- Nonrecurring bonuses to the faculty and staff.
- Nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment or materials to assist in maintaining and improving student performance.

- Temporary personnel for the school to assist in maintaining and improving student performance.⁶⁹

The 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act allocated \$200,000,000 to schools in the School Recognition program.⁷⁰

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends s. 1008.36, F.S., to clarify that only instructional personnel, which includes classroom teachers, individuals working in student personnel services, librarians/media specialists, education paraprofessionals, and other instructional staff, are eligible for nonrecurring bonuses through the School Recognition awards.

Instructional Personnel

Present Situation

Educator Certification

Educational personnel in public schools must possess appropriate skills in reading, writing, and mathematics; adequate pedagogical knowledge; and relevant subject matter competence to demonstrate an acceptable level of professional performance.⁷¹ For a person to serve as an educator in a traditional public school, charter school, virtual school, or other publicly operated school, the person must hold a certificate issued by the Department of Education (DOE).⁷²

A professional teaching certificate is valid for five school fiscal years and is renewable. A professional certificate is awarded to an applicant who meets the basic eligibility requirements for certification and demonstrates mastery of:

- General knowledge.
- Subject area knowledge. and
- Professional preparation and education competence.⁷³

Acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of general knowledge include:

- Achievement of passing scores on the general knowledge examination.
- Documentation of a valid professional standard teaching certificate issued by another state.
- Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) or a national educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of Education (SBE).
- Documentation of two semesters of successful, full-time or part-time teaching in a Florida College System (FCS) institution, state university, or private college or university that meets certain criteria.

⁶⁹ Section 1008.36, F.S.

⁷⁰ Specific Appropriation 87, ch. 2024-231, L.O.F.

⁷¹ Section 1012.54, F.S.

⁷² Sections 1012.55(1) and 1002.33(12), F.S.

⁷³ Section 1012.56(2), F.S.

- Achievement of passing scores on national or international examinations with comparable verbal, writing, quantitative reasoning, and rigor as the general knowledge exam, including but not limited to Graduate Record Examination.
- Documentation of receipt of a master's or higher degree from an accredited postsecondary educational institution that the DOE has identified as having a quality program resulting in a baccalaureate degree or higher.⁷⁴

A school district that employs an individual who does not achieve passing scores on any subtest of the general knowledge examination must provide information regarding the availability of state-level and district-level supports and instruction to assist him or her in achieving a passing score. The requirement of mastery of general knowledge must be waived for an individual who has been provided three years of support and instruction and who has been rated effective or highly effective for each of the last three years.⁷⁵

The acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of subject area knowledge include:

- Passing a subject area or other alternative examination as approved by the SBE.
- Having a valid teaching certificate from another state, having a valid certificate from the NBPTS.
- A passing score or program completion of a specified defense language proficiency test or program.⁷⁶

The acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of a professional preparation and education competence include:

- Successful completion of an approved teacher preparation program at a postsecondary educational institution within this state and achievement of a passing score on the professional education competency examination required by state board rule.
- Successful completion of a teacher preparation program at a postsecondary educational institution outside Florida and achievement of a passing score on the professional education competency examination required by state board rule.
- Documentation of a valid professional standard teaching certificate issued by another state.
- Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the NBPTS or a national educator credentialing board approved by the SBE.
- Documentation of two semesters of successful, full-time or part-time teaching in an FCS institution, state university, or private college or university that awards an associate or higher degree and is an accredited institution or an institution of higher education identified by the DOE as having a quality program and achievement of a passing score on the professional education competency examination required by SBE rule.
- Successful completion of professional preparation courses as specified in state board rule,
- Successful completion of a professional education competence program and documentation of three years of being rated effective or highly effective while holding a temporary certificate.
- Successful completion of a professional learning certification program.

⁷⁴ Section 1012.56(3), F.S.

⁷⁵ Section 1012.56(3), F.S. (flush left)

⁷⁶ Section 1012.56(5), F.S., and Rule 6A-4.002(4), F.A.C.

- Successful completion of a competency-based certification program and achievement of a passing score on the professional education competency examination required by SBE rule.⁷⁷

American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE)

The ABCTE is run by the nonprofit American Board program which is designed to offer a competency-based alternative path to teaching for career changers with a quick and affordable route to becoming a teacher.⁷⁸ The ABTCE is approved in 15 states to offer teacher certification programs.⁷⁹ In Florida, ABTCE is approved to offer certification programs in the following subject areas:

- Biology (6-12);
- Chemistry (6-12) ;
- Elementary Education (K-6) ;
- English (6-12) ;
- Math (6-12) ;
- Physics (9-12) ;
- Reading (K-6) ;
- Science (5-9) ; and
- Special Education (K-12).⁸⁰

Currently, the DOE allows a teaching candidate with a valid certificate issued by ABCTE to qualify for a temporary certificate. Additionally, the DOE allows a teaching candidate with a valid certificate issued by ABCTE to qualify for a professional certificate if they have completed the one of the requirements for demonstrating professional education competence in the classroom.⁸¹

Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education Program

The Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education Program was created in 2002⁸² to recognize that Florida continues to face teacher shortages, and that fewer young people consider teaching as a career. The Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education Program was established to provide salary, travel, and other related expenses annually for an outstanding Florida teacher (Teacher of the Year) to promote the positive aspects of teaching as a career. The goals of the program are to:

- Enhance the stature of teachers and the teaching profession.
- Promote the importance of quality education and teaching for our future.
- Inspire and attract talented people to become teachers.

⁷⁷ Section 1012.56(6), F.S.

⁷⁸ Teach, *American Board About*, available at <https://www.teach.org/programs/american-board?programId=4918fb59-f054-492d-aad3-7e62061f68f0>, (last visited Mar.17, 2025).

⁷⁹ American Board, *Online Teacher Certification*, available at <https://www.americanboard.org/>, (last visited Mar. 17, 2025). The 15 states include: Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

⁸⁰ American Board, *Florida Teacher Certification*, available at <https://www.americanboard.org/florida/>, (last visited Mar. 17, 2025)

⁸¹ Florida Department of Education, *Certificate Pathways & Routes*, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification/pathways-routes/#direct>, (last visited Mar. 17, 2025).

⁸² Ch. 2002-387, L.O.F.

- Provide information regarding Florida’s scholarship and loan programs related to teaching.
- Promote the teaching profession within community and business groups.
- Provide information to retired military personnel and other individuals who might consider teaching as a second career.
- Work with and represent the Department of Education, as needed.
- Work with and encourage the efforts of school and district teachers of the year.
- Support the activities of the Florida Future Educator of America Program.
- Represent Florida teachers at business, trade, education, and other conferences and meetings.
- Promote the teaching profession in other ways related to the teaching responsibilities, background experiences, and aspirations of the Ambassador for Education.⁸³

The Teacher of the Year is required to serve as the Ambassador for Education for a year. Applications and selection criteria are distributed annually by the Department of Education to all school districts. The Commissioner of Education is required to establish a selection committee which assures representation from teacher organizations, administrators, and parents to select the Teacher of the Year and Ambassador for Education from among the school district teachers of the year.⁸⁴

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends s. 1012.56, F.S., to expand options for educators who hold a valid certificate issued by The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) to have a direct pathway to a professional teaching certificate in Florida. The bill specifies that ABCTE certification satisfies subject area, general knowledge, and professional preparation and educator competence requirements.

The bill amends s. 1012.77, F.S., to include charter school consortia with at least 30 member schools and an approved professional learning system on file with the DOE as eligible entities to nominate teacher-of-the-year candidates.

Background Screenings

Present Situation

In 2012, the Legislature created the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse (clearinghouse) to create a single “program” of screening individuals and allow for the results of criminal history checks of persons acting as covered care providers to be shared among the specified agencies.⁸⁵ Designated agencies include:

- Agency for Health Care Administration (ACHA);
- Department of Health;
- Department of Children and Families;
- Department of Elder Affairs;
- Agency for Persons with Disabilities;
- Department of Education;

⁸³ Section 1012.77(2), F.S.

⁸⁴ Section 1012.77(3), F.S.

⁸⁵ Chapter 2012-73, L.O.F.

- Each school district;
- Developmental Research (Laboratory) Schools;
- Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind;
- Florida Virtual School;
- Virtual instruction programs;
- Charter schools;
- Charter school Hope Operators;
- Private schools participating in an educational scholarship program;
- Alternative schools;
- Regional workforce boards providing services; and
- Local licensing agencies when these agencies are conducting state and national criminal history background screening on persons who work with children or persons who are elderly or disabled.⁸⁶

Once a person's screening record is in the clearinghouse, that person will avoid the need for any future state screens and related fees.⁸⁷ Final implementation of the clearinghouse by the designated state agencies was required by October 1, 2013. The clearinghouse was initially implemented by the AHCA on January 1, 2013.

Background Screening of Individuals at Schools

School districts, lab schools, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, the Florida Virtual School, virtual instruction providers, charter schools, hope operators, early learning coalitions, and private schools participating in an educational scholarship program (education entities, collectively) currently using the Volunteer Employee Criminal Screening History System (VECHS) to conduct background screenings are required to use the clearinghouse beginning on January 1, 2023. Education entities must be fully implemented into the Clearinghouse by January 1, 2025, or by a date determined by the AHCA.⁸⁸

Individuals who work in or provide services to school districts, charter schools, alternative schools, and private schools participating in state school choice scholarship programs⁸⁹ must undergo a fingerprint based background screening before being permitted access to school grounds.⁹⁰ The individuals who must undergo background screening fall under three personnel classifications: instructional and noninstructional personnel;⁹¹ noninstructional school district

⁸⁶ Section 435.02, F.S. (definition of "specified agency").

⁸⁷ Agency for Health Care Administration, *Clearinghouse Renewals*, available at https://ahca.myflorida.com/MCHQ/Central_Services/Background_Screening/Renewals.shtml (last visited on March 18, 2025).

⁸⁸ Section 435.12(1), F.S.

⁸⁹ The background screenings conducted by such private schools are conducted through the VECHS.

⁹⁰ Sections 1002.421, 1012.32(2), 1012.465(2), and 1012.467(2)(a), F.S.

⁹¹ Instructional and noninstructional personnel are individuals who are hired or contracted to fill positions that require direct contact with students in any public school. Section 1012.32(2), F.S.

employees and contracted personnel;⁹² and noninstructional contractors.⁹³ Candidates for educator certification must also undergo background screening.⁹⁴

The background screening requirements for each personnel classification vary depending upon the individual's duties, whether or not the individual is a school district employee, and the degree of contact the individual has with students.⁹⁵ Because they are more likely to have direct contact with students, candidates for educator certification, instructional and noninstructional personnel, and noninstructional school district employees and contracted personnel must be screened against a distinct list of 52 disqualifying offenses applicable to employment with public schools and school districts.⁹⁶

The Commissioner of Education is required to maintain a disqualification list that includes the following:

- The identity of each person who has been permanently denied an educator certificate or whose educator certificate has been permanently revoked and has been placed on the list as directed by the Education Practices Commission pursuant.
- The identity of each person who has been permanently disqualified by the commissioner from owning or operating a private school that participates in state scholarship programs.
- The identity of each person who has been terminated, or has resigned in lieu of termination, from employment as a result of sexual misconduct with a student.⁹⁷
- The identity of each person who is ineligible for educator certification or employment based on the following criteria:
 - Is on the disqualification list.
 - Is registered as a sex offender.
 - Is ineligible based on a Level 2 background screening requirements in law.⁹⁸
 - Is ineligible for an exemption under current law.⁹⁹
 - Has been convicted or found guilty of, has had adjudication withheld for any criminal act in another state or under federal law that would count as a disqualifying offense in Florida.¹⁰⁰

⁹² Noninstructional school district employees and contracted personnel are individuals who are permitted access to school grounds when students are present; who have direct contact with students; or who have access to, or control of, school funds. Section 1012.465(1), F.S.

⁹³ Noninstructional contractors are vendors or contractors who are not school district employees, are permitted access to school grounds when students are present, and have little or no direct contact with students. Section 1012.467(1), F.S.

⁹⁴ Sections 1012.315, 1012.32(2), and 1012.56, F.S.

⁹⁵ See ss. 1012.32(2), 1012.465(2), and 1012.467(2), F.S.

⁹⁶ Sections 1012.315, 1012.32, and 1012.465, F.S.

⁹⁷ Section 1001.10(4)(b), F.S.

⁹⁸ Section 435.04(2), F.S. provides the lists of ineligible criminal offenses a person must not have been arrested for and are awaiting final disposition of; have not been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to; or have not been adjudicated delinquent and the record has not been sealed or expunged

⁹⁹ Section 435.07, F.S. allows certain individuals disqualified from employment due to background screening results to seek an exemption if they demonstrate rehabilitation through clear and convincing evidence, provided they have completed sentencing requirements and paid all court-ordered costs. However, exemptions are prohibited for individuals convicted of severe crimes such as sexual offenses, murder, kidnapping, and certain child-related offenses, as well as registered sex offenders, sexual predators, and career offenders.

¹⁰⁰ Section 1012.315, F.S.

The head of the appropriate agency or qualified entity may grant to any employee or person with an affiliation otherwise disqualified from employment an exemption from disqualification for:

- Felonies for which at least two years have elapsed since the applicant for the exemption has completed or been lawfully released from confinement, supervision, or nonmonetary condition imposed by the court for the disqualifying felony;
- Specified misdemeanors for which the applicant for the exemption has completed or been lawfully released from confinement, supervision, or nonmonetary condition imposed by the court;
- Offenses that were felonies when committed but that are now misdemeanors and for which the applicant for the exemption has completed or been lawfully released from confinement, supervision, or nonmonetary condition imposed by the court; or
- Findings of delinquency. For offenses that would be felonies if committed by an adult and the record has not been sealed or expunged, the exemption may not be granted until at least three years have elapsed since the applicant for the exemption has completed or been lawfully released from confinement, supervision, or nonmonetary condition imposed by the court for the disqualifying offense.¹⁰¹

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends s. 1012.315, F.S., to clarify that the owner or operator of a private school must meet the same background screening requirements as an individual who has direct contact with students. The bill also clarifies that background screening exemptions do not apply to public and private school employees in positions that require direct contact with students. Finally, the bill specifies that persons who apply for certification or employment in positions that may require direct contact with a student are governed by the laws and rules in effect when the application was issued for initial certificate or employment, if continuity of certificates or employment are maintained.

The bill is effective July 1, 2025, except as otherwise specified.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

¹⁰¹ Section 435.07(1), F.S.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to prepare and offer standards of curriculum for instruction related to agricultural education. Additionally, the bill authorizes the DOE to enter into a contract from state or nationally recognized agricultural educational organizations to develop such curriculum. The fiscal impact for the development of the curriculum is indeterminate, but likely insignificant and able to be absorbed within existing resources.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 11.45, 216.251, 447.203, 1000.04, 1001.20, 1001.452, 1002.20, 1002.33, 1002.394, 1002.395, 1002.68, 1002.71, 1002.945, 1003.41, 1003.42, 1003.4201, 1003.4282, 1007.27, 1008.36, 1008.365, 1012.315, 1012.56, and 1012.77.

This bill creates section 1001.325 of the Florida Statutes.

This bill repeals the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1002.351, 1008.2125, 1011.58, and 1011.59.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.



847128

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

The Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education (Calatayud) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 505 and 506
insert:

Section 13. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (19) of
section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, to read:

1002.42 Private schools.—

(19) FACILITIES.—

(c) A private school located in a county with four
incorporated municipalities may construct new facilities, which



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11 may be temporary or permanent, on property purchased from or
12 owned or leased by a library, community service organization,
13 museum, performing arts venue, theater, cinema, or church under
14 s. 170.201, which is or was actively used as such within 5 years
15 of any executed agreement with a private school; any land owned
16 by a Florida College System institution or state university; and
17 any land recently used to house a school or child care facility
18 licensed under s. 402.305 under its preexisting zoning and land
19 use designations without rezoning or obtaining a special
20 exception or a land use change and without complying with any
21 mitigation requirements or conditions. The new facility must be
22 located on property used solely for purposes described in this
23 paragraph and must meet applicable state and local health,
24 safety, and welfare laws, codes, and rules, including firesafety
25 and building safety.

26
27 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

28 And the title is amended as follows:

29 Between lines 51 and 52

30 insert:

31 amending s. 1002.42, F.S.; authorizing certain private
32 schools to construct new facilities on property that
33 meets specified criteria;



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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: WD	.	
03/24/2025	.	
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The Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education (Calatayud) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with directory and title amendments)

Between lines 685 and 686
insert:

(f) *One credit in physical education.*—Physical education must include the integration of health. Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity or varsity level for two full seasons satisfies ~~shall satisfy~~ the one-credit requirement in physical education. Completion of 2 years of marching band satisfies the one-credit requirement in physical



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education. A district school board may not require that the one credit in physical education be taken during the 9th grade year. Completion of one semester of a dance class with a passing grade satisfies the one-credit requirement in physical education.

~~Completion of one semester with a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class, in a physical activity class that requires participation in marching band activities as an extracurricular activity, or in a dance class shall satisfy one-half credit in physical education or one-half credit in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an individual education plan (IEP) or 504 plan. Completion of 2 years in a Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) class, a significant component of which is drills, satisfies ~~shall~~ ~~satisfy~~ the one-credit requirement in physical education and the one-credit requirement in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an IEP or 504 plan.~~

=====
D I R E C T O R Y C L A U S E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the directory clause is amended as follows:

Delete lines 681 - 682

and insert:

Section 19. Paragraphs (f) and (h) of subsection (3) of section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

And the title is amended as follows:



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40 Delete line 87
41 and insert:
42 teachers; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; revising
43 physical education requirements for a standard high
44 school diploma; adding

By Senator Calatayud

38-00773A-25

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to prekindergarten through grade 12
 3 education; amending s. 11.45, F.S.; removing the
 4 Florida School for Competitive Academics from audit
 5 requirements; amending s. 216.251, F.S.; removing the
 6 Florida School for Competitive Academics from
 7 specified classification and pay plans; amending s.
 8 447.203, F.S.; removing the Florida School for
 9 Competitive Academics from the definition of a public
 10 employer; amending s. 1000.04, F.S.; removing the
 11 Florida School for Competitive Academics from the
 12 components of Florida's Early Learning-20 education
 13 system; amending s. 1001.20, F.S.; removing the
 14 Florida School for Competitive Academics from the
 15 duties of the Office of Inspector General within the
 16 Department of Education; creating s. 1001.325, F.S.;
 17 prohibiting the expenditure of funds by public
 18 schools, charter schools, school districts, charter
 19 school administrators, or direct-support organizations
 20 to purchase membership in, or goods or services from,
 21 any organization that discriminates on the basis of
 22 race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or
 23 religion; prohibiting the expenditure of funds by
 24 public schools, charter schools, school districts,
 25 charter school administrators, or direct-support
 26 organizations to promote, support, or maintain certain
 27 programs or activities; authorizing the use of student
 28 fees and school or district facilities by student-led
 29 organizations under certain circumstances; providing

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

38-00773A-25

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30 construction; requiring the State Board of Education
 31 to adopt rules; amending s. 1001.452, F.S.; deleting a
 32 provision requiring the Commissioner of Education to
 33 determine whether school districts have maximized
 34 efforts to include minority persons and persons of
 35 lower socioeconomic status on their school advisory
 36 councils; amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; authorizing
 37 public schools to purchase or enter into arrangements
 38 for certain emergency opioid antagonists, rather than
 39 only for naloxone; requiring that district school
 40 board policies authorizing corporal punishment include
 41 a requirement that parental consent be provided before
 42 the administration of corporal punishment; amending s.
 43 1002.33, F.S.; requiring a charter school to comply
 44 with statute relating to corporal punishment;
 45 repealing s. 1002.351, F.S., relating to the Florida
 46 School for Competitive Academics; amending s.
 47 1002.394, F.S.; removing the Florida School for
 48 Competitive Academics from Family Empowerment
 49 Scholarship prohibitions; amending s. 1002.395, F.S.;
 50 removing the Florida School for Competitive Academics
 51 from Florida Tax Credit Scholarship prohibitions;
 52 amending s. 1002.68, F.S.; deleting a provision
 53 requiring the department to confer with the Council
 54 for Early Grade Success before receiving a certain
 55 approval; amending s. 1002.71, F.S.; revising the
 56 conditions under which a student may withdraw from a
 57 prekindergarten program and reenroll in another
 58 program; amending s. 1002.945, F.S.; revising the

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59 criteria required for a child care facility, large
 60 family child care home, or family day care home to
 61 obtain and maintain a designation as a Gold Seal
 62 Quality Care provider; amending s. 1003.41, F.S.;
 63 requiring that certain standards documents contain
 64 only academic standards and benchmarks; requiring the
 65 Commissioner of Education to revise currently approved
 66 standards documents and submit them to the state board
 67 by a specified date; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.;
 68 revising required instruction on the principles of
 69 agriculture; requiring the department to collaborate
 70 with specified entities to develop associated
 71 standards and a curriculum; authorizing the department
 72 to contract with certain agricultural education
 73 organizations; amending s. 1003.4201, F.S.;
 74 authorizing the inclusion of intensive reading
 75 interventions in a school district comprehensive
 76 reading instruction plan; requiring that intensive
 77 reading interventions be delivered by instructional
 78 personnel who possess a micro-credential or are
 79 certified or endorsed in reading; requiring that such
 80 interventions incorporate certain strategies;
 81 requiring that instructional personnel with a micro-
 82 credential be supervised by an individual certified or
 83 endorsed in reading; defining the term "supervised";
 84 authorizing the inclusion in the reading instruction
 85 plans of a description of how school districts
 86 prioritize the assignment of highly effective
 87 teachers; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; adding

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88 components to required instruction on financial
 89 literacy; amending s. 1007.27, F.S.; requiring the
 90 state board to identify national consortia to develop
 91 certain courses; authorizing the department to join or
 92 establish a national consortium as an additional
 93 alternative method to develop and implement advanced
 94 placement courses; repealing s. 1008.2125, F.S.,
 95 relating to the Council for Early Grade Success;
 96 amending s. 1008.36, F.S.; specifying the recipients
 97 of school recognition bonus funds; amending s.
 98 1008.365, F.S.; revising the types of tutoring hours
 99 that may be counted toward meeting the community
 100 service requirements for the Bright Futures
 101 Scholarship Program; repealing s. 1011.58, F.S.,
 102 relating to legislative budget requests of the Florida
 103 School for Competitive Academics; repealing s.
 104 1011.59, F.S., relating to funds for the Florida
 105 School for Competitive Academics; amending s.
 106 1012.315, F.S.; revising educator certification and
 107 certain employment screening standards; making
 108 technical changes; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.;
 109 authorizing individuals to demonstrate mastery of
 110 general knowledge, subject area knowledge, or
 111 professional preparation and education competence by
 112 providing a school district with documentation of a
 113 valid certificate issued by the American Board for
 114 Certification of Teacher Excellence; amending s.
 115 1012.77, F.S.; conforming a provision to a change made
 116 by the act; specifying entities eligible to submit

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117 nominees for the Teacher of the Year and Ambassador
 118 for Education awards; providing effective dates.

119
 120 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

121
 122 Section 1. Paragraphs (d) and (f) of subsection (2) of
 123 section 11.45, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

124 11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules.—

125 (2) DUTIES.—The Auditor General shall:

126 (d) Annually conduct financial audits of the accounts and
 127 records of all district school boards in counties with
 128 populations of less ~~fewer~~ than 150,000, according to the most
 129 recent federal decennial statewide census; and the Florida
 130 School for the Deaf and the Blind; ~~and the Florida School for~~
 131 ~~Competitive Academies.~~

132 (f) At least every 3 years, conduct operational audits of
 133 the accounts and records of state agencies, state universities,
 134 state colleges, district school boards, the Florida Clerks of
 135 Court Operations Corporation, water management districts, and
 136 the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; ~~and the Florida~~
 137 ~~School for Competitive Academies.~~

138
 139 The Auditor General shall perform his or her duties
 140 independently but under the general policies established by the
 141 Legislative Auditing Committee. This subsection does not limit
 142 the Auditor General's discretionary authority to conduct other
 143 audits or engagements of governmental entities as authorized in
 144 subsection (3).

145 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section

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146 216.251, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

147 216.251 Salary appropriations; limitations.—

148 (2) (a) The salary for each position not specifically
 149 indicated in the appropriations acts shall be as provided in one
 150 of the following subparagraphs:

151 1. Within the classification and pay plans provided for in
 152 chapter 110.

153 2. Within the classification and pay plans established by
 154 the Board of Trustees for the Florida School for the Deaf and
 155 the Blind of the Department of Education and approved by the
 156 State Board of Education for academic and academic
 157 administrative personnel.

158 3. Within the classification and pay plan approved and
 159 administered by the Board of Governors or the designee of the
 160 board for those positions in the State University System.

161 4. Within the classification and pay plan approved by the
 162 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
 163 Representatives, as the case may be, for employees of the
 164 Legislature.

165 5. Within the approved classification and pay plan for the
 166 judicial branch.

167 ~~6. Within the classification and pay plans established by~~
 168 ~~the Board of Trustees for the Florida School for Competitive~~
 169 ~~Academies of the Department of Education and approved by the~~
 170 ~~State Board of Education for academic and academic~~
 171 ~~administrative personnel.~~

172 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 447.203, Florida
 173 Statutes, is amended to read:

174 447.203 Definitions.—As used in this part:

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175 (2) "Public employer" or "employer" means the state or any
 176 county, municipality, or special district or any subdivision or
 177 agency thereof which the commission determines has sufficient
 178 legal distinctiveness properly to carry out the functions of a
 179 public employer. With respect to all public employees determined
 180 by the commission as properly belonging to a statewide
 181 bargaining unit composed of State Career Service System
 182 employees or Selected Professional Service employees, the
 183 Governor is deemed to be the public employer; and the Board of
 184 Governors of the State University System, or the board's
 185 designee, is deemed to be the public employer with respect to
 186 all public employees of each constituent state university. The
 187 board of trustees of a community college is deemed to be the
 188 public employer with respect to all employees of the community
 189 college. The district school board is deemed to be the public
 190 employer with respect to all employees of the school district.
 191 The Board of Trustees of the Florida School for the Deaf and the
 192 Blind is deemed to be the public employer with respect to the
 193 academic and academic administrative personnel of the Florida
 194 School for the Deaf and the Blind. ~~The Board of Trustees of the~~
 195 ~~Florida School for Competitive Academics is deemed to be the~~
 196 ~~public employer with respect to the academic and academic~~
 197 ~~administrative personnel of the Florida School for Competitive~~
 198 ~~Academics.~~ The Governor is deemed to be the public employer with
 199 respect to all employees in the Correctional Education Program
 200 of the Department of Corrections established pursuant to s.
 201 944.801.

202 Section 4. Subsection (7) of section 1000.04, Florida
 203 Statutes, is amended to read:

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204 1000.04 Components for the delivery of public education
 205 within the Florida Early Learning-20 education system.—Florida's
 206 Early Learning-20 education system provides for the delivery of
 207 early learning and public education through publicly supported
 208 and controlled K-12 schools, Florida College System
 209 institutions, state universities and other postsecondary
 210 educational institutions, other educational institutions, and
 211 other educational services as provided or authorized by the
 212 Constitution and laws of the state.

213 ~~(7) THE FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR COMPETITIVE ACADEMICS.—The~~
 214 ~~Florida School for Competitive Academics is a component of the~~
 215 ~~delivery of public education within Florida's Early Learning-20~~
 216 ~~education system.—~~

217 Section 5. Paragraph (e) of subsection (4) of section
 218 1001.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

219 1001.20 Department under direction of state board.—

220 (4) The Department of Education shall establish the
 221 following offices within the Office of the Commissioner of
 222 Education which shall coordinate their activities with all other
 223 divisions and offices:

224 (e) *Office of Inspector General.*—Organized using existing
 225 resources and funds and responsible for promoting
 226 accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness and detecting
 227 fraud and abuse within school districts, the Florida School for
 228 the Deaf and the Blind, ~~the Florida School for Competitive~~
 229 ~~Academics,~~ and Florida College System institutions in Florida.
 230 If the Commissioner of Education determines that a district
 231 school board, the Board of Trustees for the Florida School for
 232 the Deaf and the Blind, ~~the Board of Trustees for the Florida~~

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~~School for Competitive Academies~~, or a Florida College System institution board of trustees is unwilling or unable to address substantiated allegations made by any person relating to waste, fraud, or financial mismanagement within the school district, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, ~~the Florida School for Competitive Academies~~, or the Florida College System institution, the office must conduct, coordinate, or request investigations into such substantiated allegations. The office shall investigate allegations or reports of possible fraud or abuse against a district school board made by any member of the Cabinet; the presiding officer of either house of the Legislature; a chair of a substantive or appropriations committee with jurisdiction; or a member of the board for which an investigation is sought. The office may investigate allegations or reports of suspected violations of a student's, parent's, or teacher's rights. The office shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to perform its duties and shall have all of its current powers, duties, and responsibilities authorized in s. 20.055.

Section 6. Section 1001.325, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1001.325 Prohibited expenditures.—

(1) A public school, charter school, school district, charter school administrator, or direct-support organization may not expend any funds, regardless of source, to purchase membership in, or goods and services from, any organization that discriminates on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or religion.

(2) A public school, charter school, school district,

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charter school administrator, or direct-support organization may not expend any state or federal funds to promote, support, or maintain any programs or campus activities that:

(a) Violate s. 1000.05; or

(b) Advocate, promote, or engage in political or social activism, as defined by the State Board of Education.

Student fees to support student-led organizations are permitted notwithstanding any speech or expressive activity by such organizations which would otherwise violate this subsection, provided that public funds are allocated to student-led organizations pursuant to written policies or regulations of the school or district in which the student is enrolled, as applicable. Use of school or district facilities by student-led organizations is permitted notwithstanding any speech or expressive activity by such organizations which would otherwise violate this subsection, provided that such use is granted to student-led organizations pursuant to written policies or regulations of the school or school district, as applicable.

(3) Subsection (2) does not prohibit programs, campus activities, or functions required for compliance with general or federal laws or regulations, for obtaining or retaining accreditation, or for continuing to receive state funds with the approval of either the State Board of Education or the department.

(4) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1001.452, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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291 1001.452 District and school advisory councils.-
 292 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.-
 293 (a) The district school board shall establish an advisory
 294 council for each school in the district and shall develop
 295 procedures for the election and appointment of advisory council
 296 members. Each school advisory council shall include in its name
 297 the words "school advisory council." The school advisory council
 298 shall be the sole body responsible for final decisionmaking at
 299 the school relating to implementation of ss. 1001.42(18) and
 300 1008.345. A majority of the members of each school advisory
 301 council must be persons who are not employed by the school
 302 district. Each advisory council shall be composed of the
 303 principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers,
 304 education support employees, students, parents, and other
 305 business and community citizens who are representative of the
 306 ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school.
 307 Career center and high school advisory councils shall include
 308 students, and middle and junior high school advisory councils
 309 may include students. School advisory councils of career centers
 310 and adult education centers are not required to include parents
 311 as members. Council members representing teachers, education
 312 support employees, students, and parents shall be elected by
 313 their respective peer groups at the school in a fair and
 314 equitable manner as follows:
 315 1. Teachers shall be elected by teachers.
 316 2. Education support employees shall be elected by
 317 education support employees.
 318 3. Students shall be elected by students.
 319 4. Parents shall be elected by parents.

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320
 321 The district school board shall establish procedures to be used
 322 by schools in selecting business and community members which
 323 ~~that~~ include means of ensuring wide notice of vacancies and of
 324 taking input on possible members from local business, chambers
 325 of commerce, community and civic organizations and groups, and
 326 the public at large. The district school board shall review the
 327 membership composition of each advisory council. If the district
 328 school board determines that the membership elected by the
 329 school is not representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic
 330 community served by the school, the district school board must
 331 ~~shall~~ appoint additional members to achieve proper
 332 representation. ~~The commissioner shall determine if schools have~~
 333 ~~maximized their efforts to include on their advisory councils~~
 334 ~~minority persons and persons of lower socioeconomic status.~~
 335 Although schools are strongly encouraged to establish school
 336 advisory councils, the district school board of any school
 337 district that has a student population of 10,000 or less ~~fewer~~
 338 may establish a district advisory council which includes at
 339 least one duly elected teacher from each school in the district.
 340 For the purposes of school advisory councils and district
 341 advisory councils, the term "teacher" includes classroom
 342 teachers, certified student services personnel, and media
 343 specialists. For purposes of this paragraph, "education support
 344 employee" means any person employed by a school who is not
 345 defined as instructional or administrative personnel pursuant to
 346 s. 1012.01 and whose duties require 20 or more hours in each
 347 normal working week.
 348 Section 8. Paragraph (o) of subsection (3) and paragraph

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(c) of subsection (4) of section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

(3) HEALTH ISSUES.—

(o) Emergency opioid antagonist ~~Naloxone~~ use and supply.—

1. A public school may purchase a supply of an emergency opioid antagonist approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ~~naloxone~~ from a wholesale distributor as defined in s. 499.003 or may enter into an arrangement with a wholesale distributor or manufacturer as defined in s. 499.003 for an FDA-approved emergency opioid antagonist ~~naloxone~~ at fair-market, free, or reduced prices for use in the event that a student has an opioid overdose. The FDA-approved emergency opioid antagonist ~~naloxone~~ must be maintained in a secure location on the public school's premises.

2. A school district employee who administers an approved emergency opioid antagonist to a student in compliance with ss. 381.887 and 768.13 is immune from civil liability under s. 768.13.

(4) DISCIPLINE.—

(c) Corporal punishment.—

1. In accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.32, corporal punishment of a public school student may only be administered by a teacher or school principal within guidelines

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of the school principal and according to district school board policy. Another adult must be present and must be informed in the student's presence of the reason for the punishment. Upon request, the teacher or school principal must provide the parent with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of the other adult who was present.

2. A district school board having a policy authorizing the use of corporal punishment as a form of discipline shall include in such policy a requirement that a parent provide consent for the school to administer corporal punishment. The district school board policy may require such consent for the school year, or before each administration. The district school board shall review its policy on corporal punishment once every 3 years during a district school board meeting held pursuant to s. 1001.372. The district school board shall take public testimony at the board meeting. If such board meeting is not held in accordance with this subparagraph, the portion of the district school board's policy authorizing corporal punishment expires.

Section 9. Paragraph (b) of subsection (16) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.—

(16) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—

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

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

2. Chapter 119, relating to public records.

3. Section 1003.03, relating to the maximum class size, except that the calculation for compliance pursuant to s.

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1003.03 shall be the average at the school level.

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

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

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

7. Section 1012.34, relating to the substantive requirements for performance evaluations for instructional personnel and school administrators.

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

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

10. Section 1006.07(9), relating to School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting.

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

12. Section 1006.1493, relating to the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool.

13. Section 1006.07(6)(d), relating to adopting an active assailant response plan.

14. Section 943.082(4)(b), relating to the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool.

15. Section 1012.584, relating to youth mental health awareness and assistance training.

16. Section 1001.42(4)(f)2., relating to middle school and high school start times. A charter school-in-the-workplace is exempt from this requirement.

17. Section 1002.20(4)(c), relating to school corporal punishment.

Section 10. Section 1002.351, Florida Statutes, is

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repealed.

Section 11. Subsection (6) of section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

(6) SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS.—A student is not eligible for a Family Empowerment Scholarship while he or she is:

(a) Enrolled full time in a public school, including, but not limited to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, the College-Preparatory Boarding Academy, ~~the Florida School for Competitive Academics,~~ the Florida Virtual School, the Florida Scholars Academy, a developmental research school authorized under s. 1002.32, or a charter school authorized under this chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, a 3- or 4-year-old child who receives services funded through the Florida Education Finance Program is considered to be a student enrolled in a public school;

(b) Enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program;

(c) Receiving any other educational scholarship pursuant to this chapter. However, an eligible public school student receiving a scholarship under s. 1002.411 may receive a scholarship for transportation pursuant to subparagraph (4)(a)2.;

(d) Not having regular and direct contact with his or her private school teachers pursuant to s. 1002.421(1)(i), unless he or she is eligible pursuant to paragraph (3)(b) and enrolled in the participating private school's transition-to-work program pursuant to subsection (16) or a home education program pursuant

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465 to s. 1002.41;

466 (e) Participating in a private tutoring program pursuant to
467 s. 1002.43 unless he or she is determined eligible pursuant to
468 paragraph (3)(b); or

469 (f) Participating in virtual instruction pursuant to s.
470 1002.455 that receives state funding pursuant to the student's
471 participation.

472 Section 12. Subsection (4) of section 1002.395, Florida
473 Statutes, is amended to read:

474 1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—

475 (4) SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS.—A student is not eligible for
476 a scholarship while he or she is:

477 (a) Enrolled full time in a public school, including, but
478 not limited to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind,
479 the College-Preparatory Boarding Academy, ~~the Florida School for~~
480 ~~Competitive Academics,~~ the Florida Virtual School, the Florida
481 Scholars Academy, a developmental research school authorized
482 under s. 1002.32, or a charter school authorized under this
483 chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, a 3- or 4-year-old
484 child who receives services funded through the Florida Education
485 Finance Program is considered a student enrolled full time in a
486 public school;

487 (b) Enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of
488 providing educational services to youth in a Department of
489 Juvenile Justice commitment program;

490 (c) Receiving any other educational scholarship pursuant to
491 this chapter. However, an eligible public school student
492 receiving a scholarship under s. 1002.411 may receive a
493 scholarship for transportation pursuant to subparagraph

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494 (6)(d)4.;

495 (d) Not having regular and direct contact with his or her
496 private school teachers pursuant to s. 1002.421(1)(i) unless he
497 or she is enrolled in a personalized education program;

498 (e) Participating in a home education program as defined in
499 s. 1002.01(1);

500 (f) Participating in a private tutoring program pursuant to
501 s. 1002.43 unless he or she is enrolled in a personalized
502 education program; or

503 (g) Participating in virtual instruction pursuant to s.
504 1002.455 that receives state funding pursuant to the student's
505 participation.

506 Section 13. Paragraph (e) of subsection (4) of section
507 1002.68, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

508 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
509 accountability.—

510 (4)

511 (e) Subject to an appropriation, the department shall
512 provide for a differential payment to a private prekindergarten
513 provider and public school based on the provider's designation.
514 The maximum differential payment may not exceed a total of 15
515 percent of the base student allocation per full-time equivalent
516 student under s. 1002.71 attending in the consecutive program
517 year for that program. A private prekindergarten provider or
518 public school may not receive a differential payment if it
519 receives a designation of "proficient" or lower. ~~Before the~~
520 ~~adoption of the methodology, the department shall confer with~~
521 ~~the Council for Early Grade Success under s. 1008.2125 before~~
522 ~~receiving approval from the State Board of Education for the~~

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~~final recommendations on the designation system and differential payments.~~

Section 14. Subsection (4) of section 1002.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

(4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):

(a) A child who, ~~for any of the prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3),~~ has not completed any of the prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) ~~more than 70 percent of the hours authorized to be reported for funding under subsection (2), or has not expended more than 70 percent of the funds authorized for the child under s. 1002.66,~~ may withdraw from the program for good cause and reenroll in one of the programs. The total funding for a child who reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause may not exceed one full-time equivalent student. Funding for a child who withdraws and reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause must ~~shall~~ be issued in accordance with the department's uniform attendance policy adopted pursuant to paragraph (6)(d).

(b) A child who has not ~~substantially~~ completed any of the prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) may withdraw from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the child's or parent's control, reenroll in one of the summer programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time equivalent student in the summer program for which the child is reenrolled.

A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten

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program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from the program and reenroll, unless the child is granted a good cause exemption under this subsection. The department shall establish criteria specifying whether a good cause exists for a child to withdraw from a program under paragraph (a), ~~whether a child has substantially completed a program under paragraph (b),~~ and whether an extreme hardship exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under paragraph (b).

Section 15. Paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section 1002.945, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.945 Gold Seal Quality Care Program.—

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

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

Section 16. Subsection (3) of section 1003.41, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.41 State academic standards.—

(3) The Commissioner of Education shall, as deemed necessary, develop and submit proposed revisions to the standards for review and comment by Florida educators, school administrators, representatives of the Florida College System

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institutions and state universities who have expertise in the content knowledge and skills necessary to prepare a student for postsecondary education and careers, a representative from the Department of Commerce, business and industry leaders for in-demand careers, and the public. The commissioner, after considering reviews and comments, shall submit the proposed revisions to the State Board of Education for adoption. New and revised standards documents submitted for approval to the state board must consist only of academic standards and benchmarks. The commissioner shall revise all currently approved standards documents based on the requirements of this subsection and submit all revised standards documents to the state board for approval no later than July 1, 2026.

Section 17. Paragraph (j) of subsection (2) of section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.42 Required instruction.—

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

(j) The elementary principles of agriculture. This component must include, but need not be limited to, the history of agriculture both nationally and specifically to this state, the economic and societal impact of agriculture, and the various agricultural industry sectors. The department, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the

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University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, shall prepare and offer standards and a curriculum for the instruction required by this paragraph and may seek input from state or nationally recognized agricultural educational organizations. The department may contract with state or nationally recognized agricultural educational organizations to develop training for instructional personnel and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support the developed curriculum.

The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection. Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (u).

Section 18. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1003.4201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4201 Comprehensive system of reading instruction.—Each school district must implement a system of comprehensive reading instruction for students enrolled in prekindergarten through grade 12 and certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy.

(2)(a) Components of the reading instruction plan may include the following:

1. Additional time per day of evidence-based intensive reading instruction for kindergarten through grade 12 students, which may be delivered during or outside of the regular school

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639 day.

640 2. Highly qualified reading coaches, who must be endorsed
641 in reading, to specifically support classroom teachers in making
642 instructional decisions based on progress monitoring data
643 collected pursuant to s. 1008.25(9) and improve classroom
644 teacher delivery of effective reading instruction, reading
645 intervention, and reading in the content areas based on student
646 need.

647 3. Professional learning to help instructional personnel
648 and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida
649 Education Finance Program earn a certification, a credential, an
650 endorsement, or an advanced degree in scientifically researched
651 and evidence-based reading instruction.

652 4. Summer reading camps, using only classroom teachers or
653 other district personnel who possess a micro-credential as
654 specified in s. 1003.485 or are certified or endorsed in reading
655 consistent with s. 1008.25(8)(b)3., for all students in
656 kindergarten through grade 5 exhibiting a reading deficiency as
657 determined by district and state assessments.

658 5. Intensive reading interventions, which must be delivered
659 by instructional personnel who possess a micro-credential as
660 provided in s. 1003.485 or are certified or endorsed in reading
661 as provided in s. 1012.586 and must incorporate evidence-based
662 strategies identified by the Just Read, Florida! office pursuant
663 to s. 1001.215(7). Instructional personnel who possess a micro-
664 credential as specified in s. 1003.485 and are delivering
665 intensive reading interventions must be supervised by an
666 individual certified or endorsed in reading. For the purposes of
667 this subparagraph, the term "supervised" means that

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668 instructional personnel with a micro-credential are able,
669 through telecommunication or in person, to communicate and
670 consult with, and receive direction from, certified or endorsed
671 personnel. Incentives for instructional personnel and certified
672 prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida Education Finance
673 Program who possess a reading certification or endorsement as
674 specified in s. 1012.586 or micro-credential as specified in s.
675 1003.485 and provide educational support to improve student
676 literacy.

677 6. Tutoring in reading.

678 7. A description of how the district prioritizes the
679 assignment of highly effective teachers, as identified in s.
680 1012.34(2)(e), from kindergarten to grade 2.

681 Section 19. Paragraph (h) of subsection (3) of section
682 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

683 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

684 (3) STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; COURSE AND ASSESSMENT
685 REQUIREMENTS.—

686 (h) *One-half credit in personal financial literacy.*—
687 Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school
688 year, each student must earn one-half credit in personal
689 financial literacy and money management. This instruction must
690 include discussion of or instruction in all of the following:

691 1. Types of bank accounts offered, opening and managing a
692 bank account, and assessing the quality of a depository
693 institution's services.

694 2. Balancing a checkbook.

695 3. Basic principles of money management, such as spending,
696 credit, credit scores, and managing debt, including retail and

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credit card debt.

4. Completing a loan application.
5. Receiving an inheritance and related implications.
6. Basic principles of personal insurance policies.
7. Computing federal income taxes.
8. Local tax assessments.
9. Computing interest rates by various mechanisms.
10. Simple contracts.
11. Contesting an incorrect billing statement.
12. Types of savings and investments.
13. State and federal laws concerning finance.

14. Costs of postsecondary education, including cost of attendance, completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, scholarships and grants, and student loans.

Section 20. Effective upon becoming a law, paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1007.27, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (d) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

1007.27 Articulated acceleration mechanisms.—

(1)

(b) The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall identify Florida College System institutions, ~~and~~ state universities, and national consortia to develop courses that align with s. 1007.25 for students in secondary education and provide the training required under s. 1007.35(6).

(2)

(d) The department may join or establish a national consortium as an alternative method to develop and implement advanced placement courses that align with s. 1007.25.

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Section 21. Section 1008.2125, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 22. Subsections (1) and (5) of section 1008.36, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1008.36 Florida School Recognition Program.—

(1) The Legislature finds that there is a need for a performance incentive program for outstanding instructional personnel ~~faculty and staff~~ in highly productive schools. The Legislature further finds that performance-based incentives are commonplace in the private sector and should be infused into the public sector as a reward for productivity.

(5) School recognition awards must be used for the following:

(a) Nonrecurring bonuses to the instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2) ~~faculty and staff~~;

(b) Nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment or materials to assist in maintaining and improving student performance; or

(c) Temporary personnel for the school to assist in maintaining and improving student performance.

Notwithstanding statutory provisions to the contrary, incentive awards are not subject to collective bargaining.

Section 23. Paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section 1008.365, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.365 Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Act.—

(8) As part of the RAISE Program, the department shall establish a tutoring program and develop training in effective

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reading tutoring practices and content, based on evidence-based practices grounded in the science of reading and aligned to the English Language Arts standards under s. 1003.41, which prepares eligible high school students to tutor students in kindergarten through grade 3 in schools identified under this section, instilling in those students a love of reading and improving their literacy skills.

(c) Tutoring may be part of a service-learning course adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497. Students may earn up to three elective credits for high school graduation based on the verified number of hours the student spends tutoring under the program. The hours of volunteer service must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and an administrator or designee of the school in which the tutoring occurred. The ~~Unpaid~~ hours that a high school student devotes to tutoring may be counted toward meeting community service requirements for high school graduation and community service requirements for participation in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program as provided in s. 1003.497(3)(b). The department shall designate a high school student who provides at least 75 verified hours of tutoring under the program as a New Worlds Scholar and award the student with a pin indicating such designation.

Section 24. Section 1011.58, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 25. Section 1011.59, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 26. Section 1012.315, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.315 Screening standards.—

(1) A person is ineligible for educator certification or

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employment in any position that requires direct contact with students in a district school system, a charter school, or a private school that participates in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002 if the person:

(a) ~~(1)~~ Is on the disqualification list maintained by the department under s. 1001.10(4)(b);

(b) ~~(2)~~ Is registered as a sex offender as described in 42 U.S.C. s. 9858f(c)(1)(C);

(c) ~~(3)~~ Is ineligible based on a security background investigation under s. 435.04(2). Beginning January 1, 2025, or a later date as determined by the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Agency for Health Care Administration shall determine the eligibility of employees in any position that requires direct contact with students in a district school system, a charter school, or a private school that participates in a state scholarship program under chapter 1002;

(d) ~~(4)~~ Would be ineligible for an exemption under s. 435.07(4)(c); or

(e) ~~(5)~~ Has been convicted or found guilty of, has had adjudication withheld for, or has pled guilty or nolo contendere to:

1. ~~(a)~~ Any criminal act committed in another state or under federal law which, if committed in this state, constitutes a disqualifying offense under s. 435.04(2).

2. ~~(b)~~ Any delinquent act committed in this state or any delinquent or criminal act committed in another state or under federal law which, if committed in this state, qualifies an individual for inclusion on the Registered Juvenile Sex Offender List under s. 943.0435(1)(h)1.d.

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813 (2) Notwithstanding ss. 435.01 and 435.07, a person who
 814 undergoes screening pursuant to this chapter or s. 1002.421 may
 815 not seek an exemption.

816 (3) Persons who apply for certification or employment are
 817 governed by the law and rules in effect at the time of
 818 application for issuance of the initial certificate or
 819 employment, provided that continuity of certificates or
 820 employment is maintained.

821 Section 27. Subsections (3), (5), and (6) of section
 822 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

823 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

824 (3) MASTERY OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.—Acceptable means of
 825 demonstrating mastery of general knowledge are:

826 (a) Achievement of passing scores on the general knowledge
 827 examination required by state board rule;

828 (b) Documentation of a valid professional standard teaching
 829 certificate issued by another state;

830 (c) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the
 831 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), the
 832 American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE),
 833 or a national educator credentialing board approved by the State
 834 Board of Education;

835 (d) Documentation of two semesters of successful, full-time
 836 or part-time teaching in a Florida College System institution,
 837 state university, or private college or university that awards
 838 an associate or higher degree and is an accredited institution
 839 or an institution of higher education identified by the
 840 Department of Education as having a quality program;

841 (e) Achievement of passing scores, identified in state

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842 board rule, on national or international examinations that test
 843 comparable content and relevant standards in verbal, analytical
 844 writing, and quantitative reasoning skills, including, but not
 845 limited to, the verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative
 846 reasoning portions of the Graduate Record Examination and the
 847 SAT, ACT, and Classic Learning Test. Passing scores identified
 848 in state board rule must be at approximately the same level of
 849 rigor as is required to pass the general knowledge examinations;
 850 or

851 (f) Documentation of receipt of a master's or higher degree
 852 from an accredited postsecondary educational institution that
 853 the Department of Education has identified as having a quality
 854 program resulting in a baccalaureate degree or higher.

855
 856 A school district that employs an individual who does not
 857 achieve passing scores on any subtest of the general knowledge
 858 examination must provide information regarding the availability
 859 of state-level and district-level supports and instruction to
 860 assist him or her in achieving a passing score. Such information
 861 must include, but need not be limited to, state-level test
 862 information guides, school district test preparation resources,
 863 and preparation courses offered by state universities and
 864 Florida College System institutions. The requirement of mastery
 865 of general knowledge must ~~shall~~ be waived for an individual who
 866 has been provided 3 years of supports and instruction and who
 867 has been rated effective or highly effective under s. 1012.34
 868 for each of the last 3 years.

869 (5) MASTERY OF SUBJECT AREA KNOWLEDGE.—Acceptable means of
 870 demonstrating mastery of subject area knowledge are:

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871 (a) For a subject requiring only a baccalaureate degree for
 872 which a Florida subject area examination has been developed,
 873 achievement of a passing score on the Florida-developed subject
 874 area examination specified in state board rule;

875 (b) For a subject for which a Florida subject area
 876 examination has not been developed, achievement of a passing
 877 score on a standardized examination specified in state board
 878 rule, including, but not limited to, passing scores on both the
 879 oral proficiency and written proficiency examinations
 880 administered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign
 881 Languages;

882 (c) For a subject for which a Florida subject area
 883 examination has not been developed or a standardized examination
 884 has not been specified in state board rule, completion of the
 885 subject area specialization requirements specified in state
 886 board rule and verification of the attainment of the essential
 887 subject matter competencies by the district school
 888 superintendent of the employing school district or chief
 889 administrative officer of the employing state-supported or
 890 private school;

891 (d) For a subject requiring a master's or higher degree,
 892 completion of the subject area specialization requirements
 893 specified in state board rule and achievement of a passing score
 894 on the Florida-developed subject area examination or a
 895 standardized examination that is directly related to the subject
 896 specified in state board rule;

897 (e) Documentation of a valid professional standard teaching
 898 certificate issued by another state;

899 (f) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the

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900 ~~NBPTS, ABCTE, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards~~
 901 or a national educator credentialing board approved by the State
 902 Board of Education;

903 (g) Documentation of successful completion of a United
 904 States Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center
 905 program;

906 (h) Documentation of a passing score on the Defense
 907 Language Proficiency Test (DLPT); or

908 (i) For a subject requiring only a baccalaureate degree for
 909 which a Florida subject area examination has been developed,
 910 documentation of receipt of a master's or higher degree from an
 911 accredited postsecondary educational institution that the
 912 Department of Education has identified as having a quality
 913 program resulting in a baccalaureate degree or higher in the
 914 certificate subject area as identified by state board rule.

915
 916 School districts are encouraged to provide mechanisms for middle
 917 grades teachers holding only a K-6 teaching certificate to
 918 obtain a subject area coverage for middle grades through
 919 postsecondary coursework or district add-on certification.

920 (6) MASTERY OF PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND EDUCATION
 921 COMPETENCE.—Acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of
 922 professional preparation and education competence are:

923 (a) Successful completion of an approved teacher
 924 preparation program at a postsecondary educational institution
 925 within this state and achievement of a passing score on the
 926 professional education competency examination required by state
 927 board rule;

928 (b) Successful completion of a teacher preparation program

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at a postsecondary educational institution outside Florida and achievement of a passing score on the professional education competency examination required by state board rule;

(c) Documentation of a valid professional standard teaching certificate issued by another state;

(d) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the ~~NBPTS, ABCTE, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards~~ or a national educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of Education;

(e) Documentation of two semesters of successful, full-time or part-time teaching in a Florida College System institution, state university, or private college or university that awards an associate or higher degree and is an accredited institution or an institution of higher education identified by the Department of Education as having a quality program and achievement of a passing score on the professional education competency examination required by state board rule;

(f) Successful completion of professional preparation courses as specified in state board rule, successful completion of a professional education competence program pursuant to subsection (9), and documentation of 3 years of being rated effective or highly effective under s. 1012.34 while holding a temporary certificate;

(g) Successful completion of a professional learning certification program, outlined in subsection (8); or

(h) Successful completion of a competency-based certification program pursuant to s. 1004.85 and achievement of a passing score on the professional education competency examination required by rule of the State Board of Education.

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The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement this subsection, including rules to approve specific teacher preparation programs that are not identified in this subsection which may be used to meet requirements for mastery of professional preparation and education competence.

Section 28. Present subsection (4) of section 1012.77, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (5), a new subsection (4) is added to that section, and subsection (3) of that section is amended, to read:

1012.77 Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education Program.—

(3) The Teacher of the Year shall serve as the Ambassador for Education. If the Teacher of the Year is unable to serve as the Ambassador for Education, the first runner-up must ~~shall~~ serve in his or her place. The Department of Education shall establish application and selection procedures for determining an annual teacher of the year. Applications and selection criteria must ~~shall~~ be developed and distributed annually by the Department of Education to all eligible entities identified in subsection (4) school districts. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a selection committee which assures representation from teacher organizations, administrators, and parents to select the Teacher of the Year and Ambassador for Education from among the nominated ~~district~~ teachers of the year.

(4) Eligible entities to submit to the Department of Education a nominee for the Teacher of the Year and Ambassador for Education awards include:

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987 (a) Florida school districts, including lab schools as
988 defined in s. 1002.32.

989 (b) Charter school consortia with at least 30 member
990 schools and an approved professional learning system on file
991 with the department.

992 Section 29. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
993 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
994 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,
995 2025.

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

BILL: CS/SB 1058

INTRODUCER: Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and Senator Gruters

SUBJECT: Gulf of America

DATE: March 21, 2025

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>White</u>	<u>McVaney</u>	<u>GO</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Gray</u>	<u>Elwell</u>	<u>AED</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
3.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>RC</u>	<u> </u>

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1058 directs state agencies, district school boards, and charter school governing boards to update, change, or create materials to rename the “Gulf of Mexico” to the “Gulf of America.” Each state agency must update its “geographic materials.” Instructional materials and additions to library media center collections acquired or adopted by a district school board or charter school on or after July 1, 2025, must reflect the renaming.

The bill will have an indeterminate fiscal impact to state entities and school districts. **See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.**

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

II. Present Situation:

Executive Order 14172: Gulf of America

On January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14172, entitled “Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness.” In relevant part, the President directed that the “Gulf of Mexico” officially be renamed the “Gulf of America.” Additionally, the Executive Order instructs the Secretary of the Interior to take all appropriate actions to rename the “Gulf of Mexico” to the “Gulf of America.” The Secretary is directed to update the Geographic Names Information System to reflect such change. The Board on Geographic Names, established by the

Executive Order, provides guidance to ensure all federal references to the Gulf of America, including references included on agency maps, or in contracts and other documents and communications, shall reflect its renaming.

Public School Instructional Materials

Florida Statutes addresses instructional materials for K-12 public education.¹ District school boards have the constitutional duty and responsibility to select and provide instructional materials for all students, including materials in the school or classroom library.² Instructional materials are items having intellectual content that by design serve as a major tool for assisting in the instruction of a subject or course³ and must be consistent with district goals and applicable with state academic standards and course descriptions provide in law.⁴

The districts must provide a sufficient number of student or site licenses or sets of materials that serve as the basis for instruction in the core subject areas of mathematics, language arts, social studies, science, reading and literature to students.⁵ Such materials may be made available in bound, unbound, kit, or package form and may consist of hardbacked or softback textbooks, electronic content, consumables, learning laboratories, manipulatives, electronic media, and computer courseware or software.⁶

School boards must also establish and maintain a program of school library media services for all public schools in the district. This includes traveling or circulating libraries that may be needed for proper operation of the district school system⁷ A library media center is any collection of books, ebooks, periodicals, or videos maintained and accessible on the site of a school.⁸

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) facilitates the statewide instructional materials adoption process. Expert reviewers chosen by the DOE are provided training on competencies for making valid, culturally sensitive, and objective recommendations regarding the content and rigor of instructional materials prior to the beginning of the review and selection process.⁹ Reviewers must objectively evaluate materials with Florida's state-adopted standards in mind.¹⁰ Based on reviewer recommendations, the Commissioner of Education selects and adopts instructional materials for each grade and subject under consideration.¹¹

¹ See ss. 1006.28-1006.42, F.S. In Florida, charter schools are public schools and a part of Florida's public education program. Section 1002.33² Section 1006.28(2), F.S.

² Section 1006.28(2), F.S.

³ Section 1006.29(2), F.S.; see s. 1006.28(1)(a)2., F.S. (referring the definition of instructional materials to align with s. 1006.29(2), F.S.).

⁴ Section 1006.28(2), F.S.

⁵ Section 1006.28(1), F.S.

⁶ Section 1006.29, F.S.

⁷ Section 1006.28(2), F.S.

⁸ Section 1006.28(1), F.S.

⁹ Section 1006.29, F.S.

¹⁰ Section 1006.31, F.S.

¹¹ Section 1006.34, F.S.

The term of adoption for instructional materials must be for a five-year period beginning on April 1, following the adoption. The DOE is required to annually publish an official schedule of subject areas to be called for adoption. The schedule is developed to promote balance among the subject areas so that the required expenditure for new instructional materials is approximately the same each year.¹²

The following instructional material adoption schedule is posted on the DOE's website.¹³

Adoption Year	Subject Area	Specifications and Criteria Available	State Adoption Process	Effective Date of Contract April 1-March 31
2024-2025	English Language Arts, K-12 ; Personal Financial Literacy and Money Management, 9-12 ; Mathematics Intervention Materials, K-4 and English Language Arts Intervention Materials, K-3	Nov. 2023	April 2024-2025	2025-2030
2025-2026	Career and Technical Education, World Languages, Art, Music, Dance and Health, K-12 ; 6-12 Additional English Language Arts	June 2024	November 2024-December 2025	2026-2031
2026-2027	Mathematics and Computer Science, K-12	January 2025	June 2025-July 2026	2027-2032
2027-2028	Social Studies, K-12	January 2026	June 2026-July 2027	2028-2033
2028-2029	Science, K-12	January 2027	June 2027-July 2028	2029-2034

Purchase of Instructional Materials

On or before July 1 each year, the district school superintendent must certify to the commissioner the estimated allocation of state funds for instructional materials for the ensuing school year. Up to 50 percent of the amount the school district has budgeted for instructional materials may be used to purchase:

- Library and reference books and nonprint materials.
- Other materials having intellectual content which assist in the instruction of a subject course.

¹² Section 1006.36, F.S.

¹³ Florida Department of Education, *Florida Instructional Materials Adoption Schedule*, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5574/urlt/AdoptionCycle.pdf> (last visited Mar. 14, 2025)

- The repair and renovation of textbooks and library books and replacement of items which were part of previously purchased instructional materials.¹⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill creates an unnumbered section of law directing each state agency, as defined in s. 11.45(1), F.S., to update its “geographic materials” to reflect the new federal designation of the “Gulf of Mexico” as the “Gulf of America.” Instructional materials and additions to library media center collections adopted or acquired by a district school board or charter school governing board, on or after July 1, 2025, must also reflect this new federal designation.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

Not applicable. The bill does not require counties or municipalities to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds, reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenue in the aggregate, or reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None identified.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None identified.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None identified.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None identified.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Contracted education service providers and testing groups may need to update their materials and packages to reflect this change.

¹⁴ Section 1006.40, F.S.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The provisions of this bill requiring state agencies to update their materials to reflect the “Gulf of America” has an indeterminate, yet likely insignificant fiscal impact on state agency expenditures. The fiscal impact to school districts is also indeterminate. However, the full impact may not be immediate as the bill specifies the update is required for all materials adopted or acquired on or after July 1, 2025, rather than updating current materials.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

The term “geographic materials” is undefined and unclear. This term does not otherwise appear in the Florida Statutes.

VII. Related Issues:

None identified.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates an undesignated section of law.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)**CS by Governmental Oversight and Accountability on March 11, 2025:**

- Defines state agency to align with s. 11.45(1), F.S.;
- Clarifies that the requirement regarding instructional materials and library media center collections applies only to materials adopted or acquired on or after July 1, 2025; and
- Removes section 2, which designated the portion of U.S. 41 between S.R. 60 and U.S. 1 as “Gulf of America Trail.”

B. Amendments:

None.

By the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability;
and Senator Gruters

585-02290-25

20251058c1

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Gulf of America; requiring state agencies to update geographic materials to reflect the new federal designation of the "Gulf of Mexico" as the "Gulf of America"; requiring that specified materials and collections adopted or acquired by district school boards and charter school governing boards on or after a specified date reflect the new federal designation of the "Gulf of Mexico" as the "Gulf of America"; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. (1) Each state agency as defined in s. 11.45(1), Florida Statutes, shall update its geographic materials to reflect the new federal designation of the "Gulf of Mexico" as the "Gulf of America."

(2) Instructional materials as defined in s. 1006.28(1)(a), Florida Statutes, and library media center collections adopted or acquired on or after July 1, 2025, by a district school board or charter school governing board must reflect the new federal designation of the "Gulf of Mexico" as the "Gulf of America," when applicable.

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